



Shirley

From the Philippines

Lower Primary Story



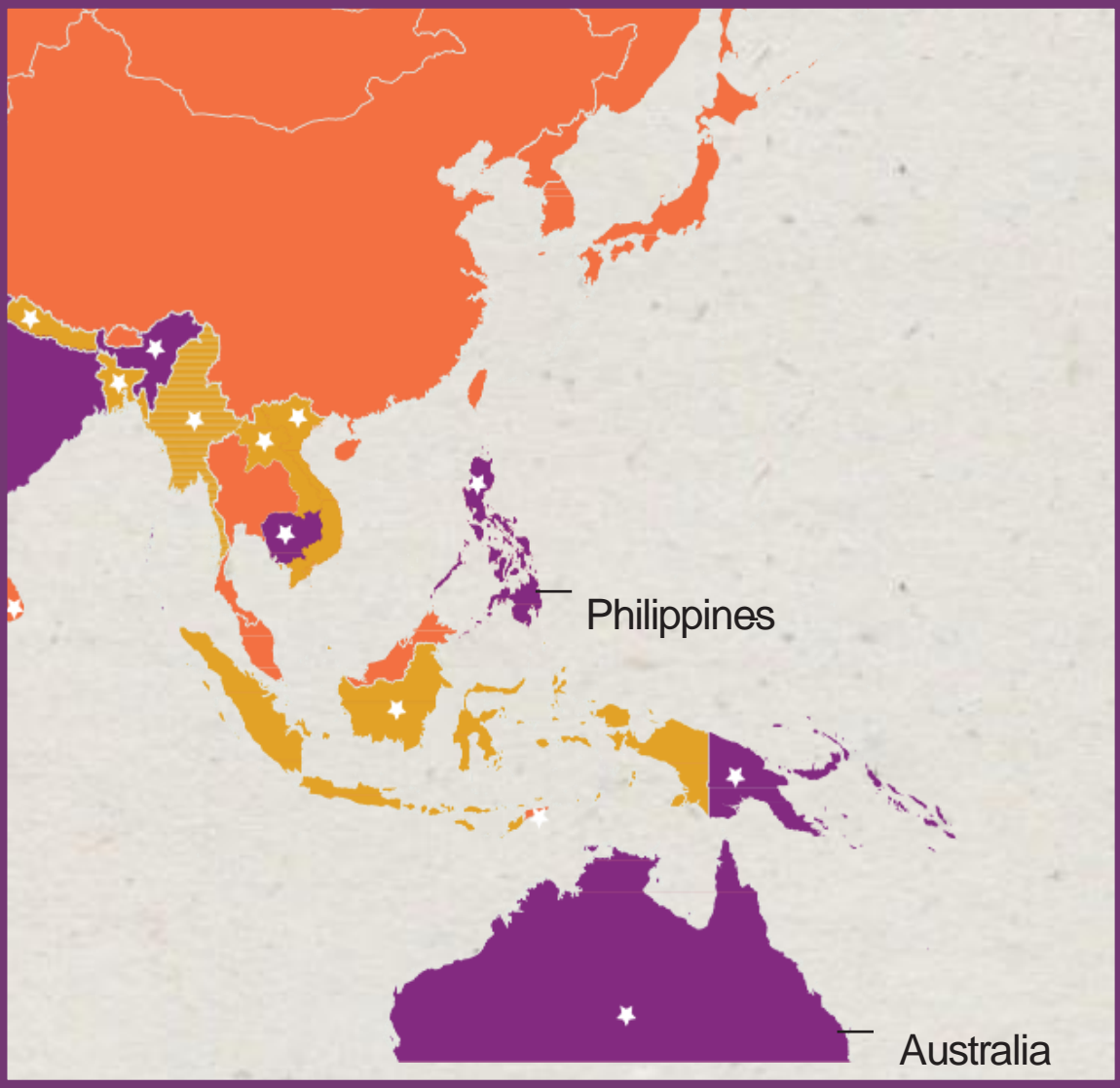
Caritas
AUSTRALIA

Photo credits: Richard Wainwright



This is a story about Shirley, her family and her community.

