

Some classroom activities:

SCIENCE:

*What would YOU pack on an expedition to New Guinea? Make a list of the stuff you use daily, starting with when you get up in the morning. Which of these items would you want to bring to PNG? What would you leave behind? What would you substitute? And what would you need for an expedition that you don't normally use? Compare with your classmates. (Now, can you carry that uphill for three days?)

*What other animals intrigued you in Papua New Guinea? Do a report on one of them. Then write up all the unknowns about the animal. Maybe you will be the next person to study it!

*Taking the above a step further: How would you go about studying that animal? Break your class up into teams. Each team will be studying one animal. Then work out among yourselves: who would be the artist? Who would be the photographer? Who would be the translator? Who would be the field coordinator? Who would be the writer? The veterinarian? Make a list of the responsibilities for each job, what each person would find out, and what his or her daily duties might be.

*And taking things a step further still: You really CAN study wild animals, even those right in your neighborhood! Try adapting your pretend plans for a foreign expedition to studying some animal in your own backyard—dragonflies, bullfrogs, squirrels—you name it! It's easier to pick an animal that you can find regularly without radio telemetry.

*Do you have questions for Kuna, James, Joel, or Margit? Write up those questions interview style. Then have the class weed out the duplicates. We'll try to forward those questions to them for answers via email. Send them to authorwire.com and we'll send them on.

ENGLISH:

*Discussion: Which of the people you find profiled on this webpage is most like you—and why? Which of these people do you wish were your friend—and why? Did you find yourself imagining living in a village like May's, or growing up like Kuna or Gabe did? What would you like about that? What would you dislike? And why?

*Discussion: Which passages in the book seem to be taken directly from the journal? Which passages seem to have been changed?

*More Discussion: What were some of the things in the author's field journal that *weren't* in the book? Why do you think some of these weren't included? Do you wish they were? How is the journal different from the book?

*Because the journal was written for the author's own use, there may be words here you don't recognize. Make a list of these and look them up.

*Journaling: for five days, try to keep a journal like the author did. Try not to merely list everything you did; try to make it into an interesting story with a theme. Remember you don't have to put in every single thing that happened. Just put in the parts that are most interesting to you. Tell us why these things were interesting or important. What about each day would you want to share with a friend?

* Journaling, Part II: the next week, try writing a pretend journal, the sorts of things you might write in a journal if you were on an expedition to an exotic location or on an exciting journey. What sorts of things might you find? Let your imagination run wild, but try to make the journal sound authentic.