

THE MANEABA

Lesson Fifty-Two

Objectives: This lesson tells you some more about the maneaba, the community center of the Kiribati village. You'll learn a little about the customs of the maneaba, and what might occur there.

Activities: Study the narrative, and answer questions posed by your teacher or members of your class. Try rewriting it as a dialogue, and present it with another student.

**Translation
of Narrative:**

The Maneaba

The maneaba is the Kiribati assembly place. There is a maneaba in every village. Some are very big, and there are some which are not so big. The maneaba is the largest building in the village.

All families have 'boti' (assigned sitting places) in the maneaba.

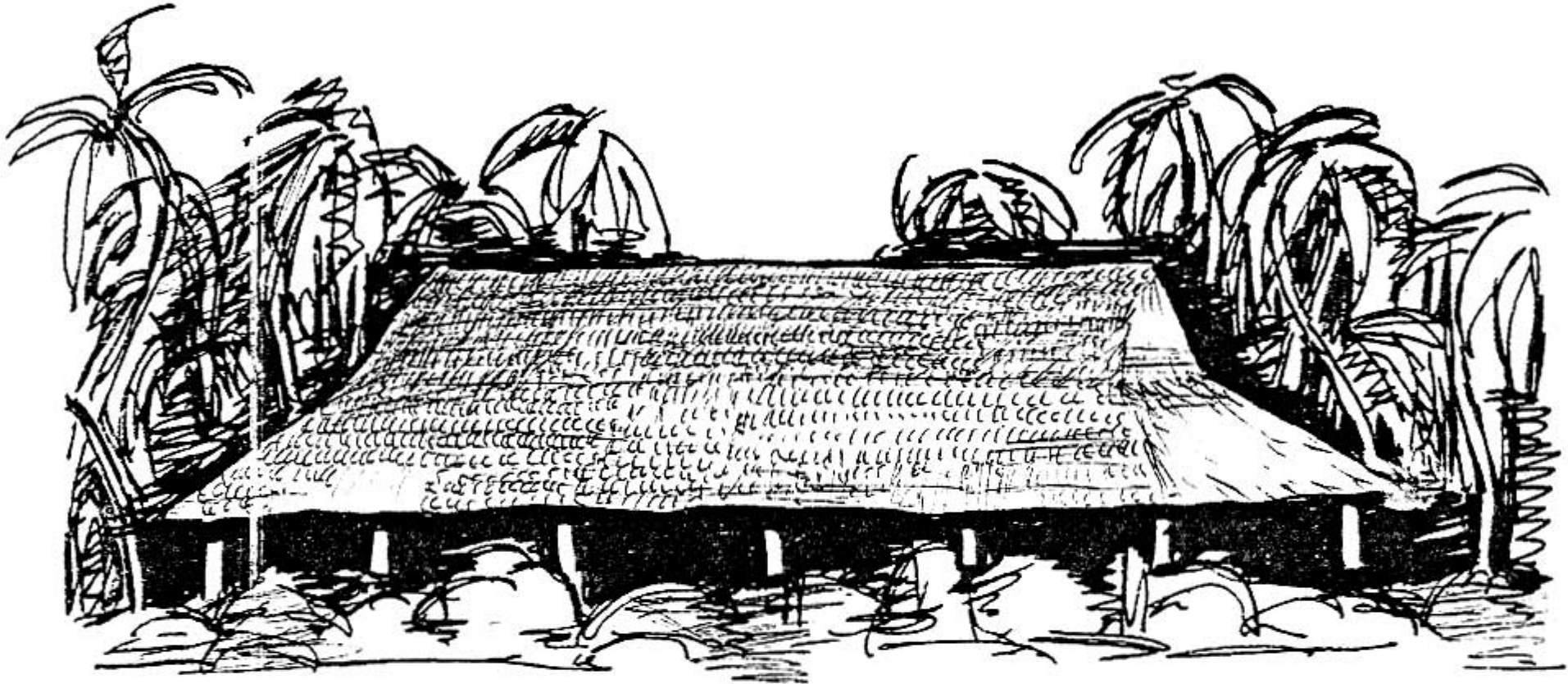
The maneaba is used when there is a gathering of the old men, or when there is dancing by the villagers. And welcome or farewell feasts where all the villagers take part.

Note:

An excellent source of information on the history and traditional use of the maneaba is H. E. Maude's "The Evolution of the Gilbertese Boti: An Ethnohistorical Interpretation". This was originally published in the Journal of the Polynesian Society in 1963, but it was reprinted in 1977 by the University of the South Pacific, and costs about \$2 from them.

TE M'ANEABA

Reirei Nimabwi Ma Uoua



Narrative
for Study:

Te M'aneaba

Te m'aneaba bon aia tabo ni bootaki I Kiribati. Bon iai te m'aneaba ni kaawa nako. A rangi ni buubura m'aneaba tabeua ao iai aika a aki bati ni buubura. Te m'aneaba bon te kasanea ni buubura n auti n te kaawa.

A toa utuu nako ma aia boti inanon te m'aneaba.

E kaboonganaaki te m'aneaba ngkana iai te bootaki irouia unim'aane ke te m'aiee irouia kaain te kaawa. Te kairuaa, te karaaure ao bootaki ake a bane n iri iai kaain te kaawa.

Additional
Activities:

Two additional dialogues are provided to continue the description of activities in the maneaba. Pair off and present a section of these dialogues to your class. When you have done that, you can try giving a short talk on the subject.

Translation
of Dialogue:

Baie: I heard that you were invited by the villagers to meet them at the maneaba.

Steven: Yes, but can you tell me what to do?

Baie: It's a good custom if you bring a present for the old men.

Steven: What should I bring?

Baie: Maybe ten or twenty sticks of tobacco, which is the old men's smoke.

Steven: And whom shall I give it to?

Baie: You can talk like this: "Old men, don't think much of this smoke."

Continuation:

Steven: And will they be happy with it?

Baie: Yes, it's the custom to give a present to the spirits of the maneaba when you visit it.

Steven: And what will be done in the maneaba?

Baie: There are welcome speeches from some of the old men, and then feasting and sometimes dancing.

Steven: And what shall I do afterwards?

Baie: You can give your words of thanks for the things they have done.

Outside
Activities:

Nothing can substitute for actually visiting a maneaba and participating in the activities yourself. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. You'll be expected to anyway.

Additional
Dialogue
for Study:

- Baie: I ongo b'a ko kaoaki irouia kaain te kaawa b'a a na kaatitiboo ma ngkoe n te m'aneaba?
- Titewen: E eng, ma ko konaa n tuangai arou ae N na karaoia?
- Baie: Bon te katei ae e raioi ngkana ko uota am b'ai n tangira nakoia unimm'aane.
- Titewen: Ao teraa ae I riai n uotia?
- Baie: Tao tengaun ke uangaun te baakee b'a aia moko unimm'aane.
- Titewen: Ao antai ae N na anganna?
- Baie: Ko konaa n taetae ni kaangai: "Unimm'aane, tai akaaka n amii tena moko aei."

Continuation:

- Titewen: Ao a na kukurei iai?
- Baie: E eng, bon te katei ngkana ko kawara te m'aneaba b'a ko na anga am b'ai n tangira nakoia antin te m'aneaba.
- Titewen: Ao teraa ae e na karaoaki n te m'aneaba?
- Baie: Iai taeka ni butim'aai irouia unimm'aane tabemar ao ai te am'arake ao te m'aiee n tabetai.
- Titewen: Ao teraa ae N na karaoia imwiina?
- Baie: Ko konaa n anga am taeka ni karab'arab'a ibukini b'aai ake a tia ni karaoi.