Shirley is 36 years old and lives with her family in the Philippines.





*This is an aerial view of the Manide community where Shirley lives.
How would you describe the natural and built environment?*





Shirley is married with four children. Shirley's husband, Ernesto, is too sick to work so Shirley has been working very hard to support her family.



*Who is in your family? Where do you think the photo was taken?
How do you think they are feeling? Why?*



Shirley collected materials in the forests to make slippers out of dried banana bark to sell, but she did not make enough money to feed her family or for her children to go to school.



Shirley is an indigenous woman. In the Philippines, indigenous people are often left out. This makes it hard for them to stay healthy, to go to school or to get a job.



With Caritas Australia's support, life is now much brighter for Shirley, her family and her community.

Caritas' partner in the Philippines runs a program to help improve the lives of indigenous people.



Through the program, Shirley trained to become an indigenous health worker- this is like a nurse. Shirley works in the local health clinic.



Shirley also visits people in their own home for a health check.



What do you notice about this home? How is it similar or different to your home?



The program also taught Shirley about her rights as an indigenous person. She is now leading her community to take a stand against bullying of indigenous people.



Shirley also learnt different ways to earn more money to support her family. She learnt how to grow enough vegetables to eat and sell.



Shirley continues to sell slippers she learnt to make out of dried banana tree bark, that she collects from the forest.



What can you make out of things you find in nature?



Shirley now earns enough money to feed her family and to send her children to school.



How do you think Shirley's children are feeling? What do you like best about school?



All of Shirley's children attend school. Caritas Australia's partner supports the children with fees, uniforms and school supplies.



Look at the classroom. What is similar or different to your classroom?



“ I am proud of what I have done for my tribe. My dream is to be able to provide for my kids and have them finish their studies...I am so happy and grateful for all the help of Caritas Australia. ” — Shirley

Questions

1. Where does Shirley live?
2. What made life hard for Shirley?
3. What helped make things better for Shirley?
4. How did Caritas Australia help?

SHIRLEY, PHILIPPINES

Learning Tasks

1. Read the story book and discuss the questions.

You can watch the main Project Compassion [short film](#), that features Shirley's story.

<https://vimeo.com/373045048>

Curriculum: English: ACELY1650, ACELY1660, ACELY1670.

Bonus film: A day in the life

Watch the film about a day in Shirley's life.

What surprises you? What is similar about Shirley's day, home and community, to your own life? How is it different? What questions do you have?

2. Pray. As a class or individually, students write a prayer for the featured community.

3. Act. After reading the story, discuss different actions students can take to build a fairer world. For example. sharing their knowledge, making a donation, learning more. They might be prompted to change something in their daily lives as a result of something in the story, for example; including people in their games more often, wasting less food or carefully watering their gardens.

4. RE LINK: Loving our neighbours Discuss: Why is it important to help others in need? Who can we help in our own life?

5. Make slippers

Background information: Shirley earns an income by collecting the abaca from a nearby forest. Abaca is the dried bark of banana tress- the raw material used to make the slippers. They are then made and sold through a group and Shirley uses this income to provide for her family. Use the templates on page 8 and 9 to make slippers using a sustainable or recyclable material. It could be something that will otherwise be thrown out. Discuss the use of sustainable materials/upcycling. The art department may have some ideas for offcut materials.

Please note the template may need to be enlarged depending on the age of the students.

