



# **‘Gana Tuvalu**

**Tuvalu language**

**Tusi galue**  
**Activity book**



# Let's celebrate Tuvaluan language!

Tuvalu is located in the Pacific Ocean, about 3,600km above Aotearoa New Zealand.

Tuvalu is a group of nine **fenua** (islands) – three table-reefs, five atolls, and one composite – totalling 26 square kilometres in land, plus the rights to over 700,000 kilometres of surrounding ocean.

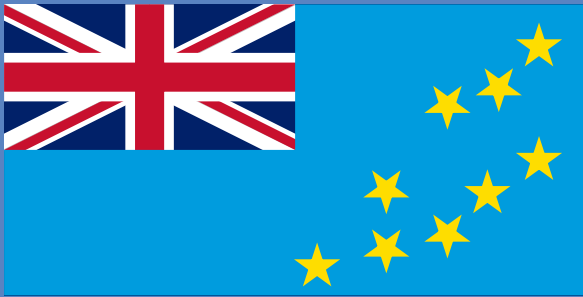
11,000 Tuvaluans live on these **fenua**, and many also live in Aotearoa New Zealand.

There are eight different dialects of Tuvaluan from eight of the **fenua**. The language we are using for the translations in this book is from Funafuti.

Let's have some fun learning Tuvaluan **pati** (words)!

# Where is Tuvalu?

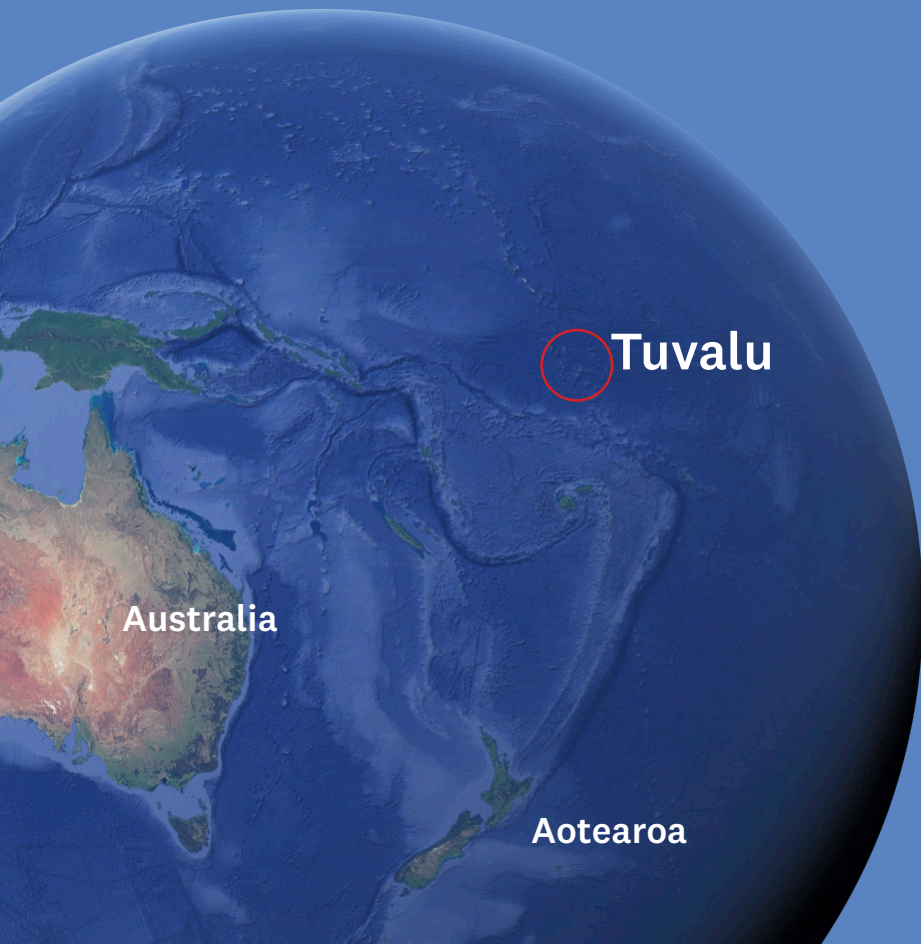
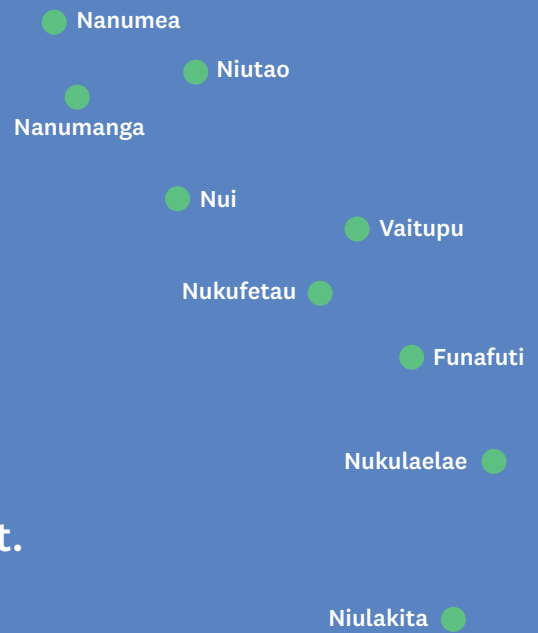
E tu i fea Tuvalu?



