

Tropical islands

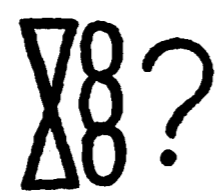
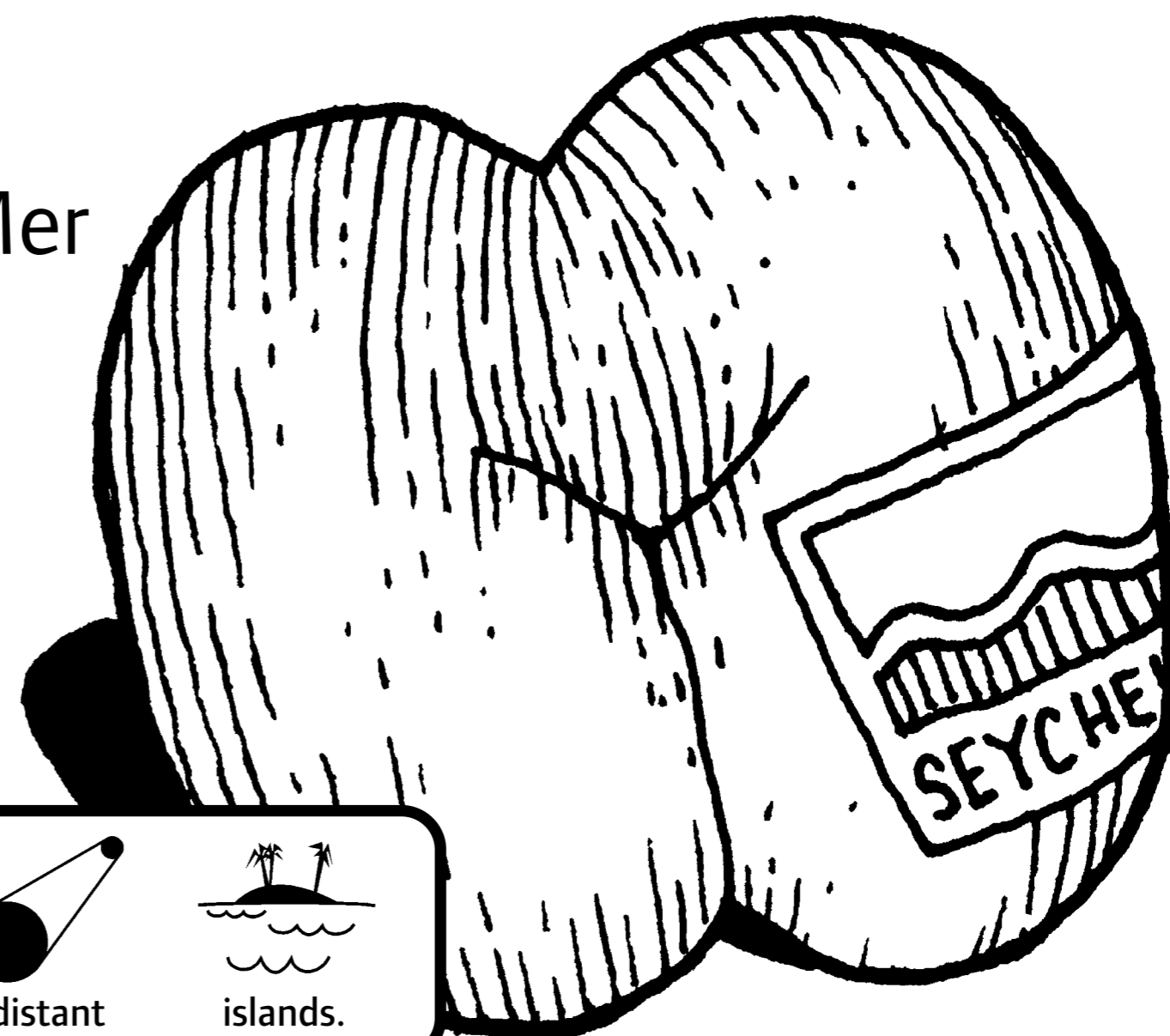
Isolated World

Distant islands are homes for unusual plants and animals. Some are extinct everywhere else, others evolve into strange life forms. All are irreplaceable.

Protected species include the extraordinary Coco de Mer from the Seychelles. Its seeds, the largest in the world, look like bottoms. Unlike coconuts they die in salt water and have also been overharvested, both as trophies and for their perceived aphrodisiac qualities.

Now every seed is registered and numbered. The Seychelles Government kindly donated a seed to Eden which is now growing here in the Biome.

