

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Word Count: 181

## Homes High in the Trees

In the twenty-first century, urban apartment-dwellers are not the only people who live high up in rooms with views. Members of the Kombai tribe live in hand-built tree houses up to 115 feet above the ground.

The Kombai, who number about four thousand, occupy a remote, swampy forest area on the island of Papua, New Guinea. This area is in the country of Indonesia. They live without modern technology, hunting and gathering food using simple tools such as stone axes.

The Kombai build their homes in trees for several reasons. It helps them avoid flooding, attacks from other tribes, and pests such as insects. Some Kombai houses use a single tree, but most are built between several trees. To add stability, long poles may be added underneath. The Kombai climb ladders to enter and exit their houses.

This remote tribe had no contact with the outside world until 1982. An explorer who visited them that year heard one explanation of the homes that modern city-dwellers can understand. Living high above the ground gives Kombai people nice views above the forest canopy!