**Tu** means ‘to stand’ and **valu** means eight. Therefore, **Tuvalu** can be interpreted as ‘eight islands standing together’.

But there are nine **fenua**! What gives?

All nine **fenua** are represented by **fetu** (stars) on the country’s flag. Tuvalu’s name predates Niulakita being officially recognised as one of the islands of Tuvalu.

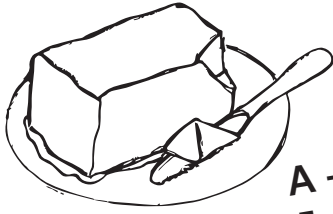


Tuvalu’s coat of arms features a **maneapa/ahiga** (meeting house), oceans waves, banana leaves, and mitre (a sea snail) shells. The motto, ‘**Tuvalu mo te Atua**’ means ‘Tuvalu for the Almighty’.

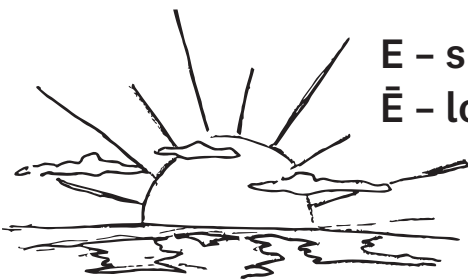
# How does it sound?

## E fakaleo pefea?

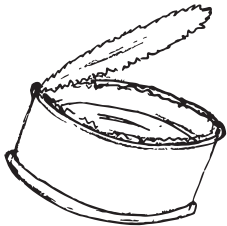
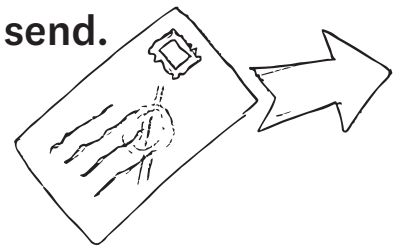
Learn how to pronounce the Tuvalu **vaueli** (vowels).



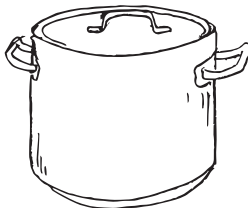
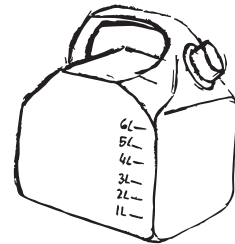
A - short 'a' sound, like the 'u' in butter.  
Ā - long 'a' sound, like the 'a' in father.



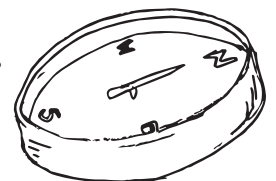
E - short 'e' sound, like the 'e' in sunset.  
Ē - long 'e' sound, like the 'e' in send.



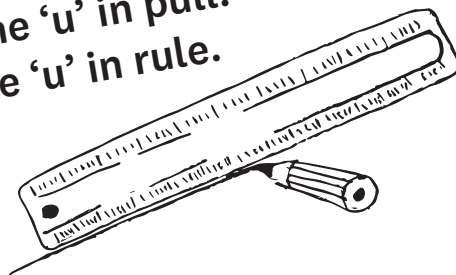
I - short 'i' sound, like the 'i' in tin.  
Ī - long 'i' sound, like the 'i' in litre.



O - short 'o' sound, like the 'o' in pot.  
Ō - long 'o' sound, like the 'o' in north.



U - short 'u' sound, like the 'u' in pull.  
Ū - long 'u' sound, like the 'u' in rule.



In addition to the five vowels, there are 12 consonants:

f, g, h, k, l, m, n, ng, p, s, t, v

## What colour is that?

### Sea te lanu tela?

Find the lanu hidden in the word search.

k	a	k	i	i	ū	k	m	u	l	i
m	o	ī	n	l	a	e	n	s	t	ō
ō	l	e	n	i	s	i	t	l	e	k
f	a	o	v	i	o	l	e	t	a	u
t	n	ē	a	n	f	a	ī	a	s	l
o	u	s	l	o	f	k	f	p	ō	i
l	m	f	ā	t	e	n	a	i	s	m
i	o	n	k	ū	l	a	e	n	k	a
s	a	k	i	t	o	l	s	i	ū	l
u	n	e	f	a	l	ā	p	k	t	i
l	a	n	u	l	a	u	n	i	u	e