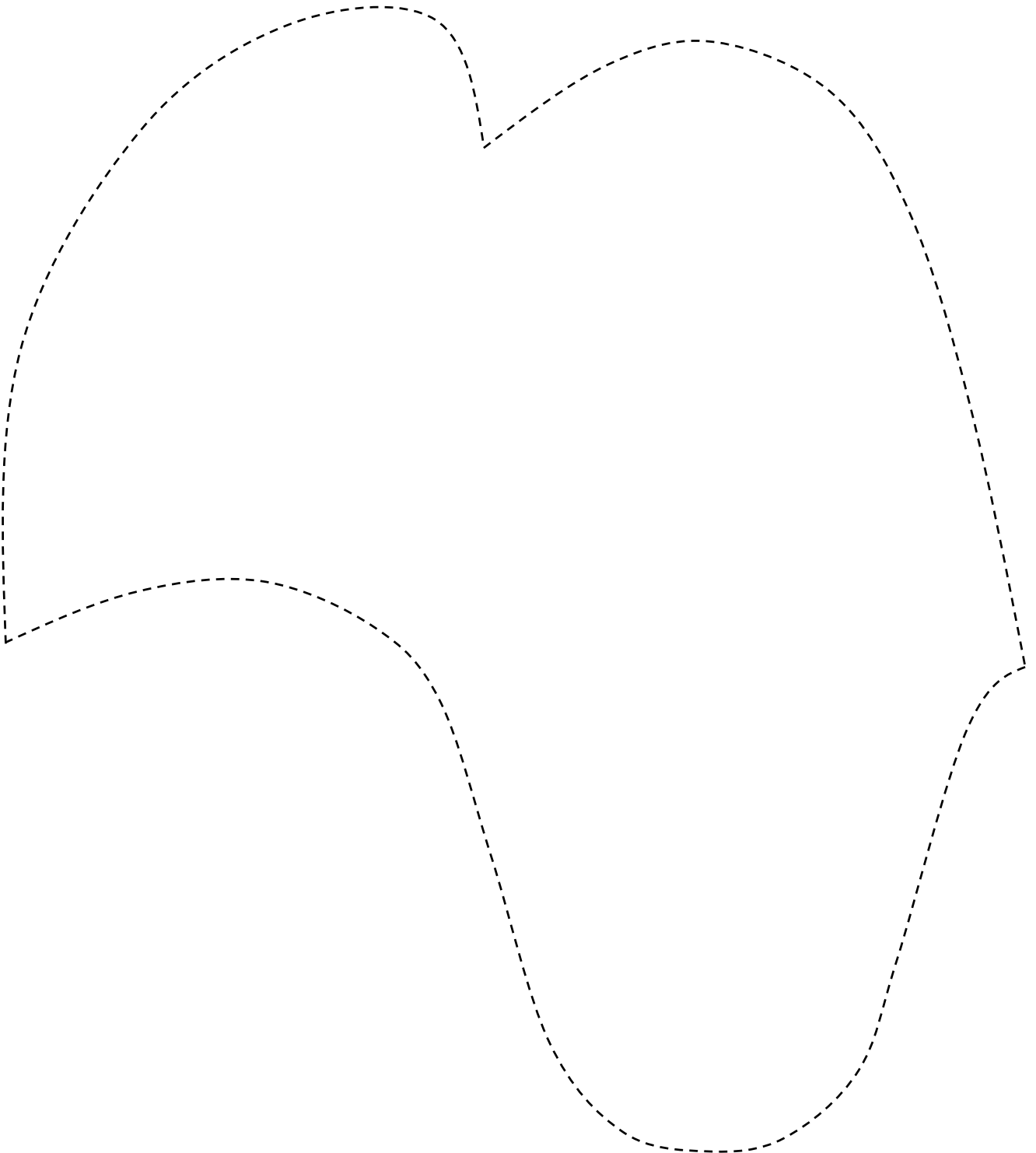
Curriculum: Design and Technologies Year F-2: ACTDEK001.



Make slippers like Shirley in the Philippines



Recycle material to make your slippers. Trace and cut the outline below. Fold the left flap over to the right and use glue to secure. You will need to leave some white space outside the outline on the left side to make it easier to secure.



Make slippers like Shirley in the Philippines



Recycle material to make your slippers. Trace and cut the outline below and then fold the flaps into the middle so they overlap. Use glue to secure. Add your own buttons or decorations.

