



Shaniella's Story

Solomon Islands

**Primary (F-2)
Case Study and
Activities**





This is Shaniella's story.



Shaniella is 23 years old. She grew up in a village in the Solomon Islands with her father, mother and three brothers.



Shaniella went to a local school until Grade 11 but was unable to complete her final year.



She knew that without the right job skills, she would find it hard to earn money for the things she needed.



In 2020, Shaniella decided she wanted to learn new skills. So she moved away from home to study at a rural training centre.



Shaniella is interested in learning how to work with visitors to the Solomon Islands, for example in restaurants and hotels. This is called hospitality and tourism.



She also started learning how to grow food, cook and sew.



Not long after Shaniella started, the school was hit by a landslide. It was terrible.



The landslide destroyed the school's water system. It also damaged buildings and the food garden.



Caritas helped the school install eight water tanks.



Students and the local community had access to clean drinking water and toilets again!



Caritas also provided planting materials to restore the vegetable garden.



200 chickens were provided along with training on how to look after them.



Caritas ran some Disaster Risk Reduction workshops, to help Shaniella and her community learn about risks and what to do in an emergency.



Now that there's enough food to eat and water for drinking and washing, Shaniella can complete her job skills training.



She is confident she will be ready to work in the hospitality and tourism industry when the Solomon Islands opens up to international visitors again.



Life is full of hope for Shaniella, for her school community and for all future generations.

SHANIELLA'S STORY

LEARNING TASKS



Read **Shaniella's Story**.

1. Why did Shaniella decide to move away from home?
2. What happened at Shaniella's training centre?
3. How did Caritas Australia help?
4. What does Shaniella want to do when she finishes her training at the centre?

Curriculum links: English, Health and Physical Education

PRAYER

Write a prayer for Shaniella and her community using the **Prayer Worksheet**.

TASK 1: Country Study

Can you find the Solomon Islands on a world map? Using the world map provided and either Google maps or an old-fashioned atlas, locate the Solomon Islands. Colour this country in and label it.

Extension: Which region of the world is the Solomon Islands in: Africa, Europe, Asia, Oceania, North America or South America? Find out some facts about the Solomon Islands, e.g. how many people live there?

Curriculum link: Geography

**Shaniella is seen in a classroom at her Rural Training Centre near the capital Honiara, Solomon Islands.
Photo: Neil Nua**

SHANIELLA'S STORY

LEARNING TASKS



TASK 2: Photo Study

As a class, view the photos in **Shaniella's Story**. Ask students:

- What do the photos show you about Shaniella's life?
- Which photo do you like the best? Why?
- What questions would you like to ask Shaniella?
- What do you want to learn more about?

Curriculum links: English, Health and Physical Education

TASK 3: A Day in the Life

Watch [Shaniella's 'Day in the Life' film](#).

Use the pictures and words on **A Day in the Life Worksheet** to write sentences about Shaniella's life. You will also need to add your own words to complete your story.

Words: tap, water, plant, chicken, eggs, books, shed, sewing machine, volleyball

Curriculum links: English, Geography, Science, Health and Physical Education

TASK 4: Water Flows

Before the landslide, Shaniella's school used a gravity-fed water system to supply water to the school buildings and food garden. Investigate how gravity helps water flow by using an assortment of cardboard tubes, egg cartons, shoeboxes, paper cups and other recyclables to construct a marble run. Do this activity in small groups or as a whole class. Test each cardboard construction by running a marble through it (to represent the flow of water). Compare them to see which design moves the marble most effectively. Which one worked the best? Why? Which ones didn't

work so well? Why? Do any designs help the marble to speed up and/or slow down? Why is this important?

Curriculum links: Science, Design and Technology

TASK 5: Tank Talk

After the landslide, Caritas helped Shaniella's school install eight new water tanks! Do you have water tanks at your school? What about home? How does the tank system work? And, what do you use the tank water for?

Curriculum links: Science, Design and Technology



Shaniella collects water from a water tank at her Rural Training Centre near the capital Honiara, Solomon Islands. Photo: Neil Nuia

SHANIELLA'S STORY

LEARNING TASKS



TASK 6: Water Game

Every year millions of people around the world become sick and even die from drinking unclean water and from not being able to wash. Learn more about water at Shaniella's school with our **Water Game**.

Curriculum links: Science, Health and Physical Education

TASK 7: CST Link

Care for our common home is vital for the common good of all people. And since we all share the earth, we also all share the responsibility to care for it.

- What parts of Shaniella's story remind us to care for our common home?
- What small action could you take to help care for our common home?

For further resources on the Catholic Social Teaching principle, Care for Our Common Home, including classroom activities, visit our [CST Toolkit](#).

