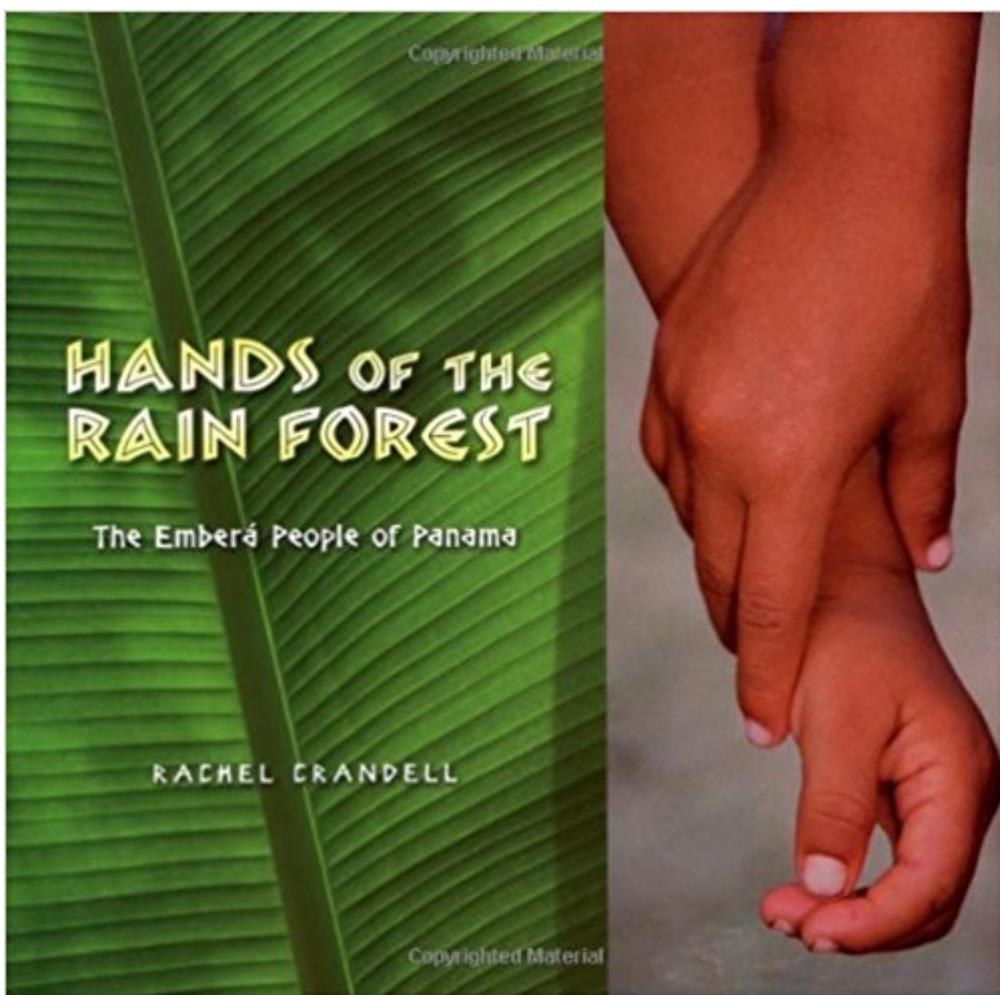


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# Hands Of The Rain Forest: The EmberÃi People Of Panama



## **Synopsis**

The EmberÃ¡ people of Panama use their hands to turn the gifts of the tropical rain forest into meals and essential daily supplies. EmberÃ¡ children quickly follow in the steps of their parents. They learn to fish for crabs and carve a canoe from wood. Nothing is wasted in the rain forestâ •leaves are used to make baskets, the juice of the jagua fruit is applied as a mosquito repellent, and the river provides fresh water for bathing. Through firsthand experience, children are introduced to the lifestyle and traditions of the EmberÃ¡ culture.

## **Book Information**

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Hardcover: 32 pages

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Just as she did in *Hands of the Maya: Villagers at Work and Play* (2002), Crandell effectively introduces a people contemporary American kids may not (yet) know well. This photo-essay about indigenous people living in neighboring Panama provides a fascinating window into an ancient culture. An introduction and colorful map offer historical and geographical information; the main content focuses on the EmberÃ¡â ™s day-to-day lives. Readers will note how different the EmberÃ¡ childrenâ ™s lives are from theirsâ "in school, not everyone wears a shirt, for exampleâ "but commonalities will also resonate: EmberÃ¡ children love their pets and help take care of their siblings, just like any other kids. Grades 1-3. --Diane Foote

âœShort vignettes of expressive text paired with clear, detailed photos create a warm look into this indigenous culture. These hands work hard, play joyfully and definitely hold a lot of love.â • âœKirkus ReviewsâœWith its appealing photos, this volume makes a useful introduction to an unfamiliar culture.â • âœSchool Library JournalâœJust as she did in *Hands of the Maya: Villagers at Work and Play* (2002), Crandell effectively introduces a people contemporary American kids may not (yet) know well. This photo-essay about indigenous people living in neighboring Panama provides a fascinating window into an ancient culture.â • âœBooklist

This is a great book. We bought it for our 6 year old grandson prior to my husband and I taking a trip to Panama. Part of our trip was going to see the Embera and I believe these pictures were taken at the village we went to. It was neat for him to see where we were going and we brought back a mask that they made as a souvenir and there were similar ones in the book.

I bought this to give to my 8 and 10 year old grandkids, and added in photos I took myself while visiting there. The book is clear, interesting, and engaging to all ages. Great photos and not too detailed writing!

I love this book because I do mission work there and I love these people and it is so good to see this book so I can share it with others as well, thank you Rachel

Lovely color photographs spotlight the artistic skills and lifestyle of the Embera People of Panama: children at school, wood carvers, basket weavers, and a man making a dugout canoe. Simple descriptive sentences identify the activities featured in the photographs. A map appears at the front of the book opposite an introductory paragraph that provides a brief background about this remarkable culture. A glossary with pronunciation guidance is included. This is a perfect multicultural book to share in an elementary school classroom. Disclosure: One of the women who are weaving is topless.

Having lived in Panama, I was looking for a book to share with my child. This is a wonderful book. Fantastic pictures, glossary, map, and descriptions give this book five stars. Great depiction of life as a Rain Forest inhabitant. Yes, there is one woman without a shirt on weaving. This is again indicative of the tribe. I had no problem allowing my child to look at the book. However, using it in

the classroom, I would obtain the approval of your administrator. My son was able to learn about the native that made the baskets in his granny's house. For me it was a wonderful way to share part of my childhood overseas with my son. He was also amazed at what the children were expected to do in their daily life.

The EmberÁj, a group of indigenous people living in the southern part of Panama, have held onto long-standing traditions in using resources from the rain forest to meet most of their subsistence needs. Adults and children work to pound rice and make mosquito repellent out of jagua fruit; catch fish and prepare plantains (starchy bananas) for family meals; and weave palm leaves into beautiful strong baskets and sturdy rooftops. With her clear text and striking photographs, Rachel Crandell shares with the reader her first-hand account of an indigenous group whose way of life has largely withstood the forces of economic development.

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