

EARTH IN DANGER

危险中的地球

Habitat Destruction

栖息地的破坏



中国环境科学出版社

中小学课外环保

双语读物

E A R T H I N D A N G E R
危 险 中 的 地 球

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栖息地的破坏

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请见词汇表中对文中**黑体字**的解释。

AMAZING HABITATS

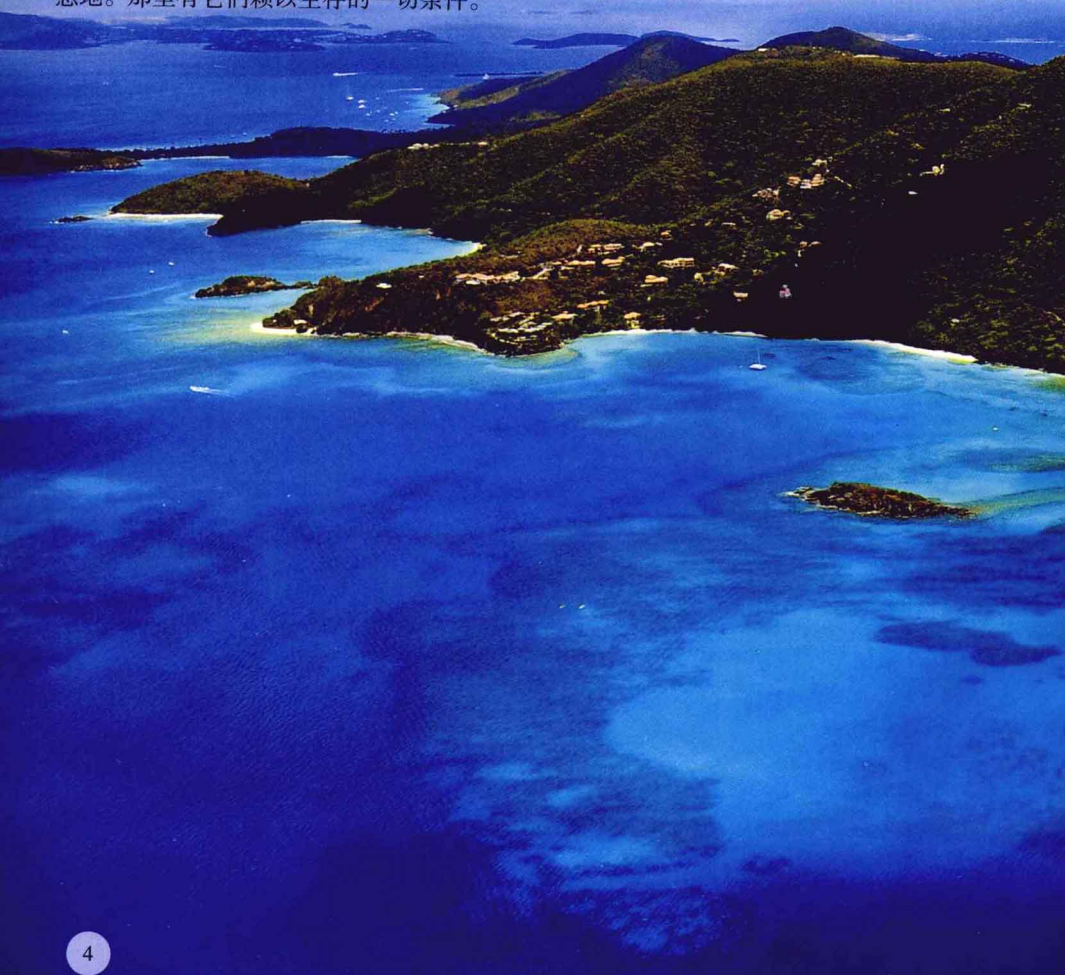
Just think of all the different places in the world where wild plants and animals live – **rainforests**, deserts, prairies, polar regions, mountains, oceans, even parks and gardens.

The place where an animal or plant lives is called its habitat. Each animal and plant has adapted to its habitat. Everything it needs to survive is there.

