

The Story of Udon



Story: Rapeephan Pattanavech
Illustrations: Preeda Punyachand
Translated by John Viano and Peeriya Pongsarigun

Local Knowledge Book Series

By



สำนักงานบริหารและพัฒนาองค์ความรู้ (องค์การมหาชน)



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Watcharee Kramyu

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Project Owner

Thailand Knowledge Park

the Office of Knowledge Management
and Development

TK park

8th Floor, Dazzle Zone, Central World,

Rajamdamri Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330

Phone: +66 2257 4300

Fax: +66 2257 4332

TK park Office

999/9 17th Floor, The Offices at Central World

Rama 1 Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330

Phone: +66 2264 5963-5

Fax: +66 2264 5966

www.tkpark.or.th

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Preface

Thailand Knowledge Park (TK park) mission in society is to develop a love of reading and give people equal opportunities to experience modern learning centers which speak to their interests. TK park has been cooperating with local administrators in many regions of Thailand to build living libraries as a way to achieve its mission.

Bringing local knowledge to children, in a modern and fun way, is an important tool to inspire them to read and explore. The idea is to create books which reflect local wisdom, together with morality and ethics, for children aged 7-12.

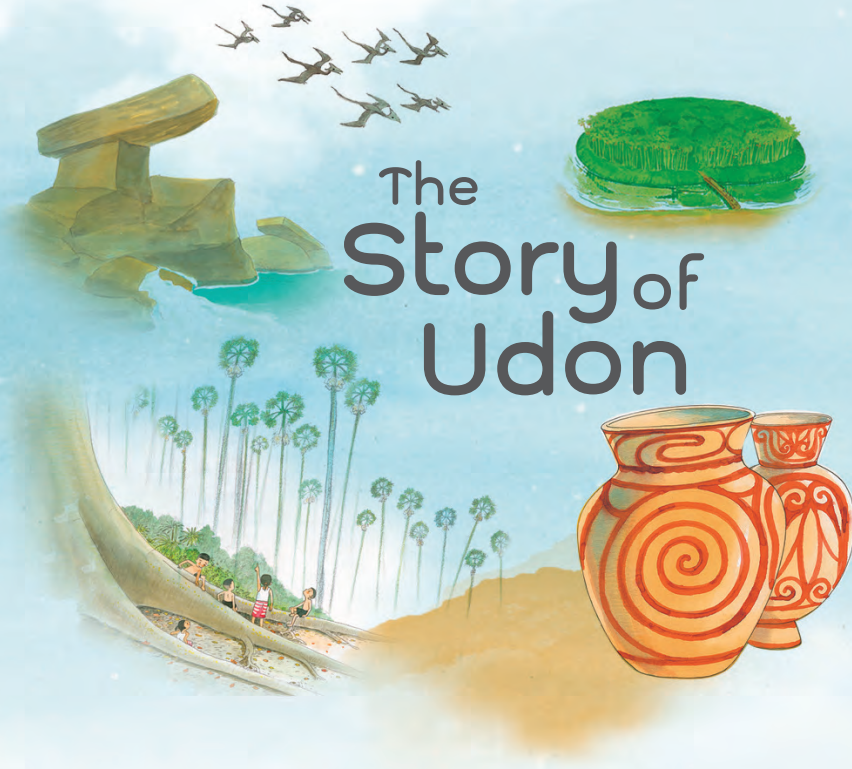
The books in the Udon Thani Set were developed by TK park, scholars, and local writers. Children and adults will get to know about the Udon Thani and be proud of the unique traditions found there. Moreover, the books also foster better understandings of and tolerant attitudes toward others from different cultures and societies.

TK park hopes the books will be another learning tool to help encourage Thai people to read more and maximize their learning. TK park aims to make the books fun and easy to read. Readers can enjoy them and appreciate their own hometown, regions, and country.

Thailand Knowledge Park



The Story of Udon





A million years ago, the land known as 'Isan' today
was covered by a sea. The earth's crust moved
and shifted - creating plateaus.



