

Name: _____ Date: _____

Growing up as Boys and Girls

Q1. How growing up in Samoa was different from other societies in the 1920s?

Ans. _____

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- i. In the 1920s, according to research reports on Samoan society, children did not go to school.
- ii. They learnt many things, such as how to take care of children or do household work from older children and from adults.
- iii. Fishing was a very important activity on the islands. Young people, therefore, learnt to undertake long fishing expeditions. But they learnt these things at different points in their childhood.
- iv. Both boys and girls looked after their younger siblings. But, by the time a boy was about nine years old, he joined the older boys in learning outdoor jobs like fishing and planting coconuts.
- v. Girls had to continue looking after small children or do errands for adults till they were teenagers. But, once they became teenagers they had much more freedom.
- vi. After the age of fourteen or so, girls also went on fishing trips, worked in the plantations, and learnt how to weave baskets.
- vii. Cooking was done in special cooking-houses, where boys were supposed to do most of the work while girls helped with the preparations.