

Aim: To see how the split at Babel changed life for the different groups including their technology and advancement, and physical looks and characteristics etc.

Imagine if your extended family (parents, grandparents and perhaps aunts, uncles and cousins) were in an airplane going to a family reunion when it had to crash land on a deserted jungle island. Imagine if no help came, and you all had to learn to live together.

- What could you do for food? Does anyone in your family know how to do this?
- What about a house? Does anyone in your family know how to build a shelter or house? And to build even a simple house you probably want some tools – if you're lucky there might be some on the plane and if there weren't you would have to make your own tools or do without.
- What about furniture?
- How would you cook? Would you be able to start a fire? What would you eat with?
- What would you do when your clothes wore out? How could you make new ones?
- Are there any doctors in your family? Or dentists, or teachers, or builders, or carpenters, or farmers, or potters?

If your family lived on the Island for 50 years, how would life be different than it is here? What would you not have?

When God confused the languages at the tower of Babel, groups of people who spoke the same language travelled off together to find a place to live away from all the other people.

The groups who had tool makers, builders, carpenters, pottery makers, farmers, clothes makers etc. built towns, and started what scientists would call advanced civilisations. The groups that didn't have builders had to live in caves. The groups that didn't have clothes makers and moved to warm places stopped wearing lots of clothes when their clothes finally wore out. The groups that didn't bother, or didn't have the time to teach their children to read and write, soon forgot how to.

And that is how, although all the nations of the world descended from Noah, some cultures are more advanced than others. Now days, there is a lot of trade and sharing of technology between what we call the western world, and so there isn't much difference between different countries, but there are still natives in some countries who haven't had contact with other people, who don't have the technology that we do, who live in grass houses or caves and don't read and write etc.

Something else happened because of the split at Babel; the unique look of the different nationalities came about. People from China or India usually have black hair and brown eyes; other nationalities are more likely to have blue eyes. Some nationalities have curly or frizzy hair, while others have straighter hair.

If most of the people in a group had a particular characteristic, like brown eyes, or curly hair, and if they didn't mix with people from other groups, after several generations all of the people in the group would probably look like that.

That is of course a very simplified way of looking at it.

DNA contains the instructions of how a person's body is made. A baby gets one copy of DNA from each parent. The colour and shape of a person's body is a result of the person's DNA. For example, if I have the DNA for both brown eyes and blue eyes, my eyes might be brown, but my children's eyes could be brown or blue. But if I only have the DNA for brown eyes and my husband only has the DNA for brown eyes, then my children will only have brown eyes.

The DNA required for all the different types of people that we see today was there in Noah's sons or their wives. I'm sure that God planned it that way. Just think if they'd only had the blond hair and blue eyes DNA, then we'd only see blond hair and blue eyes in the world today. Wouldn't that be boring?

There have been times in history when one group of people has discriminated against another group of people because they were different, but as you can see we are all related to each other – we are all descendants of Noah and his wife, and made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27)

God chose the Jews to be His own special people; the people He would reveal Himself to. But His plan was that the Jews would then teach the other nations of the world. Peter realised this after God gave Him a strange vision about all sorts of animals. Read what he says about it in Acts 10:34-35