

# The Wild Palm

by Geraldine Slinde



Are there trees that help people? Yes! Wild palm trees do. In fact, some people cannot live without them.

In some towns in Africa, the wild palm is very important. The people there use all parts of the tree.

They eat its fruit. From the fruit, they get a nut. They make oil from the meat of the nut. They cook with the oil. They make candles from the oil. They burn the nut's shell. That gives them soap.

Large branches of the tree are used to make roofs. The tips of branches make good brooms. String is pulled from the leaves. People make fishnets from the string. They burn the trees. Then they can make fires to cook on.

There are other kinds of palm trees. They grow in many lands. They, too, give food. They, too, are used to make soap, oil, and candles.

As you can see, palm trees make life easier for many people in the world.

## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 Another good name for this story is
  - a** A Tree of Many Uses.
  - b** How to Grow Palm Trees.
- 2 When people eat the fruit of the palm tree, they
  - a** eat the nut too.
  - b** save the nut for other uses.
- 3 Palm tree branches are good for making
  - a** oil and candles.
  - b** roofs and brooms.
- 4 People use the palm leaves to
  - a** make soap.
  - b** catch fish.
- 5 If you had a palm tree, you could use it to make
  - a** soap, oil, and candles.
  - b** cars and buses.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** Words change spelling to mean more than one.

one nut → two nuts

Write each word below so that it means more than one.

- 1 broom
- 2 roof
- 3 net
- 4 candle
- 5 tree



## LEARN ABOUT WORDS *(continued)*

**C** Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 People use all the different parts of wild palm \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 They make \_\_\_\_\_ to light their homes.
- 8 People make \_\_\_\_\_ from large palm branches to keep the rain out.
- 9 Tips of branches make good \_\_\_\_\_ to clean the floors.
- 10 People make \_\_\_\_\_ from palm leaves to catch fish.

## THINK ABOUT IT

**D** Read each set of words. Write the word that comes first in alphabetical order.

- |   |         |          |        |
|---|---------|----------|--------|
| 1 | paper   | palm     | parts  |
| 2 | brushes | branches | brooms |
| 3 | easier  | eat      | early  |
| 4 | wild    | with     | wing   |
| 5 | fix     | fish     | fire   |