**felo**

kakii

**kūla**

**lanu launiu**

**lanu moana**

**ōlenisi**

**piniki**

tea

**uli**

**uli malie**

**violeta**

yellow

grey

red

green

dark blue

orange

pink

white

black

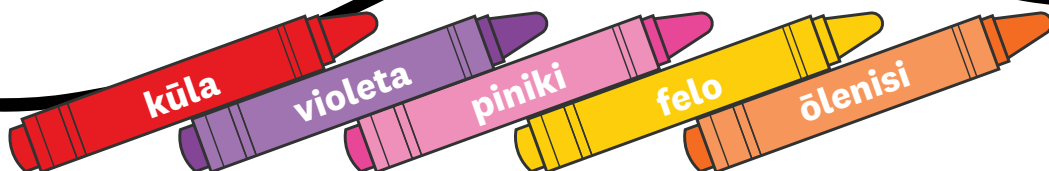
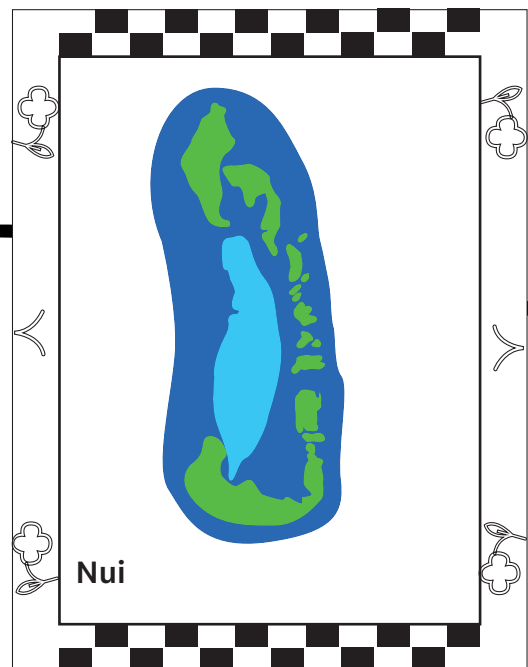
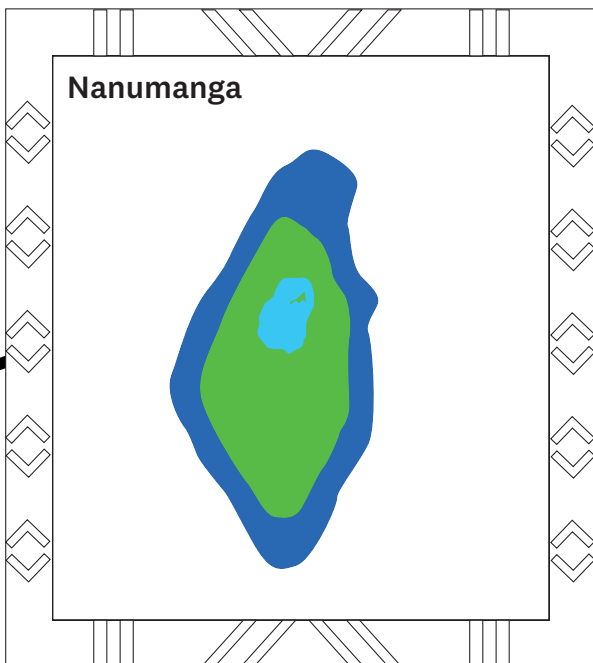
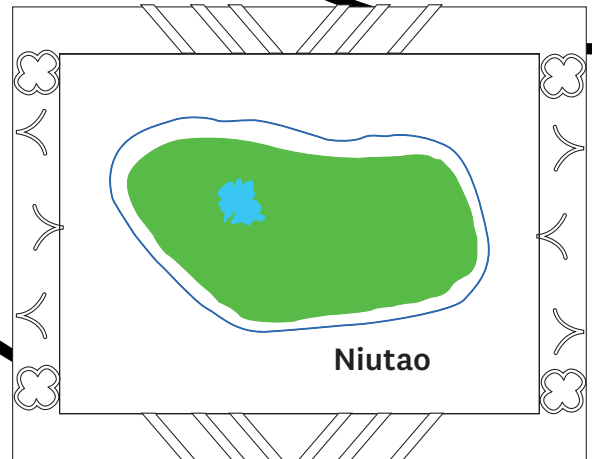
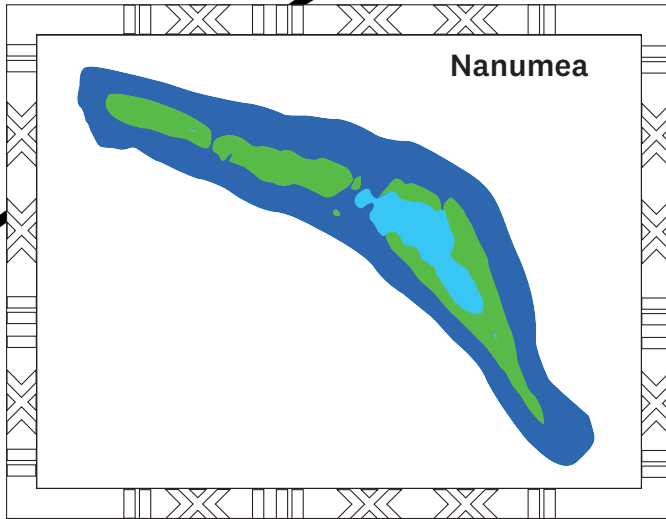
brown