TASK 8: RE Link

Water is a very important part of Shaniella's Story. It also features throughout Scripture. Can you think of any Bible stories involving water? Read the story of Jesus and the Woman of Samaria in [John 4:1-15](#). Why was the Samaritan woman surprised that Jesus asked her for a drink? What do you think Jesus meant by 'living water'?

After your discussion, including the physical, ecological and spiritual importance of water, finish with this prayer:

God of life,
We praise you for our sister water
whose oceans, rivers, lakes and rains,
sustain us like living water.
We pray for Shaniella and her community
in all the opportunities and challenges they face.
As they and we adapt to a changing climate,
help us 'be the change you wish [us] to be in the world'*
caring for our common home together,
for all future generations.
Amen.

* Ghandi

Name: _____

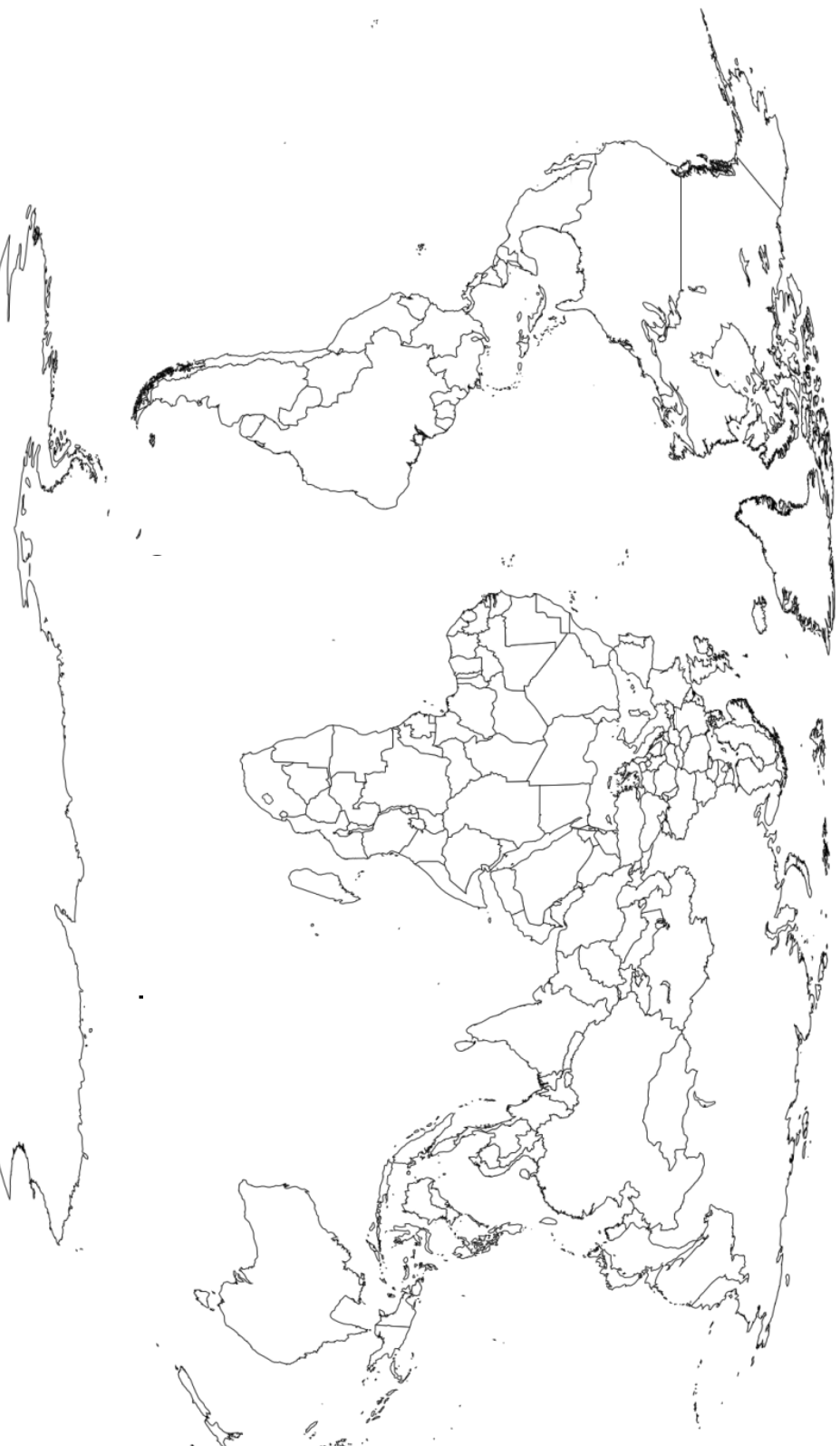


My Prayer for Shaniella

Write a prayer for Shaniella and her community in the Solomon Islands.

A large rounded rectangular area containing ten horizontal dotted lines for writing a prayer.

