



The Wood Carver

Mata lives in the Trobriand Islands. He carves wood. Read how he makes a big bowl. Mata is proud of his bowl and his culture.



The Wood Carver
Tandi Jackson



Let's Read

 **The Asia Foundation**



Mata lives in the Trobriand Islands. When Mata was a boy, he learnt to carve wood. Now Mata carves many things.



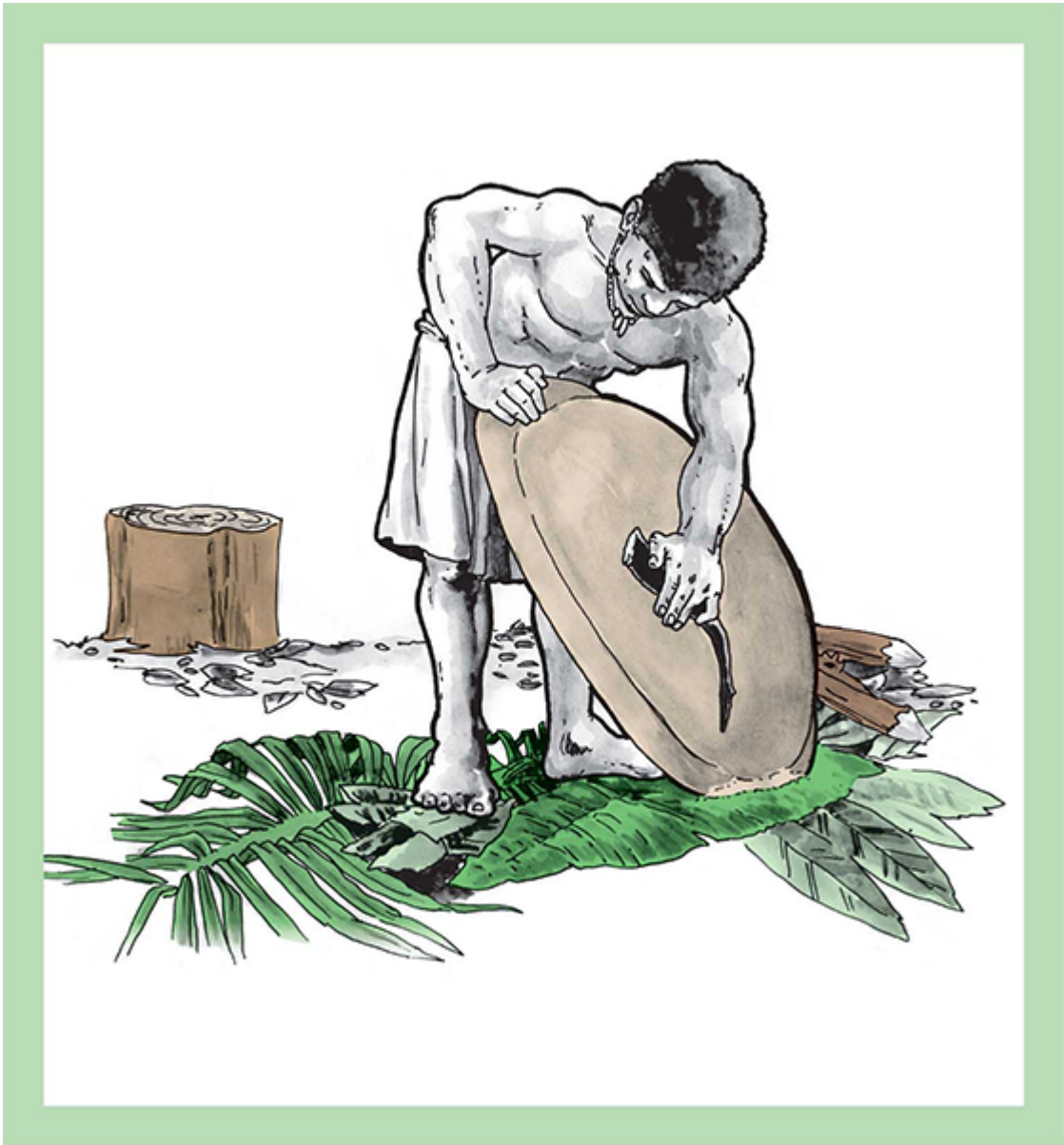
He makes carvings for singsings. Each pattern tells a story.