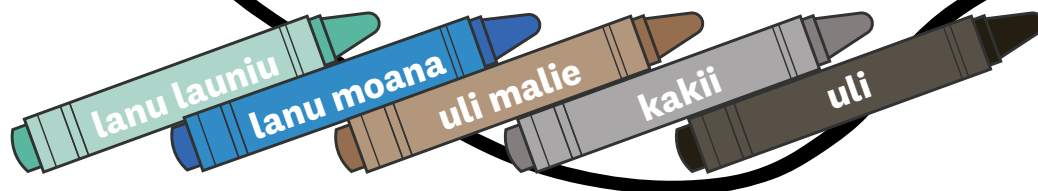
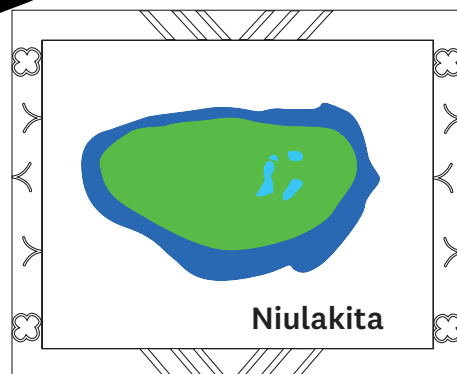
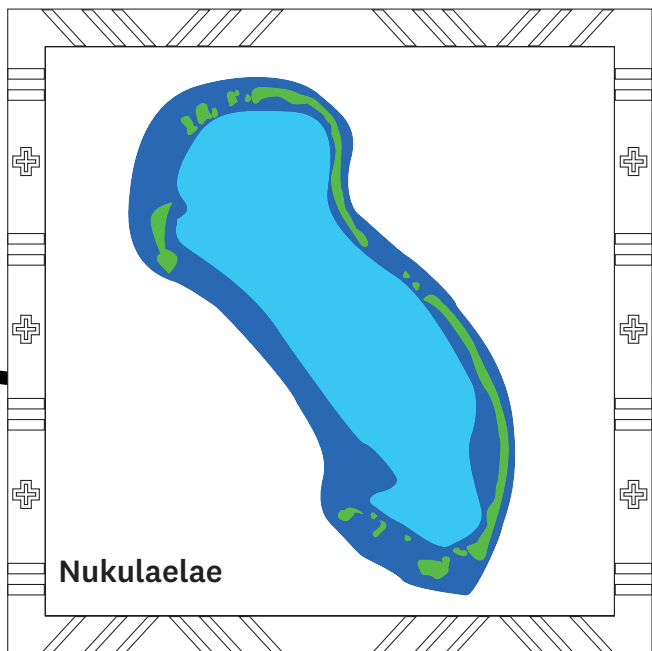
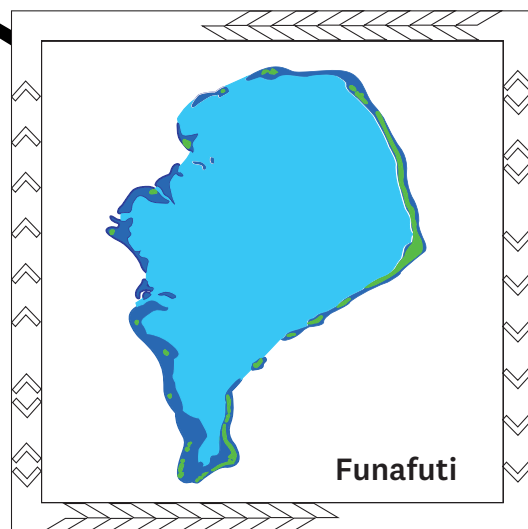
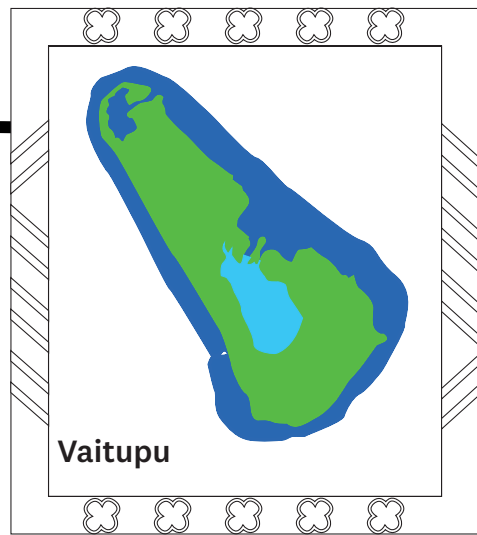
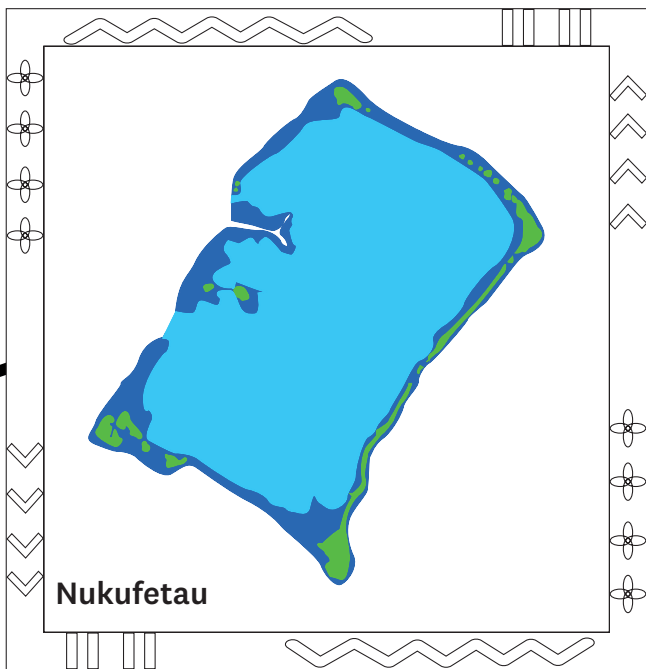
purple

# What do the islands look like?

**E foliga pefea a fenua?**

Colour in the galu (waves) to link the islands.





