

Vietnam

- The capital city of Vietnam is Hanoi.
- Most of the people in Vietnam practice the religion of Buddhism, following the teaches of Buddha. They believe that life means suffering and there is no god that governs everything, but people are responsible for their own actions. They believe all things have a living soul and that the deceased go to a place near the living and are accessible to help or hinder.
- Vietnamese is the main language of Vietnam but English is used too as a second language.
- Vietnam is located in Southeastern Asia, surrounded by the South China Sea to the east, China to the north and northeast, Laos to the west, and Cambodia to the southwest.
- Vietnam's main food is rice, and they are one of the top rice-producing countries in the world.
- The traditional women's dress of Vietnam is called the "ao dai". It is a very beautiful long blouse worn over flowing trousers.
- Toys are not common in Vietnam. Children play creatively with coins, rope, or other everyday objects. This causes them to be innovative and resourceful.
- Favorite sports in Vietnam are soccer, cycling, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, and martial arts.



Story: Children of the Dump

Twelve-year-old Mai looks out of place wearing a pretty yellow top sprinkled with pink flowers as she squats in a pile of garbage with her mother. They talk and laugh while they work, separating plastic from the other trash. A full bag of plastic will bring their family just a few cents. But this is their life's work. They live on a dump in Rach Gia, Vietnam, part of the Mekong Delta.

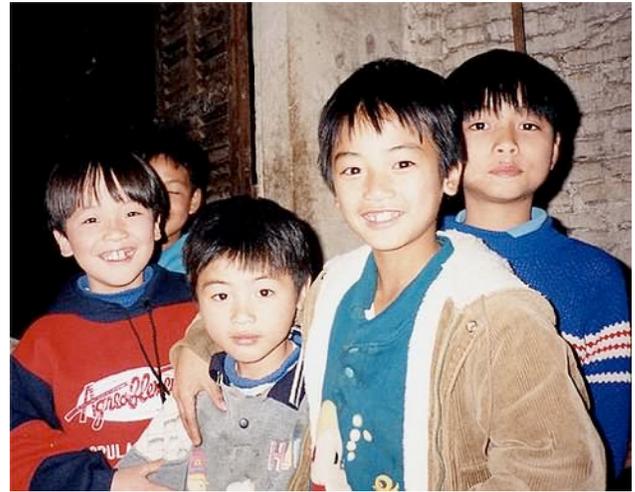
Mai's little sister watches from the family's two-room shack. One of her brothers sits on a nearby tombstone with his dog. The dump lies on an abandoned cemetery, and the above-ground tombs are the only places to sit that aren't covered by trash.

It is estimated that 200 families live on this and one other dump in Rach Gia. They are three generations who fled Cambodia during the 1970s when there was a very evil government running the country. It's the only home they

Story cont . .

have ever known. Their food and clothing is what they find in the trash. For the longest time, the children didn't even know flip-flops were supposed to match. But there is a danger here far worse than filth or poverty.

Human traffickers prey on these family's desperation. Children are bought and sold here, some for as little as \$100. The parents sell because they are tricked into believing that the buyer has good intentions, that their children will have a promising job and a promising future. They so badly want to help their sons and daughters escape poverty. Sadly, these children will not receive jobs or anything they are promised. They will be sold into slavery.



Recipe: Banana Rice Pudding

- 1 1/2 cups brown rice, cooked
- 1 cup nonfat milk
- 1 medium banana--cut into slices
- 1 can fruit, 15-ounce can, cut into slices
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg



In a medium-size saucepan, combine the banana and fruit slices, water, honey, vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat, and simmer for 10 minutes, or until quite tender but not mushy. Add the rice and milk and mix thoroughly. Bring to a boil and simmer 10 more minutes. Serve warm.

Activity: Bit Mat Bat De

“Catching the goat while blindfolded” is a version of blind man's bluff played by children between the ages of 6 and 15. Goat and goat catcher are both blindfolded with handkerchiefs, and the game begins when the catcher yells “Done!” The goat occasionally bleats while both players move around stealthily and listen carefully to evade or catch the other player!



Go to www.frontlinekids.net/resources to find lesson supplemental materials such as: prayer points, recipes, maps, videos, printable color sheets, and more.