Today Mata is making a big bowl. Mata goes into the bush. He cuts off a good piece of wood.



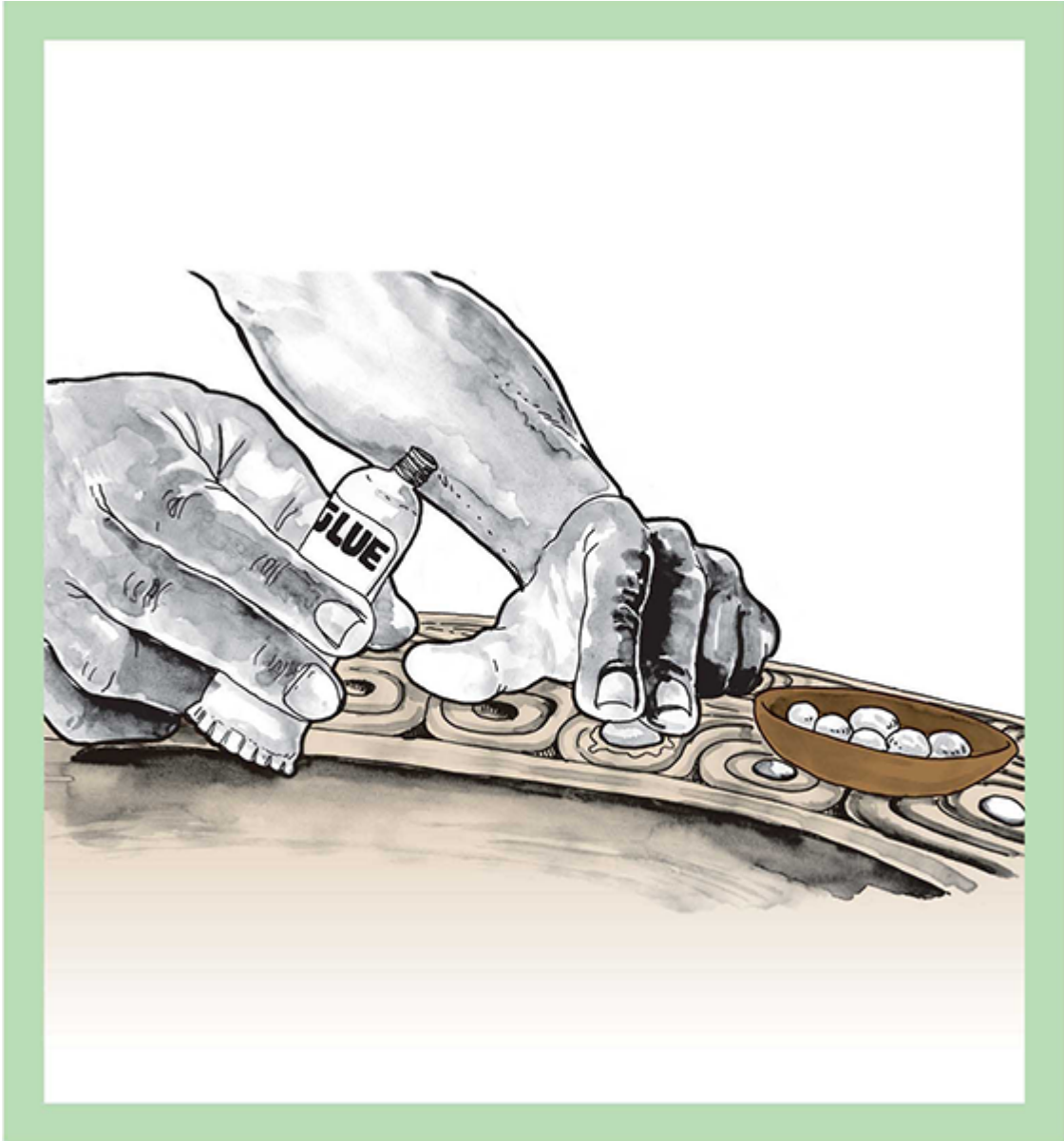
Mata carves the wood with his axe.



