

The Sea Nomads

The Moken people are sea nomads. For most of the year, they live on their boats in the Andaman Sea, and they catch fish and other animals for their food. They **sell** some of the fish and use the money to buy important things, such as rice and **fuel** for their boats.

The Moken people have lived this way for hundreds of years. They don't have electricity or stoves, but they cook their food in pots over fires in their boats. Many Moken children learn to swim before they can walk. Because they live on the water and spend so much time in the water, the Moken people have special skills. They can **dive** very **deep** and stay underwater for a very long time. They can also see better underwater than most other people. This helps them to find fish and tiny shellfish on the sea floor.

Today, things are changing for the Moken people. Many have already moved to small villages. They haven't stopped fishing in the sea, but their way of life is very different now.

Moken sea nomads in the Andaman Sea



Scan the text. Check (✓) the sentence that best describes the Moken people today.

- A. Today, some Moken people live on boats and some live in villages. ____
- B. The Moken people live on their boats, and their lives haven't changed at all. ____
- C. Today, all Moken people live in villages. ____

Read again. Answer the questions.

1. How do the Moken people get money for rice and fuel?

2. How do they cook their food?

3. Name three things that the Moken people can do better than most other people.

4. Do the Moken people fish in the ocean today?

Match the words with the definitions.

| | | | |
|-----------|------|-----------|----------|
| Deep dive | fuel | geography | language |
| leave | | | sell |

1. To go away from a place

2. English, Spanish, and Japanese are examples. _____

3. The study of the Earth

4. What you need to make a car or a motorboat move

5. To give things to people for money

6. To go into water head first

7. Far from the top of something
