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Jackfruit seller
in the
Yeligiri Hills



Questions

What do you think the large items are that the lady is selling?

She is busy cutting one in half – what do you think is inside?

Background

In the tourist area of the Yeligiri Hills a local woman has set up her stall in the shade of a tree and is selling jackfruit. This huge fruit is a tasty favourite with visitors, but the woman needs to cut it up for them before they can eat it, it is too tough to peel! Inside the jackfruit you will see what looks like yellow bulbs. These fruits are smooth to touch and crisp to eat, and they taste a bit like a banana. Inside each yellow fruit is a seed -one jackfruit can have as many as 500 seeds inside it. Although the fruit is good to eat, some people do not like it because it smells like rotten onions! Luckily once you have cut it the fruit inside smells more like pineapple! You may have guessed by looking at the photograph that jackfruit are the largest fruit in the world – the largest ones can be a metre long and weigh as much as 35 kilos!

The two men in the photograph are wearing very different clothes. The tourist from the town is wearing shirt and trousers, but the woman's husband, who is watching her carefully, is wearing a traditional Indian dhoti. The dhoti is a piece of cloth about 7 metres long which is kept in place by being folded, wrapped around the waist, and then knotted. You will see people wearing dhotis all over India, but often the top they are wearing with it will tell you which part of the country they come from. Here in Tamil Nadu men wear a shirt called a chokka with their dhoti.

Did you spot the dog? The dog will not belong to the couple, as very few people keep dogs as pets in India. Any dogs you see in photographs of India will probably be semi-wild dogs. The dogs wander around freely and find food as best they can – this dog is probably hoping the tourists will throw him some scraps.

The Yeligiri Hills are about 70 miles from Vellore town, they are a good place for a short holiday as it is cooler in the hills than on the plain. There are hotels, a boating lake and a small zoo for the tourists.