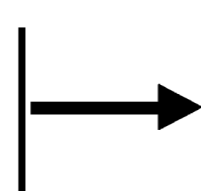
Koko-d-mer, Coco de Mer
Lodoicea maldivica



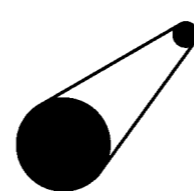
Unusual



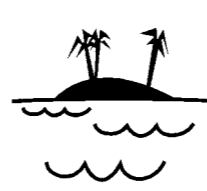
plants



come from



distant



islands.

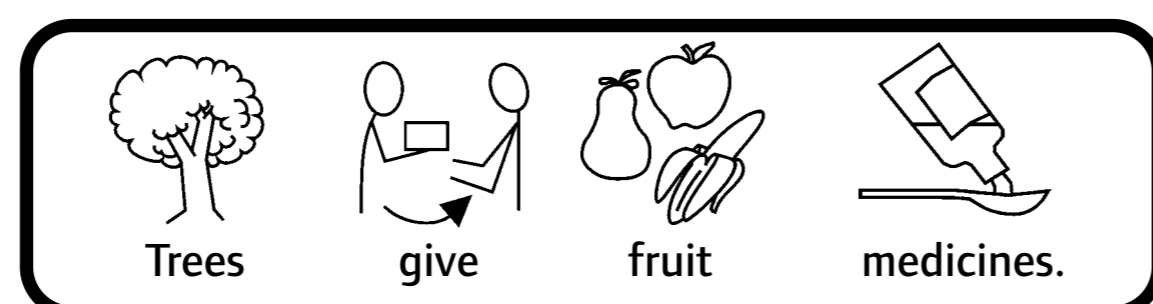
West Africa

Penjaw

A typical West African farm, where fields are cleared from high forest.

Selected trees are left to provide fruits, spices, medicines and soil fertility. Leguminous trees make their own nitrogen fertilizer.

Shade-loving coffee and cocoa grow beneath the useful trees.



West Africa

The chop farm

The first stage of forest land clearance for farming.

Light-loving crops are grown to eat and sell alongside useful trees such as pawpaw and mango.

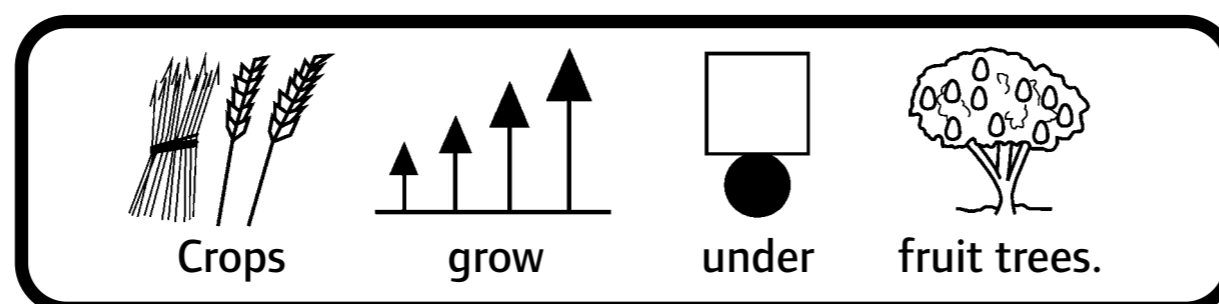
The maize, ground nuts, cow peas, yams and cassava provide the eight essential amino acids which are vital for a balanced diet and good health.



