

Kwaio; Solomon Islands



Solomon Islands' Fast Facts:

Did you know?

Number of people:

516,000

Main language:

Melanesian Pidgin

(English is the official language, but few people speak it.)

Main religion:

Christianity

of languages:

71

of languages ...

without any of the Bible: **39**

with part of the Bible: **7**

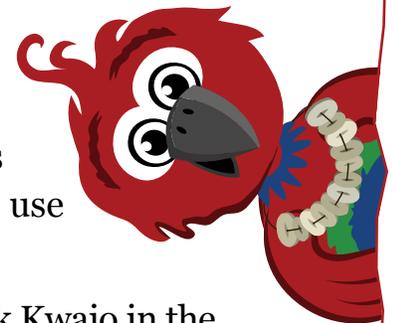
with a New Testament: **19**

with a whole Bible: **6**

The Solomon Islands includes nearly 1,000 islands. That's a lot! One of the islands is famous for having an active underwater volcano! It blows up about every two years, making new islands that disappear under the ocean again within just a few years. Isn't that awesome?

Maybe you're wondering why the country has a person's name. Well, let me tell you! A Spanish explorer heard legends about the Inca people (that was the name of the people group that lived in Peru a long time ago) bringing gold and silver back to Peru from islands far away. So he traveled to those same islands looking for riches, and when he did, he decided to name the islands after King Solomon in the Bible. If you read about King Solomon in the Old Testament, you'll see that he brought lots of gold and silver from faraway places to build the temple in Jerusalem. So in a way, he was like the Incas!

The Kwaio people still use shells as money instead of paper or coins like many countries in the world today. They make certain kinds of shells into polished beads that they string together. You have to use the right number of strings at the right length so they can be used as money, otherwise they'd just be a shell necklace! What a cool way to use money, right, Mack?



There are around 20,000 people who speak Kwaio in the Solomon Islands, and they now have the whole New Testament!

You can pray ...

In 2014, over Easter weekend, the Kwaio people got to celebrate two amazing things — that Jesus rose from the dead and that they now have the New Testament in their own language! One woman bought a copy of the New Testament and said, "Now it will be hard to go to the garden and work. We will want to stay home and read our Bibles!" You can pray that people would read their New Testaments a lot and that they'd still be excited, even though they've had it for over a year!

