

Last year I travelled to the east of Java, in Indonesia. The people there tell stories about a mountain called Mount Batok.



The story of Mount Batok

Once a pretty woman called Roro Anteng lived in a village near a big volcano in Java. One day a giant saw Roro Anteng. The giant wanted to marry her, but she didn't want to marry him. Then she had a clever idea.

'You can marry me,' she said. 'But first I've got a challenge for you. Make a desert between the mountains. You have only one night. Finish the desert before the sun comes up.'

That night the giant started to dig with a big, round coconut shell. Some hours later, Roro Anteng looked outside. 'Oh no!' she thought, 'The desert is nearly finished and it's still night.'



'What can I do? I don't want to marry the giant! Hmm, the cockerels are sleeping but I've got an idea!'

She jumped up and down, and shouted, 'WAKE UP, COCKERELS!'

The cockerels thought it was morning and crowed, 'Cock-a-doodle-doo!' The crowing made the sun come up.

The giant saw the sun in the sky. 'Oh no! It's morning!' he said. 'But I didn't finish the challenge!' He was very angry and he threw the coconut shell on the ground.

Today Indonesian people say Mount Batok is the giant's coconut shell.

- 1 Read the story on Class Book page 16 again. Tick ✓ the sentences you agree with.

- 1 The story of Mount Batok has a plot with a start and a finish.
- 2 The story has got paragraphs.
- 3 The story hasn't got any dialogue.
- 4 The story isn't true – it's a legend.
- 5 The story is fun to listen to.

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- 2 Tick ✓ the correct description.

- 1 Today, Indonesian people say a giant lived in the volcano and he played with coconut shells.
- 2 Today, Indonesian people say there were a lot of coconut shells in the desert next to Mount Batok.
- 3 The Indonesian legend says that the giant made the desert, and the mountain was his coconut shell.

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- 3 Number the sentences in order.

- ☐ Roro Anteng said to the giant, 'Make a desert between the mountains in one night'.
- ☐ The cockerels crowed 'Cock-a-doodle-doo!' and the sun came up.
- ☒ 1 There was a pretty woman called Roro Anteng.
- ☐ The giant started digging and nearly finished the desert in one night.
- ☐ The giant didn't finish the challenge, and he didn't marry Roro Anteng.
- ☐ 'Oh no!' thought Roro Anteng, and shouted to the cockerels.
- ☐ A giant wanted to marry Roro Anteng, but she didn't want to marry the giant.