Cassava

Ground nuts

Maize



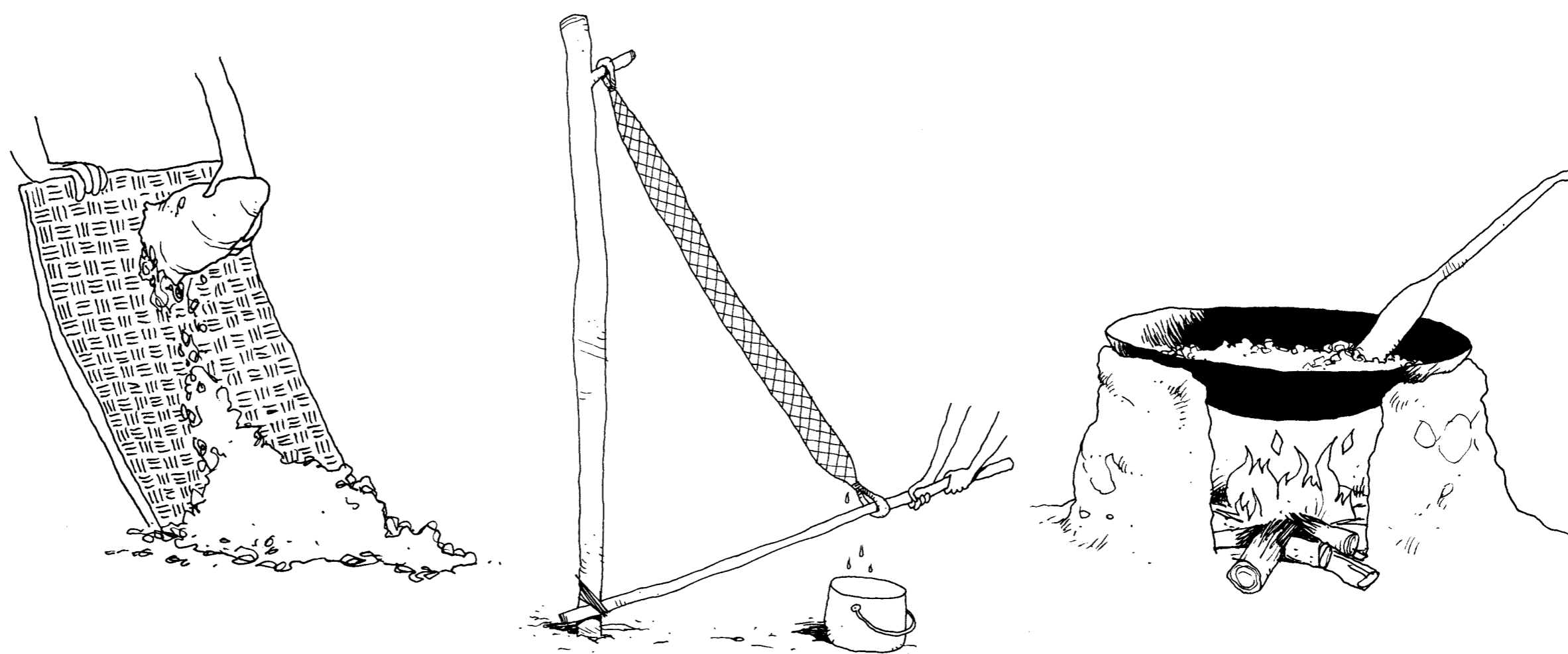
Tropical South America

Casa de Manioc (the cassava house)

If you've eaten tapioca pudding you've tasted cassava. In the Amazon basin, cassava (manioc) is also made into bread and farinha (a fried dish).

Cassava tubers contain cyanide so require processing:

- Soak, peel and grate
- Squeeze pulp in a tipiti to remove toxins/excess moisture and rinse the starchy residue that strains out to make tapioca
- Sieve and toast the press contents to make flour



Cassava



can be made into



tapioca pudding

Tropical South America

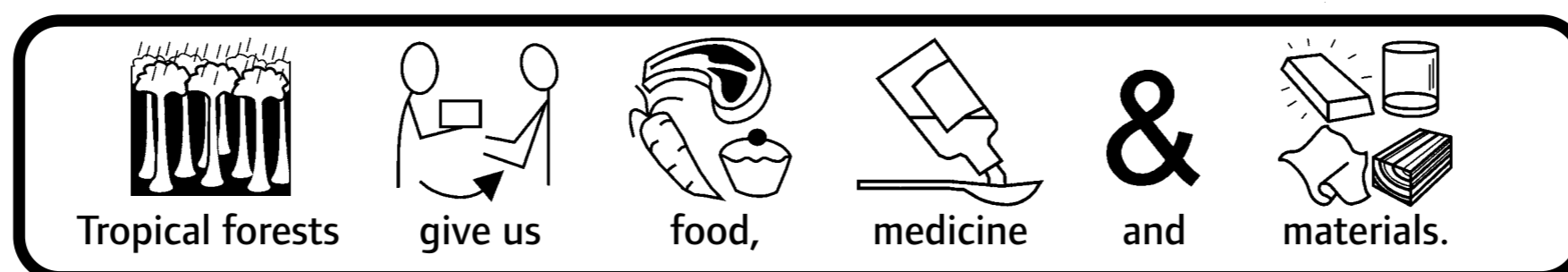
Wild Harvest

People use the tropical forest as a natural garden, collecting wild plants for food, fuel, medicine and materials.