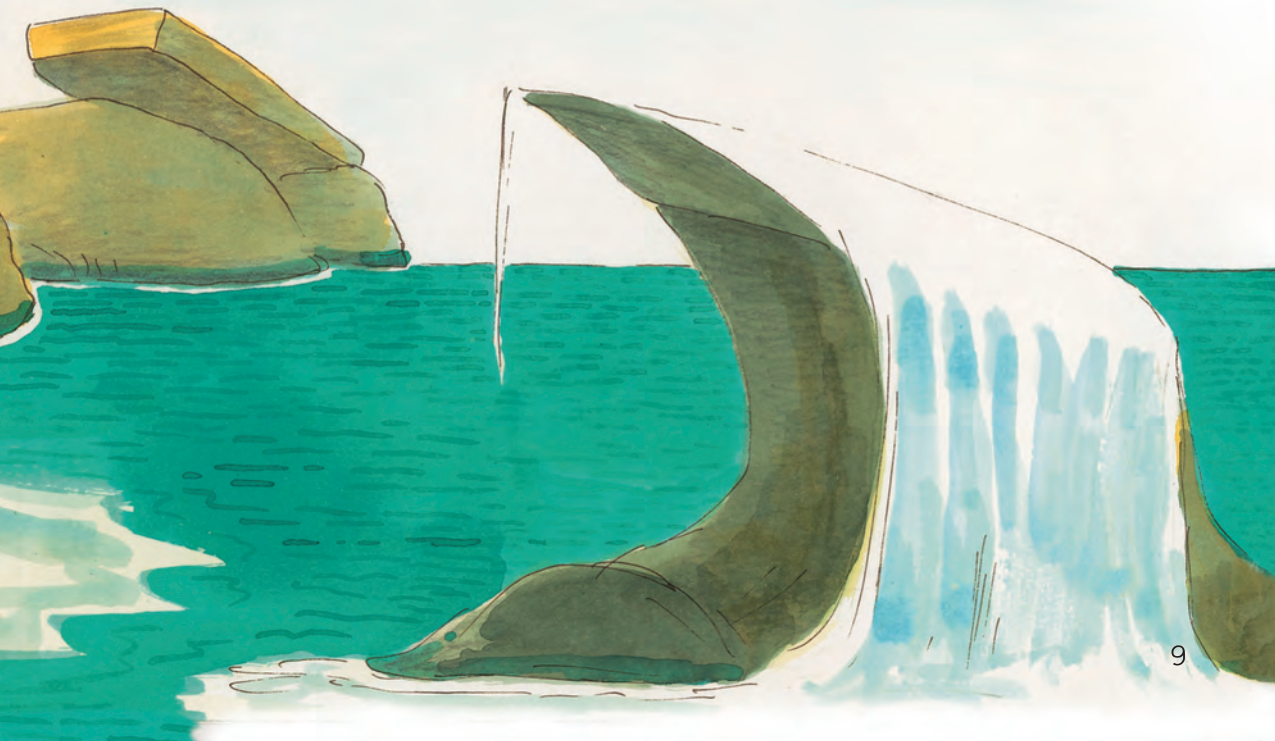
Historically, Isan was an important habitat of
many dinosaur species.

It explains why many dinosaur fossil
had been discovered later.





The tectonic plates here were subjected to large forces,
which formed the beautiful mountains.
Then heavy rains struck the mountains - carving a unique look
into their hard sandstone and limestone faces.





The Phu Phra Bat Historical Park was the site of an ancient ocean.
A long time after the ocean dried up people began living here.
Those original settlers, who likely came here to hunt and fish,
left us murals to see.





5,000 years ago, our ancestors lived
in present-day Ban Chiang. Evidence suggests this area
was a cradle of Thai civilization.





Udon Thani geography varies greatly.
There are mountains, plains, swamps, and old-growth forests.



Kham Chanot Island was formed by fossilized plant matter - creating a fertile land. There are a lot of trees, whose roots cover the soil and prevent flooding in the rainy season.

