

Trobrianders

WORD OF THE DAY: CEREMONIAL: Traditional and repeated regularly.

1. This was a difficult story to do, given that Trobriand practices are so infused with sex—it was difficult to work around some of those themes, which would be inappropriate for students under 13. Because the women go around topless most of the time, it also involved a lot of cropping.
2. This was also difficult because there were only two Trobriand images that could be reused on the Internet, hence images of other areas had to be substituted (with artistic effects added).
3. You will want to remind the students what a matrilineage is—they had been introduced to matrilineages in their story about the Creeks.
4. At the end you might want to ask the students about the change in Ilabova. Did they think the beauty magic really worked? Did she look more beautiful? Or might something else have played a role in her change?
5. You might want to get into a discussion about beauty and picking marriage or dating partners. Is this the same in the US? What is the problem with this?
6. Does the US have beauty magic?
7. The words in the spell are actually from a Trobriand spell from Malinowski's work. Verses carried down in hundreds of years of oral tradition often make little sense to someone seeing them today.

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