

## THE BREAD-FRUIT TREE

Jack and I examined the bread-fruit tree. We were much struck with its broad leaves, which were twelve or eighteen inches long, deeply indented, and of a glossy smoothness, like the laurel.

The tree bears two or three crops of fruit in a year; very much like wheaten bread in appearance it is round in shape, about six inches in diameter, and it has a rough rind. It forms the principal food of many South Sea islanders. The fruit on the tree which we inspected hung in clusters of twos and threes on the branches, and were of various colours, from light pea-green to brown and rich yellow. Jack said that the yellow fruit was the ripe fruit.

The trunk was twenty feet high, being quite destitute of branches up to that height, where it branched off into a beautiful head. The wood, which is durable and of a good colour, is used to build native houses; the bark of the young branches being made into cloth.

Another product of this wonderful tree is gum, which serves the natives for pitching their canoes.

(*The Coral Island*—R. M. Ballantyne)

1. Write three common adjectives which describe a leaf of a bread-fruit tree.
2. What is the fruit like in appearance?
3. Why is the tree very important to the natives?
4. How does the fruit hang on the branches?
5. How could you recognize a ripe bread-fruit?
6. How many crops of fruit does the bread-fruit tree produce in a year?
7. How far above the ground was the lowest branch of the tree which the boys were looking at?
8. Which part of the tree is used by the natives for making cloth?
9. What is meant by 'pitching their canoes'?
10. Write the word in this extract which means 'hard-wearing'.



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1. broad; long; smooth; glossy; deeply indented (three required)
2. The fruit is like wheaten bread in appearance, and is round in shape.
3. It is very important to the natives because bread-fruit is their principal food.
4. The fruit hangs on the branches in clusters of twos and threes.
5. A ripe bread-fruit is yellow in colour.
6. The bread-fruit tree produces two or three crops of fruit in a year.
7. It was twenty feet above the ground.
8. The bark of the young branches is used by the natives for making cloth.
9. 'Pitching their canoes' means making them watertight. The gum of this tree is used instead of pitch.
10. 'durable'