# Learn how to count numbers

## Tauloto te lauga o fuainumela

Find the Tuvaluan words for these fuainumela.

s	e	f	u	l	u	g	h	s	ē	p
ā	t	ī	v	a	f	m	l	u	a	t
v	h	a	f	e	ū	p	ē	i	v	g
l	i	m	l	n	f	ā	t	m	t	n
g	v	k	i	l	k	h	o	g	ā	p
f	a	n	m	v	ī	t	l	f	o	ī
s	n	p	a	n	ū	k	u	a	n	t
e	t	l	ā	g	m	ī	n	l	o	t
l	s	ē	g	t	a	s	i	v	f	a
a	ū	n	k	h	a	o	v	a	l	u
u	f	i	t	u	g	s	h	ā	k	m

<b>tasi</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>lua</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>tolu</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>fā</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>lima</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ono</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>fitu</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>valu</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>iva</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>sefulu</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>selau</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>afe</b>	<b>1,000</b>

### How to form other numbers

**13?**  $10 + 3 =$  sefulu tolu

**17?**  $10 + 7 =$  sefulu fitu

**45?**  $4 + 10 + 5 =$  fā sefulu lima

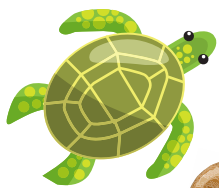
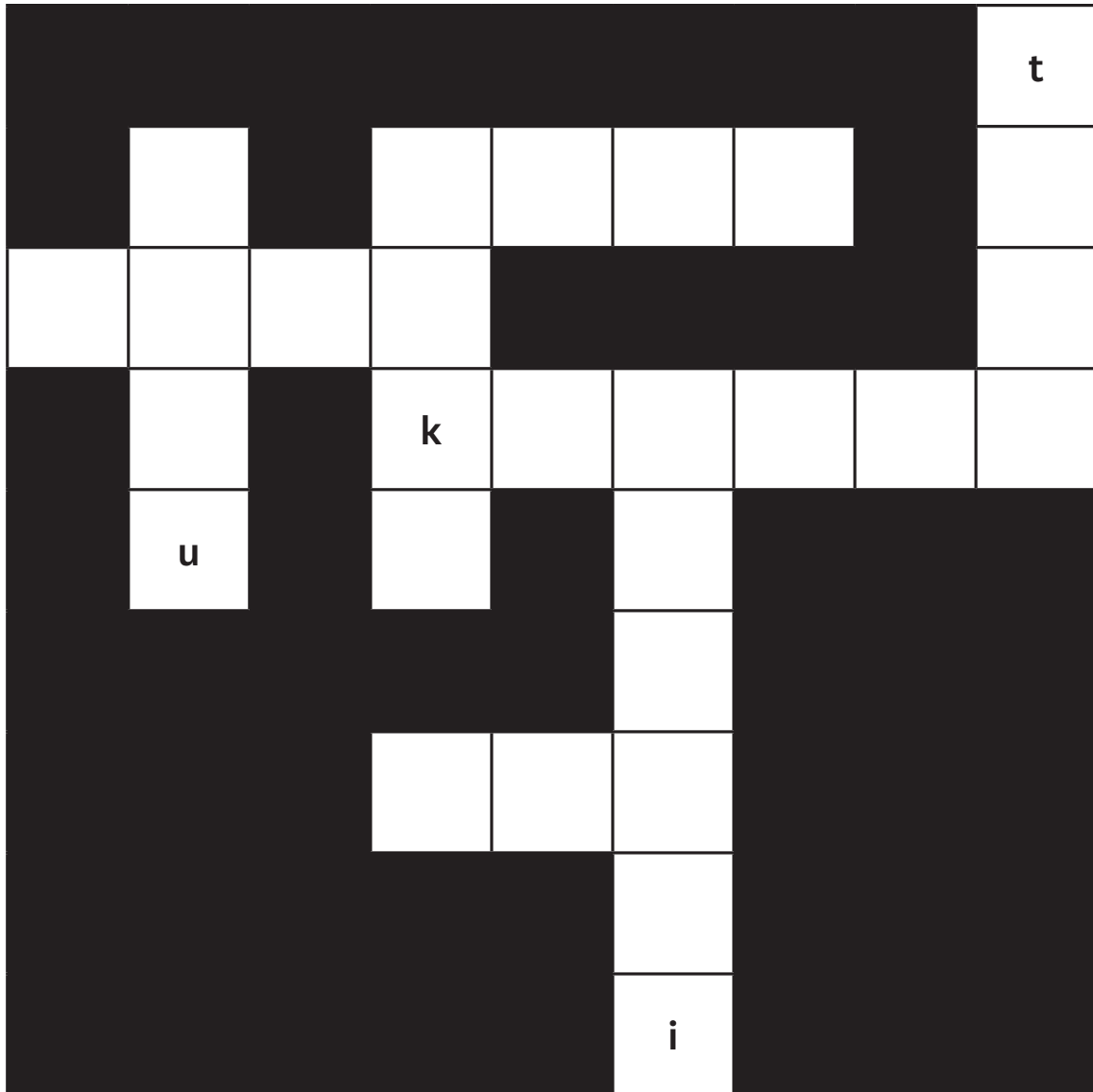
**88?**  $8 + 10 + 8 =$  valu sefulu valu



# What's that animal?

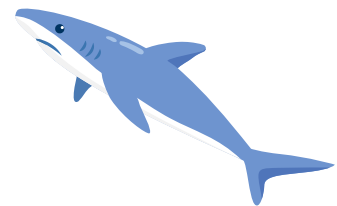
## Sea te manu tela?