World Map



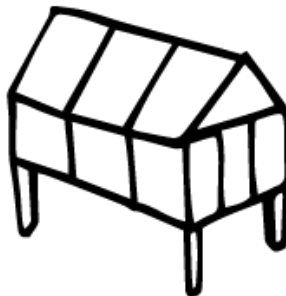
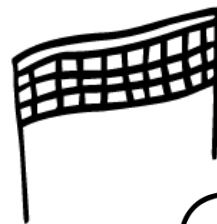
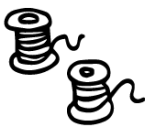
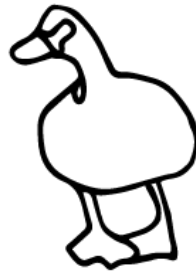
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Name: _____

LEARNING TASK: Worksheet

A Day in the Life of Shaniella

Use the pictures and words below to write sentences about Shaniella's life. You will also need to add your own words to complete your story.



Words: tap, water, plant, chicken, eggs, books, shed, sewing machine, volleyball

Water Game

Learn how a restored source of fresh water has impacted on Shaniella's school in the Solomon Islands.

You need:
A dice
Counters for each child

Start

1

2

Oh no! Broken water pipes! Go back to the start.

3

4

You help in the kitchen. Roll again.

5

6

No water in the tank. Miss a turn.

7

You plan to save water. Roll again.

14

13

12

Your water bucket has a hole in it. Go back 2.

11

10

9

You help in the garden. Move forward 2 spaces.

8

15

You miss class because of a landslide. Go back 3 spaces.

16

17

Tanks are full from rain! Move forward 3 spaces.

18

19

You stop to wash your hands. Miss a turn.

20

21

School gets a new water tank! Go forward 2 spaces.

22

23

You have fresh drinking water! Roll again.

29

28

27

26

You cannot wash. Go back 2 spaces.

25

24

Finish

30

School

ring
ring



SHANIELLA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Does your school have clean water? What about water tanks? Do you have a vegetable garden and chickens too? Shaniella's school is in the Solomon Islands - a country that sometimes experiences tsunamis, cyclones, drought, floods and landslides. In 2020, a landslide damaged Shaniella's school, including its gravity-fed water system, buildings and food garden. It was terrible! With Caritas Australia's support, the school installed 8 new water tanks. This gave students access to fresh drinking water and toilets again! The community also learned more about Disaster Risk Reduction and how to prepare for and respond to emergencies. Things are looking bright for Shaniella, for her school community and for all future generations.

Shaniella is 23 years old. She grew up in a village in the Solomon Islands with her father, mother and three brothers.

Shaniella went to a local school until grade 11 but was unable to complete her final year because she did not pass the exam. Girls' and women's participation in secondary education, training and employment in the Solomon Islands is much lower than male students'. With the poverty rate in Makira province at around 32 percent, Shaniella knew that without relevant job skills, she would struggle to earn a living.

In 2020, Shaniella decided to move away from home to study at a rural training centre outside the capital, Honiara. The school is supported by Caritas Australia Solomon Islands (CASI) through the Happy, Healthy, Holistic Community Development program. It caters mainly for young women from poorer communities

but is now starting to enrol male students too. Learning focuses on job-related skills.

Shaniella chose to study hospitality and tourism, as well as compulsory subjects like life skills, cooking, sewing and agricultural production.

Not long after Shaniella started, her new school was hit by a landslide, flooding and a cyclone, all in quick succession! It was terrible.

"I was in school that time when the landslide occurred," Shaniella says. **"I was devastated because I had no knowledge of what to do and where to get information."**

Shaniella

After the landslide, and with Caritas Australia's support, Shaniella's school and community were able to recover. The new water tanks they installed also supply water to nearby schools, health centres and the wider community. As well as running some Disaster Risk Reduction workshops, Caritas helped boost the local food security by providing the school with planting materials, 200 chickens and training in agriculture and poultry management.

Now, Shaniella can complete her job skills training, with enough water and food to eat, as well as better hygiene and sanitation. She is improving her ability to earn an income, learning skills which will expand her job opportunities. The school community is also thriving!

Shaniella is confident she will be ready to work in the hospitality and tourism industry when the Solomon Islands opens up to international visitors again.

THANK YOU

PHOTO CREDITS

Shaniella's Story (Solomon Islands) – Neil Nuia

PRIMARY STUDENTS

Learning about people not having what they need to live a healthy and safe life can be hard. If you are feeling worried or upset about anything you have learnt about through this resource, make sure you talk to your teacher or a trusted adult. They can share your concerns via our [website](#).

Do you have an idea for how Caritas Australia can improve our school resources? We would love to hear it! Please email education@caritas.org.au

TEACHERS

For more school resources, please visit: caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/

Stay up to date with events and resources! Subscribe to [Caritas Australia's Education e-newsletter](#)



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