Look out for:

- *Inga edulis*, Inga – for fruit and timber
- *Attalea sp.*, Maripa, the thatch palm – for covering roofs
- *Tabebuia spp.*, the yellow or pink poui trees, for bees and honey

Myths and stories help to keep the knowledge alive in the local cultures and the plants alive in the forests.

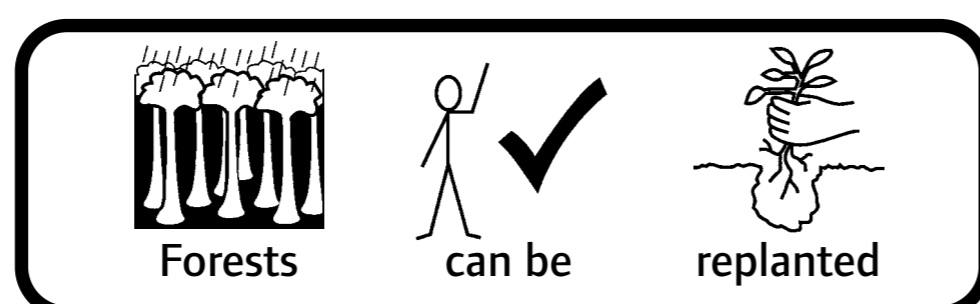


Regrowing the forest

... the regeneration game

We lose a football pitch (0.6ha) of rainforest every 1.5 seconds (FAO 1990-2000). Can the problem be fixed? One solution is to regenerate, replant and manage.

Local people are teaming up with conservation projects to create tree nurseries. They then plant pioneer trees which grow quickly, suppress weeds and attract birds and other creatures that bring in new tree seeds, and nurture timber tree climax species.



Regrowing the forest

An Eden collaborative project

The Darwin Project to help protect fragile forests in Argentina

The Darwin Initiative is funding Eden to help conserve the forests of Misiones, a threatened remnant of the Atlantic sub-tropical rainforests of S. America, by developing a sustainable management plan for the Yaboti Biosphere Reserve. Logging and intensive agriculture have left only 5% of this global biodiversity hotspot, which is also critical for the survival and culture of the local Guarani people.

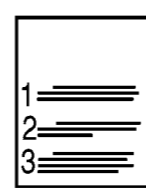
www.edenproject.com/darwinargentina



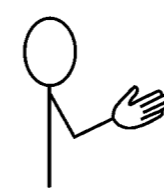
In Argentina



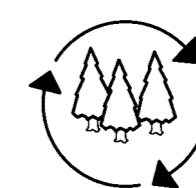
many forests have been cut down



a plan



is being developed



to create sustainable forests

Regrowing the forest

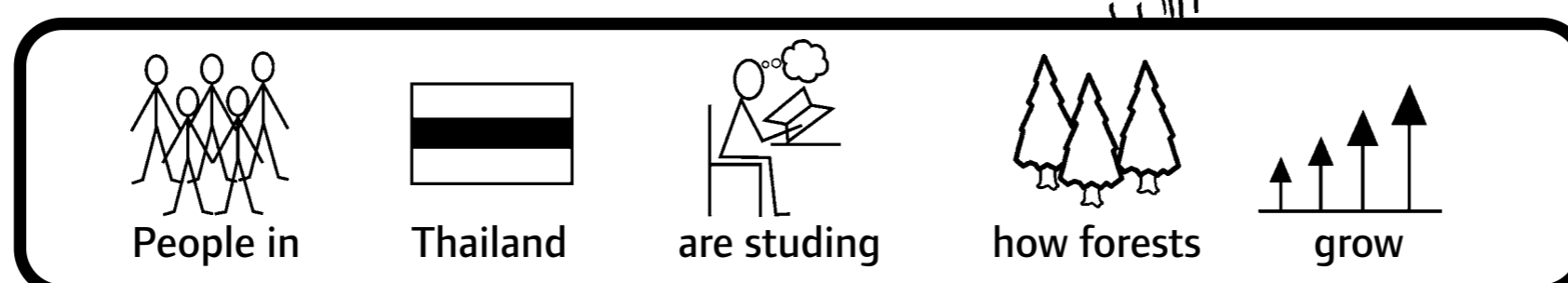
An Eden Project project

The Forest Restoration Research Unit (FORRU)

FORRU, initiated by Chiang Mai University in north-west Thailand, restores biodiversity-rich forests in denuded sites in conservation areas and runs training programmes so that the techniques developed can be used elsewhere.

Eden supports 12 community tree nurseries where local people and scientists are working together to learn how to re-grow the forest. Eden also supports the FORRU education programme.

www.forru.org



People in

Thailand

are studying

how forests

grow