INDIGENOUS NUMBER SYSTEMS NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The “Yaur” Language System

Recorded by the Dutch explorer G. J. Fabritius in 1855 in the Cenderawasih Bay in Indonesia

*Read the number system below carefully. Then make your best guess at the cells missing (marked with a question mark)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Word** | **Meaning** |
| 1 | siri | “1” |
| 2 | muandu | “2” |
| 3 | toru | “3” |
| 4 | at | “4” |
| 5 | rim | “5” |
| 6 | rim e siri | “5 and 1” |
| 7 | rim e muandu | **?** |
| 8 | rim e toru | **?** |
| 9 | rim e at | **?** |
| 10 | sura | 10 |
| 20 | siniotu siri  | “Persons - One” – 20 fingers and toes  |
| 27 | **?** | “one person and 5 and 2” |
| 30 | siniotu siri e semandi sura  | one person “plus 10” |
| 31 | ??\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | one person plus 10 and 1 |
| 40 | sinotu muandu | “Persons - two” |
| 50 | **?** | **?** |
| 60 | **?** | **?** |
| 66 | **?** | **?** |

1. The “Cumulgal” Language System of People Indigenous to Australia

*Read the number system below carefully. Then make your best guess at the cells missing (marked with a question mark)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Word** | **Meaning** |
| **1** | urapon | “1” |
| **2** | ukasar  | “2” |
| **3** | ukasar urapon | 2+1 |
| **4** | ukasar ukasar | **?** |
| **5** | ukasar ukasar \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**?** | **?**  |
| **6** | ukasar ukasar \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**?** | **?** |
| **7** | ukasar ukasar \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **?** | **?** |

1. The “Yoruba” Language System of People in Southwest Nigeria

*Read the number system below carefully. It is thousands of years old, and based on TWENTIES. It uses a lot of subtraction! Then make your best guess at the cells marked with a question mark.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **#** | **Translation:** |
| **108** | = (20 x 6) – 10 - \_\_\_\_**?** |
| **118** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**?** |
| **200** | = (20 x 10)  |
| **300** | = 20 x (20 – 5) |
| **315** | = 20 x (20 – 4) – \_\_\_\_**?** |
| **335** | = 20 x (20 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**?** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **#** | **Translation:** |
| **15** | = (20 x 1) - 5 |
| **35** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**?** |
| **45** | = (20 x 3) – 10 - 5 |
| **50** | = (20 x 3) – 10 - 5 |
| **76** | = (20 x 4) - \_\_\_\_**?** |
| **98** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**?** |