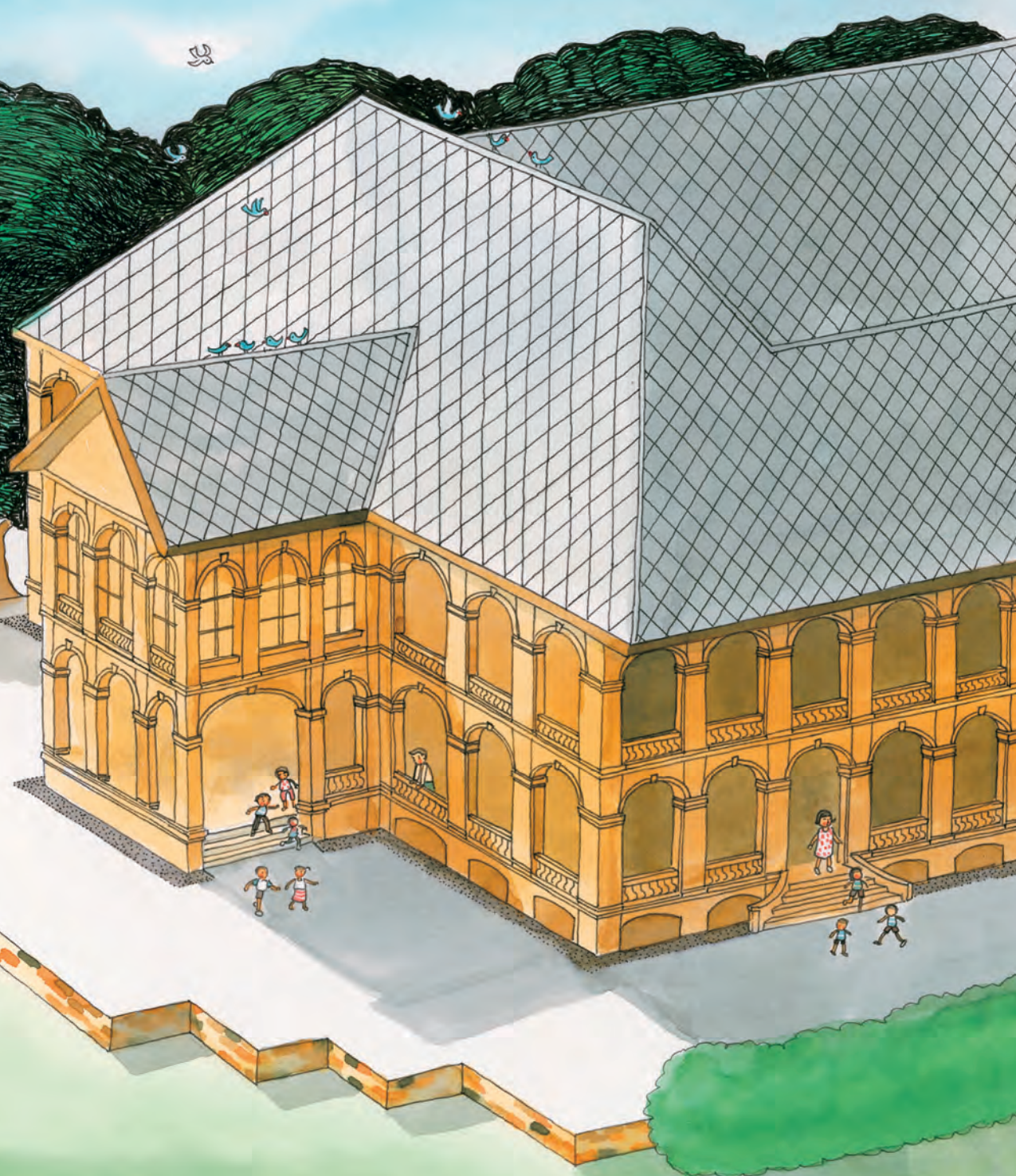


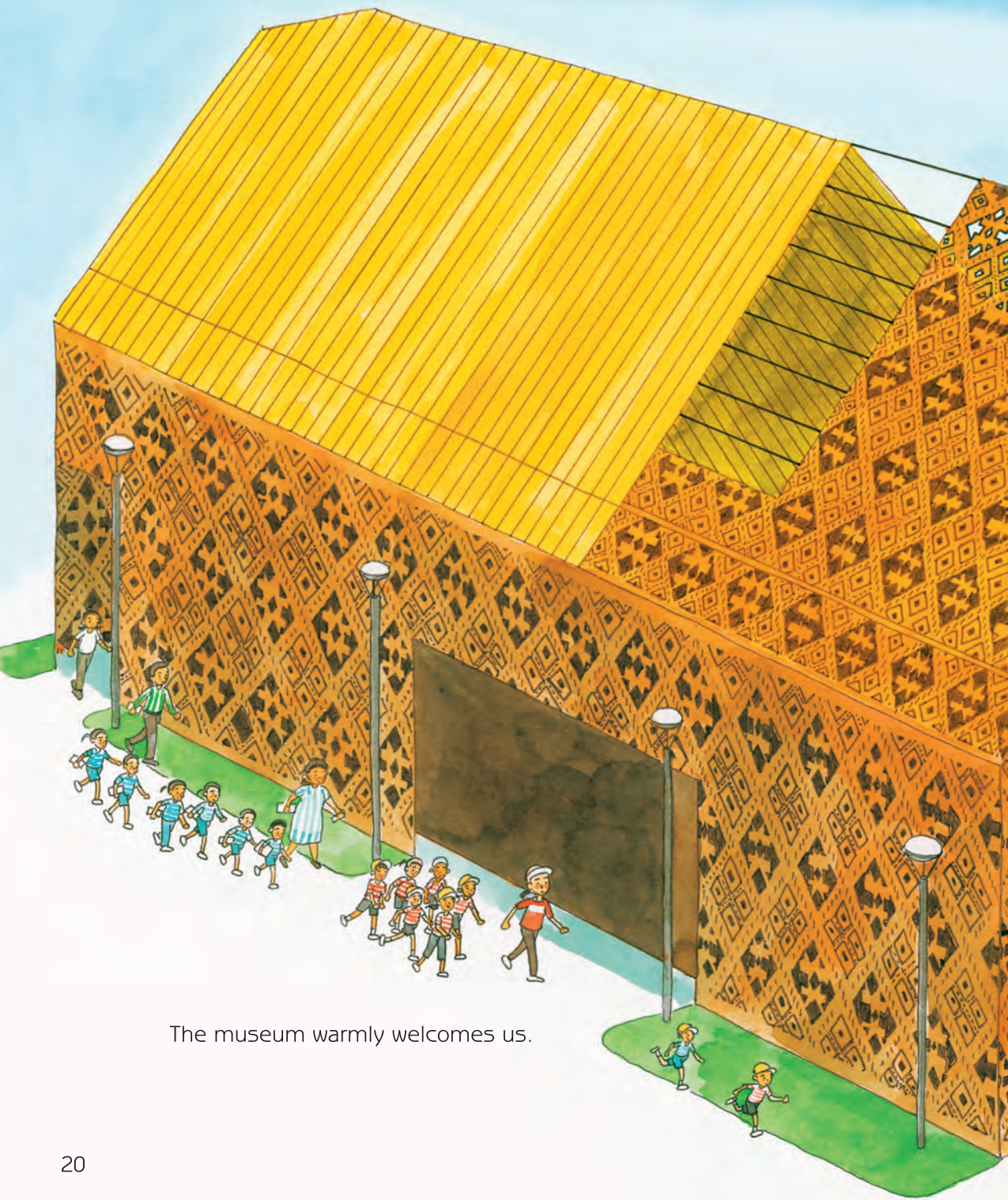
An illustration of a tropical island scene. In the background, numerous tall palm trees with green fronds stand against a light blue sky. In the foreground, a sandy beach is scattered with fallen palm fronds. Five children are depicted: one boy is climbing a low concrete wall on the left; another boy stands behind him; a girl in a white tank top and red-and-white striped skirt stands in the center, pointing her right index finger towards the trees; a boy sits on the wall to the right; and a girl is partially visible in the water on the far left. The water is a light blue-grey color.

Kham Chanot Island is located in Kham Chanot Village.
The people here believe if the seeds of Chanot trees
are planted anywhere but here, they will not grow.

There are many more stories to discover in Udon Thani.
Let's go to the Muang Udon Thani Museum.
The Rachinuthit building is so grand.







The museum warmly welcomes us.

Here we learn how the land under the sea became mountains and plateaus and the ancient civilization developed - from Ban Duea Mak Khaeng to Udon District and Udon Thani Province, which makes us all proud.



Teachers can organize activities based on The Story of Udon to encourage students to think critically and learn independently. Most importantly, teachers should give their students the opportunity to express their opinions on the projects or activities they have done.

Sample Activities:

Teachers can group students according to where they live. Then, teachers and students should brainstorm about what is good about each community and what students would like others to know about where they live. Next, students should discuss whether their ideas are interesting enough, and in what ways. Teachers and students, then discuss how much time they should spend presenting their work.

When each group knows what they are going to present to class, students should research their topics, select the most relevant information, and create their presentations. For their presentations, students should make use of photos, references, people, and objects.





About the Author

Rapeephan Pattanavech

graduated from the Ramkhamhaeng University,
Faculty of Humanities, Majoring in English.

She is currently a freelancer, working on promoting children's literacy and literature and frequently lectures on child development through reading.

About the Illustrator

Preeda Punyachand

graduated from the Srinakharinwirot University and was a lecturer there in children's literature.

Presently, Preeda is a freelance author and illustrator.
He also lectures on the use of media in promoting literacy.



