Guided Reading Activity

Lesson 2 History and People of Oceania

Essential Question: What makes a culture unique?

History of Oceania

Directions: Use your textbook to decide if each statement is true or false. Write T or F in the blank. If a statement is false, rewrite it correctly.

1. Historians believe that the first settlers to Oceania probably came from Europe.

2. The first settlers to Oceania likely navigated by observing the sun, the stars, and ocean currents and swells.

3. Europeans began to colonize the islands of Oceania in the 1600s.

4. The islands of Oceania were convenient places for Europeans to buy the ships they needed to cross the Pacific Ocean.

5. Many countries in Oceania have agreements with foreign governments in which they exchange the use of their land for protection and economic aid.
The People of Oceania

Directions: As you read the section, answer these questions about the people and population of Oceania.

1. What is the total population of Papua New Guinea?

2. What percentage of the population of Papua New Guinea is made up by Native New Guinea Papuans?

3. How many languages do experts believe are spoken in Papua New Guinea?

4. What is a pidgin language?

5. What percentage of the population of Papua New Guinea lives in urban areas?

6. What are some examples of Polynesian traditions?

7. What are some examples of Micronesian traditions?

8. What were Melanesian people known for that other cultures in Oceania were not?

9. What are fales?

10. Why is maintaining traditional cultures important to the people of Oceania?