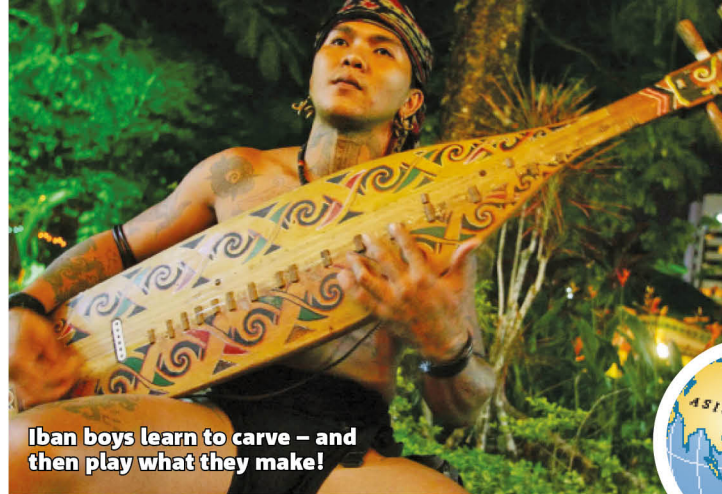


At home with the...

Headhunters of BORNEO

NG Kids treks into the forests of Sarawak in Borneo to meet a very special tribe...



Iban boys learn to carve – and then play what they make!

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS BORNEO?



LOCATION Borneo is a huge island in Southeast Asia. It's divided among three countries – Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.
HOW TO GET THERE It takes around 15 hours to fly to Kuching in Borneo. Then it's five hours by bus and one hour by canoe to reach the Iban tribe in Lemanak!
LANGUAGE The language of Malaysian Borneo and Brunei is Bahasa Malaysia. In Indonesian Borneo, it's Bahasa Indonesia. Many people speak English or Mandarin, too, and the Iban people speak... Iban!



How do you get on living with your family? Does your little brother drive you crazy now or then, or does your big sister ever move your things in your room without telling you?

Well, imagine what it's like to share your house with up to 40 other families! This is what home would be like for you if you were a member of the Iban – one of the oldest tribes living on the island of Borneo!

Jungle sleep over

The NG Kids team visited Sarawak in Borneo to meet the Iban – and stayed overnight in one of their incredible traditional homes, deep in the rainforest!

Known as *rumah panjai*, *rumah panjang* or *longhouses*, these homes can be hundreds of metres long, with families living in rooms branching off a central corridor, where people come together to talk and dance.

Most are made from wood and are built on stilts to protect from flooding in the rainy season. And each has a leader, or elder, who speaks for the community and keeps the peace if there are any disagreements!

Family fun

Ten-year-old Jessica, one of the Iban tribe, told NG Kids: "I like having lots of people around – it means there's always lots to do and other children to play with!"

Jessica doesn't go to school like kids here. Instead she works on her family's farm, where they grow crops, or helps her mum with washing and cooking. Iban girls also learn to weave and make beautiful fabrics, baskets and hats, while the boys help their dads with hunting and fishing.

Heads you win

The Iban are very friendly and take us swimming in the river, trekking through the forest, and challenge us to a game of football (we lose – boo!). But many years ago, we might have felt less relaxed in their remote home. That's because this amazing tribe used to be... headhunters!

Keen to prove themselves as fierce warriors and defend their lands, Iban tribesmen would cut the heads off their enemies, before preserving, and hanging them up as trophies to show their strength. Yikes!



Longhouses can be home to 40 Iban families!

DID YOU KNOW...?

Borneo is the world's third-largest island and is home to the amazing orang-utan, which lives high up in the canopy of the forests.



The Iban make cool hats from bamboo



The tribes' traditional outfits are super colourful!



Iban women make amazing quilts



Jessica loves home life

Traditional way of life

Nowadays, the Iban people sort out their differences far more peacefully, and headhunting is a thing of the past.

But the tribe are trying to keep other customs – including making blowpipes, dancing and playing music – alive, as modern technology becomes more common and changes their traditional way of life.

We say goodbye to our friendly hosts and begin our journey by canoe back to the town. One thing's for sure – this is one sleep over we'll never forget!



The tribe once kept their enemies' heads as trophies

How would your life be different... IF YOU WERE IBAN?

	DINNER	FOR FUN	CHORES	HOBBIES
KIDS IN THE UK	Spaghetti bolognese	Reading, watching movies	Washing up, tidying room	Ballet, judo
IBAN GIRLS	Forest fern, rice	Watching TV, playing with friends	Washing clothes, cooking	Dancing, weaving
IBAN BOYS	Chicken cooked in bamboo, noodles	Playing games, carving wood	Harvesting crops, hunting	Football, swimming



NG Kids travelled to Borneo with The Adventure Company on their 12-day Headhunters Of Borneo Family Holiday, designed with kids aged five years and upwards in mind. The Adventure Company also offers a wide range of family adventures around the globe. To find out more, and to request a Family Adventures brochure, go to adventurecompany.co.uk

LEARN TO SPEAK IBAN...

- HOW ARE YOU? Nama brita nuan?
- WHAT IS YOUR NAME? Sapa nama nuan?
- WHERE ARE YOU GOING? Kini nuan?
- GOODBYE Selamat jalai
- MOTHER Indai
- FATHER Apai
- SCHOOL Sekolah
- BOAT Prahu