

Indigenous peoples of the world

Indigenous peoples are ethnic groups who are native to a particular region. They are people who share a distinct identity, culture and language. In fact, of the 7,000 languages spoken in the world, over 4,000 are indigenous languages. Indigenous people are deeply connected to their natural environment, which they respect and protect.

At present, it is estimated that there are over 350 million indigenous people in the world. This is over 5% of the world's population. They live in every corner of the Earth, from the cold Arctic region to the tropical forests of the Amazon. However, about 70% of indigenous people live in Asia. Indigenous groups vary in size, but tend to be small compared to the majority culture of their countries.

Some examples of indigenous peoples include the Masai people of Africa, the Inuit of the Arctic region, the Karaja people from the Brazilian Amazon, the Hmong people from Southeast Asia, and the Sami people from northern Europe. Today, many indigenous groups are endangered, mainly due to human development which is posing a threat to their natural environment.



1 Read the text and answer the questions.

- a. What are indigenous peoples? _____
- b. Where do they live? _____
- c. How many languages are spoken by indigenous people? _____
- d. Why is their lifestyle threatened today? _____
- e. Write the names of three indigenous tribes? _____