Fill this in with the Tuvaluan words for manu.



- ali
- fonu
- gogo
- kaleva
- lasisi
- tuna
- mago
- moko

- flounder
- green sea turtle
- black noddy (bird)
- long-tailed cuckoo
- land snail
- eel
- mako (shark)
- forest gecko



All the **manu** in this puzzle call Tuvalu home!

## Fafetu

Te fafetu a Lakiloko Keakea.

The star-shaped artwork of Lakiloko Keakea.

**Lakiloko Keakea** was born on the atoll of **Nui**, Tuvalu in 1949, and now lives in Auckland.

She is part of a community of Tuvaluan women – **Fafine Niutao i Aotearoa** – keeping traditional island craft techniques alive, including **kolose** (Tuvalu crochet) and **lalanga** (weaving with a needle).

**Kolose**, **lalanga**, and **fafetu** (star-shaped design) form a strong connection between Tuvalu and Aotearoa and across generations.

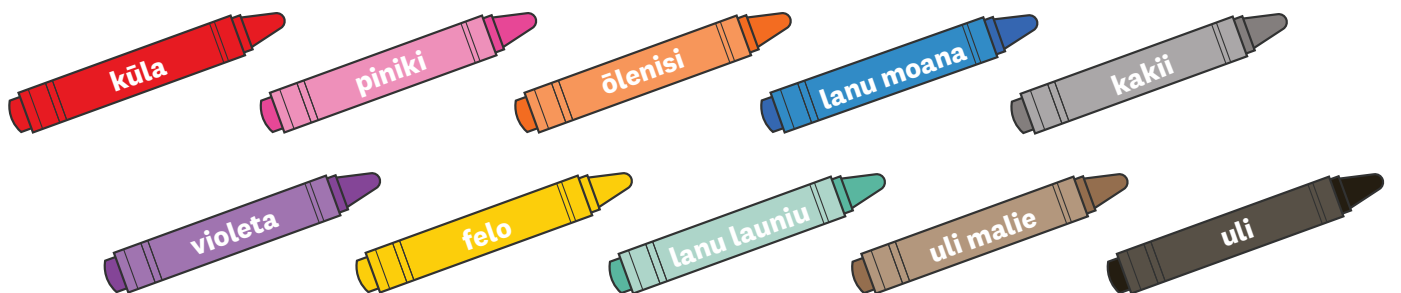
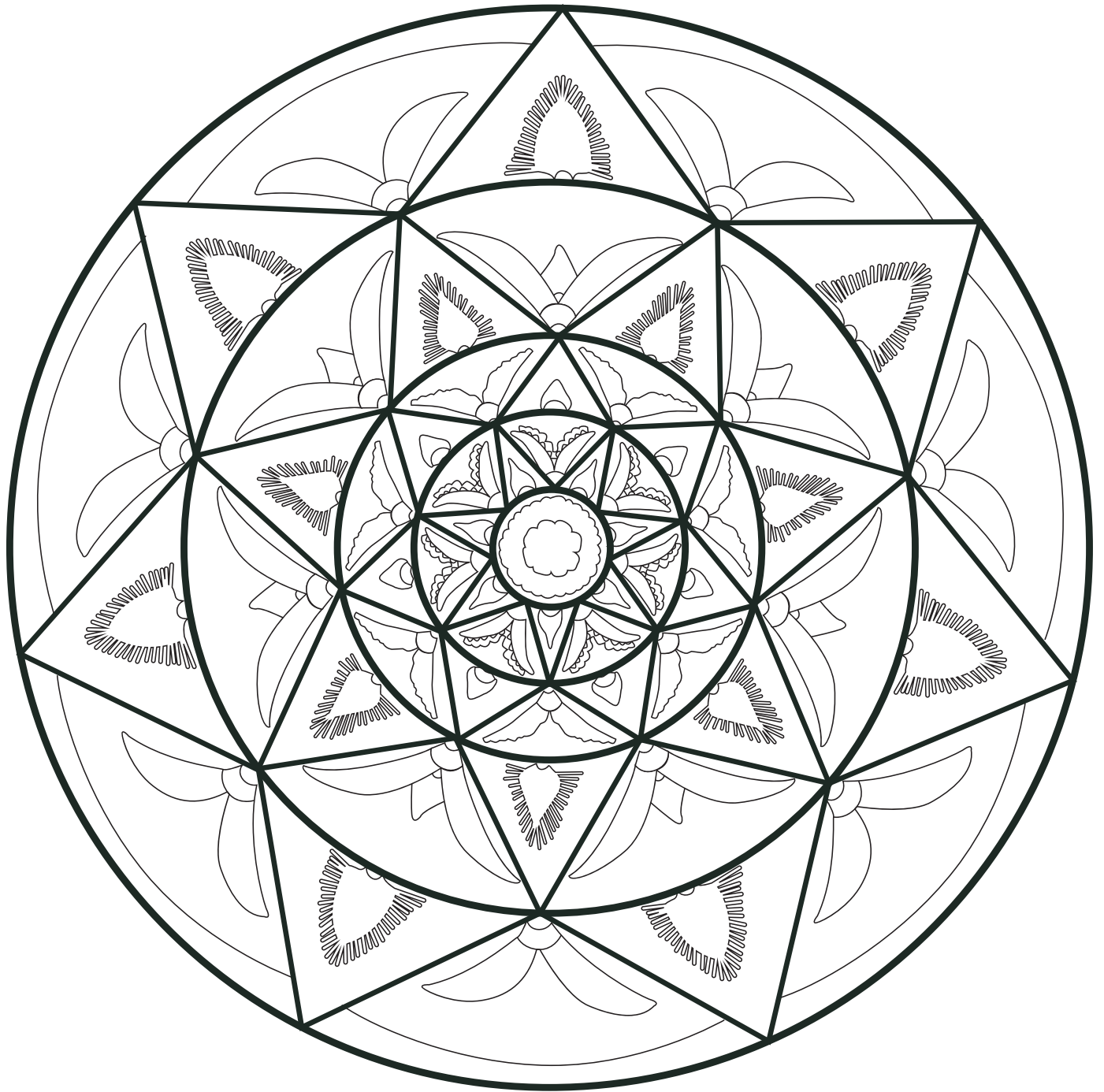
On the facing page is one of Lakiloko's fafetu design.