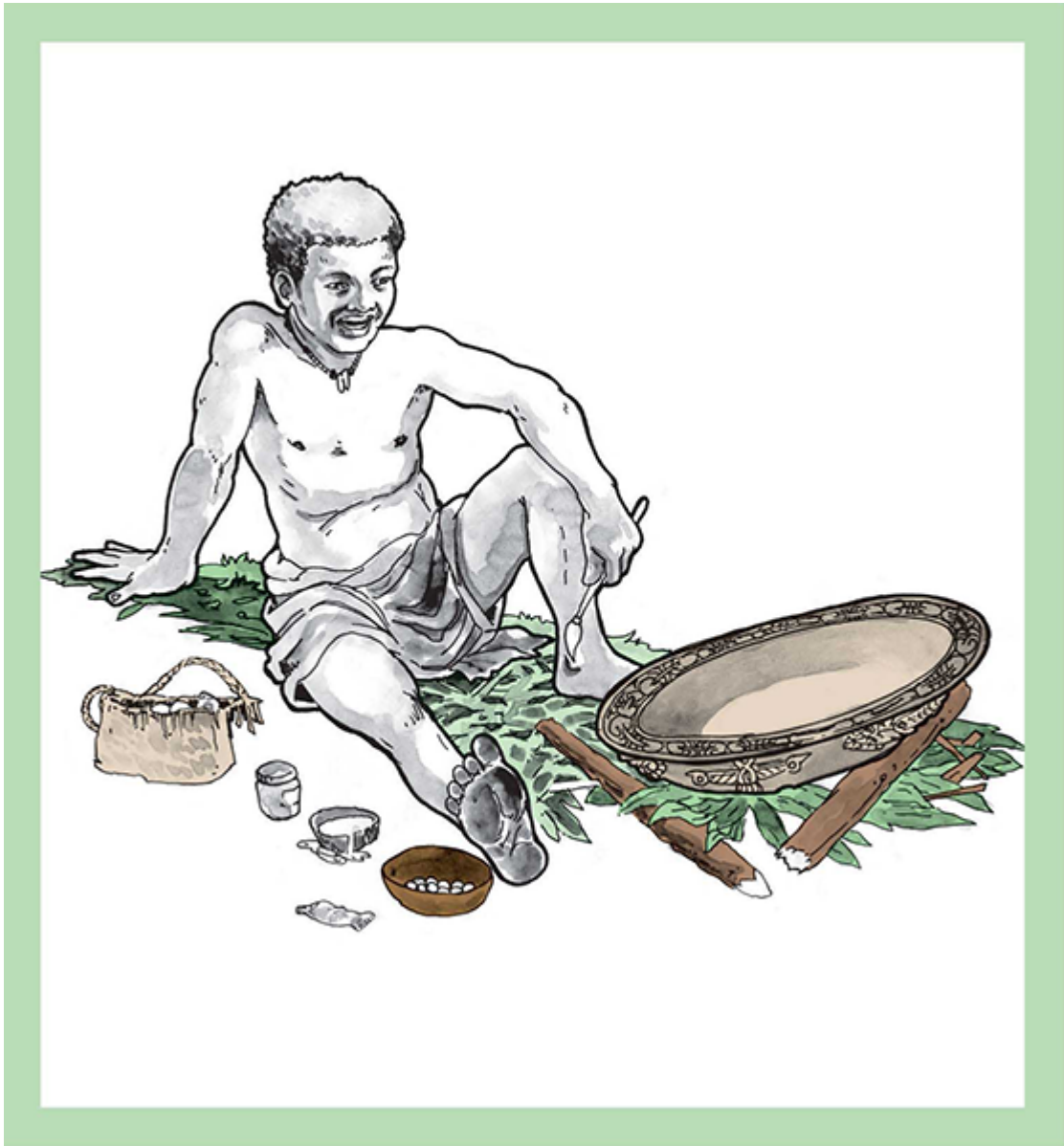
Next he uses a stingray tail to smooth the wood.



Mata paints the wooden bowl with black paint.



Next Mata finds small shells and cuts them. He glues the shells around the top of his bowl.



Mata is proud of his bowl. The pattern tells about the sea.



Can you see the story in this pattern?



Comprehension Questions 1. Where does Mata live? 2. What did Mata learn as a boy? 3. What things does Mata carve? 4. What do the patterns he carves tell? 5. What does Mata make in this story? 6. What does he do first? 7. What tool does he use to carve the wood? 8. What does he do with the stingray tail? 9. What does Mata do to decorate the carved bowl? 10. How does Mata feel about his bowl? Why? Activity Draw patterns that tell about the customs and traditions of your people.



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