Colour it in and hang it on your wall!



Lakiloko Keakea and one of her fafetu, at The Dowse Art Museum.

Colour in this fafetu with the lanu you've learned.



# Where on my body?

## I fea i toku foitino?

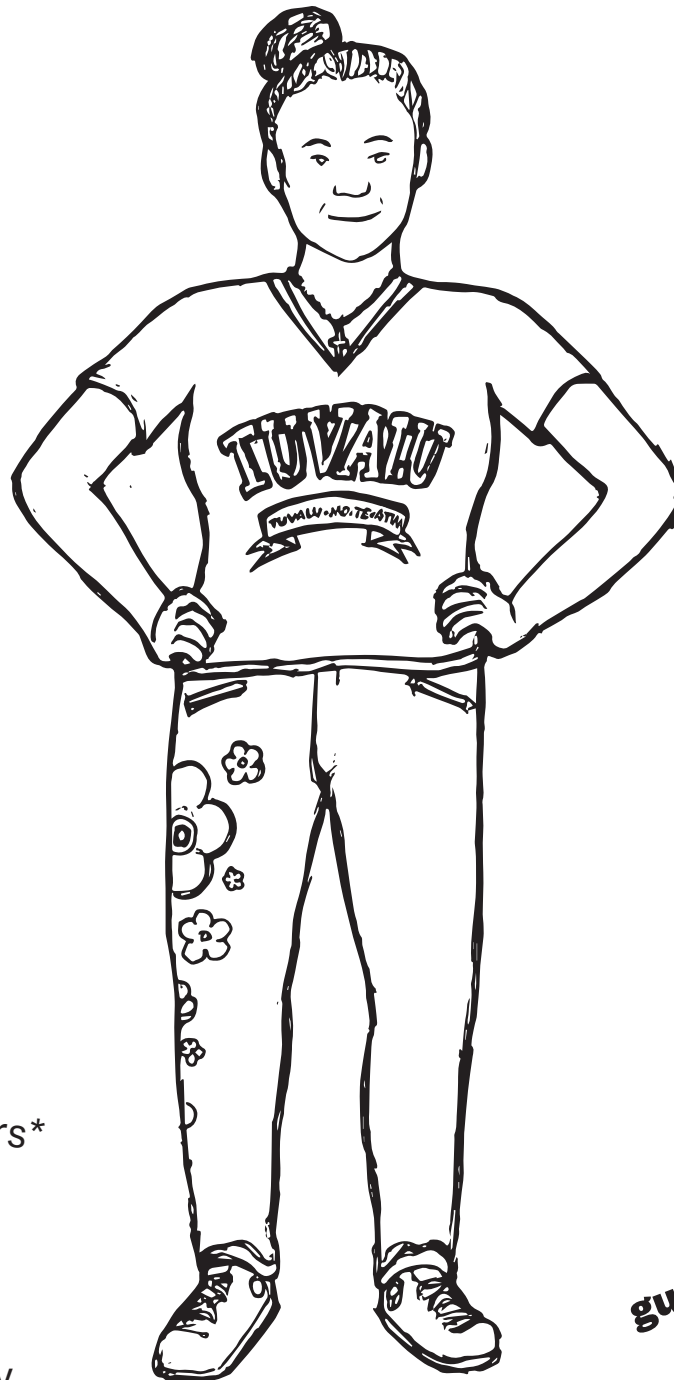
Connect the words to the right part of the foitino.

**fulufulu** – hair\*

**taliga** – ears

**mata** – eyes

**ihu** – nose\*



**kapakau** – arms

**piho** – head\*

**lima** – hands

**vae** – legs

**matikao** – fingers\*

**gutu** – mouth

**foitino** – body

\*these words are used on  
Nanumea and Nanumanga

## Fatele: Tuvaluan song and dance

### Fatele: Pese, Saka a Tuvalu

Fatele is performed at special occasions, and each fenua performs it in their own, unique way.

A fatele costume comprises of multiple parts:

#### malele

neck garland made from shells, leaves, puka tree seeds

#### fau/fou/mae

head garland made from flowers and leaves

#### lakei

arm bands made from leaves, paper, shells

#### titi tao

decorative over-skirt made from dyed pandanus leaves

#### togiga fatele

top, for women, made from leaves

#### titi lama

dancing skirt made from pandanus leaves



You can search for examples of fatele online.

# Te Ano: Tuvalu's national sport

## Te Ano: Tafaoga a Tuvalu

### Key words

Ano ball

Malae field

● ● Vaka team

★ ★ Alovaka captain

■ ■ Pukepuke catcher

### How to play

Mark an area for the game to be played in. This is called the **malae**.

Two teams face each other. Teams consist of the **alovaka** (captain, ★), the **tino pukepuke** (catcher, ■) and the **vaka** (●). The game is played with two **ano** (balls) at the same time.

**Te ano** is a bit like volleyball: the **ano** is kept off the ground by hitting it. The only person allowed to catch the ball is the **tino pukepuke**.

To start the game, both **tino pukepuke** throw the **ano** to their **alovaka**, who hits it towards the other team.

If you can get the **ano** to the back of the **malae**, this makes it harder for the other team to

Can you match the names of the player(s) and their position?

vaka

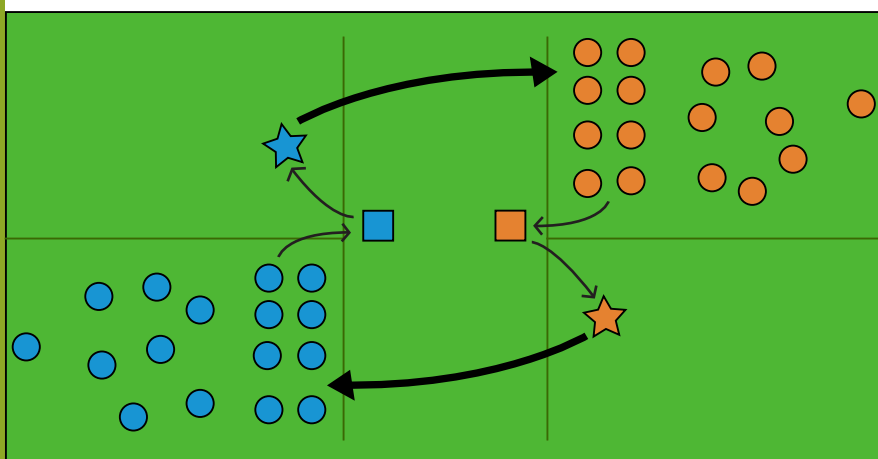
tino pukepuke

alovaka

alovaka

vaka

tino pukepuke



The vaka contains two rows of players at the front and one player at the back. All other players on the team are in-between.

hit it back to their **tino pukepuke**.

The job of the **vaka** is to get the **ano** back to the **tino pukepuke** as fast as possible.

Repeat until one of the **ano** hits the ground. When this happens, the **opposite** team scores a point and the game resets.

The first team to ten points wins.



x2



Why not get your friends together for a game!

# Test your memory!

## Tofo tao mafaufau!

Cut out the words  
Shuffle them  
Turn them upside down  
Flip over two at a time  
Match the English and Tuvalu words



Can I print and share this activity book? **YES.**

Can I sell this activity book or use it for monetary benefit? **NO.**

Can I change and adapt this activity book? **SOME OF IT.\***



\*Except for:

1. the Te Papa logo
2. images listed in the credits

© Te Papa

This Tuvalu language activity book by the Museum of New Zealand Papa Tongarewa is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International Licence. Please note that the reuse or adaption of the logo and images mentioned outside of the context of this activity book is not covered under this licence.

If you publish or distribute this work to the public without adapting it, the following attribution to Te Papa should be used:

Source: "Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (Te Papa) tepapa.nz/TuvaluActivityBook and licensed by Te Papa for reuse under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International Licence."

If you adapt this work in any way the following attribution to Te Papa should be used:

"This work is [based on/includes] the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa's Tuvalu language activity book which is licensed by Te Papa for reuse under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International Licence."

### Image credits

#### Front cover

Mat, date unknown, Tuvalu, maker unknown. Gift of Siale Glover on behalf of the Wellington Tuvalu Community, on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition *Tangata o le Moana*, 2007. Te Papa (FE012623)

#### Page 3

Flag of Tuvalu. Public domain

Coat of arms of Tuvalu. CC BY-SA 3.0

Map of Tuvalu and the Pacific by Google Earth. Data sources: Data SIO, NOAA, US Navy, NGA, GEBCO, Landsat/Copernicus, US Geological Survey, PGC/NASA, IBCAO, SK telecom

#### Page 9

George Lodge, Long-tailed Cuckoo (Koekoeā), 1913-1914, watercolour. Te Papa (1992-0035-2366/73)

Henri Gervais, Conger conWger, from the book *Les poissons: synonymie-description-mœurs-frai-pêche-iconographie, des espèces composant plus particulièrement la faune française*, J. Rothschild (publisher), 1876-77. Public domain

Other illustrations by Freepik.com

#### Page 10

Illustration based on a fafetu by Lakiloko Keakea

Lakiloko Keakea at The Dowse Art Museum, 2019. Photo by Elias Rodriguez, courtesy of The Dowse Art Museum

#### Page 11

Illustration based on a fafetu by Lakiloko Keakea

#### Page 14

Ano (Gaming ball), Tuvalu, maker unknown. Gift of L Geursen, 1991. Te Papa (FE008801)

Playing te ano. Photo courtesy of Humans of Tuvalu - HOT (facebook.com/Humans-of-Tuvalu-HOT-1390612091206712)

#### Page 15

Emojis by Freepik.com

**This activity book was made in collaboration  
with Poni Faavae and Amy Tinei-Natano**