神奇的栖息地

请想象一下地球上野生动物和野生植物生活、生长的各种不同地方——**雨林**、沙漠、草原、地球两极、海洋，甚至是公园与花园。

动物或植物生活、生长的地方叫做它们的栖息地。每种动物或植物都会有适应它们的栖息地。那里有它们赖以生存的一切条件。



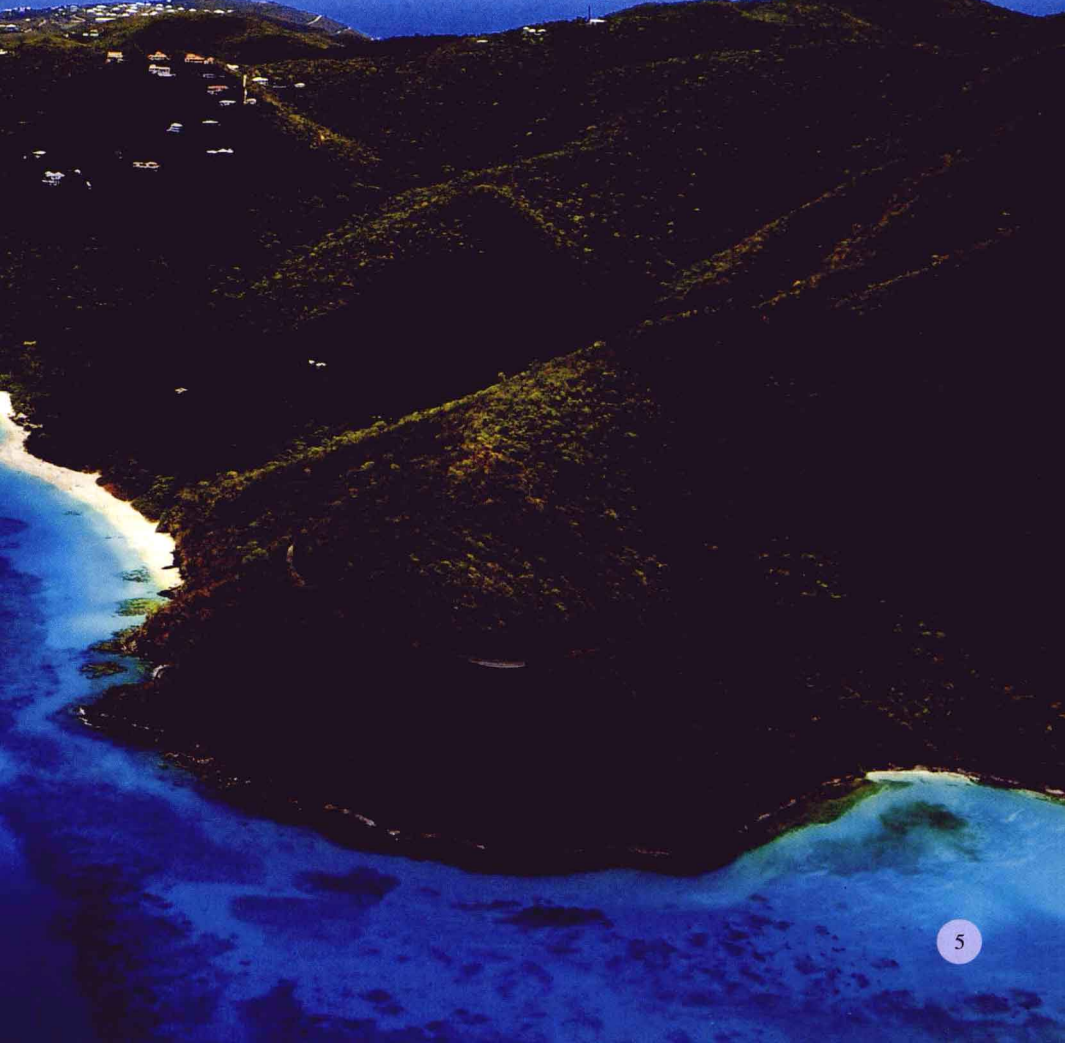
So, if a **habitat** is damaged or destroyed, wildlife can't just move somewhere else. If this happens it can be a disaster, and plants and animals can become **extinct**.

所以，一旦栖息地被破坏或毁灭，对于野生生物来说就不是换个地方那么简单了。如果这种情况真的发生了，那将是毁灭性的，那里的动植物将会灭绝。



Ring-tailed lemurs live in the forests of Madagascar.
To protect these animals we must also protect their habitat.

环尾狐猴生活在马达加斯加的雨林中。为了保护这些动物，我们必须保护它们的栖息地。



EARTH'S GROWING POPULATION

Our planet's population is increasing. In 1950 there were two and a half billion people in the world. By 2050 there will be over nine billion people.

This growth means that we need more food, water, and clothes. We also need materials for our homes and roads, such as wood, stone, metals and fuels **mined** from the ground.

In order to supply all of these things, many natural habitats are being destroyed. This means there are fewer places for plants and animals to live.

地球上日益增长的人口

地球上人口正在不断地增长。在1950年，世界上有25亿人口。到2050年，地球上人口将会超过90亿。

人口增长意味着我们需要更多的粮食、水和衣物。我们也需要建造更多的房屋和道路的材料，如木材、石头、金属以及从地下开采的能源。

为了能够供应所有的这些东西，很多天然的栖息地被破坏了。也就是说动植物可以生存的地方更少了。

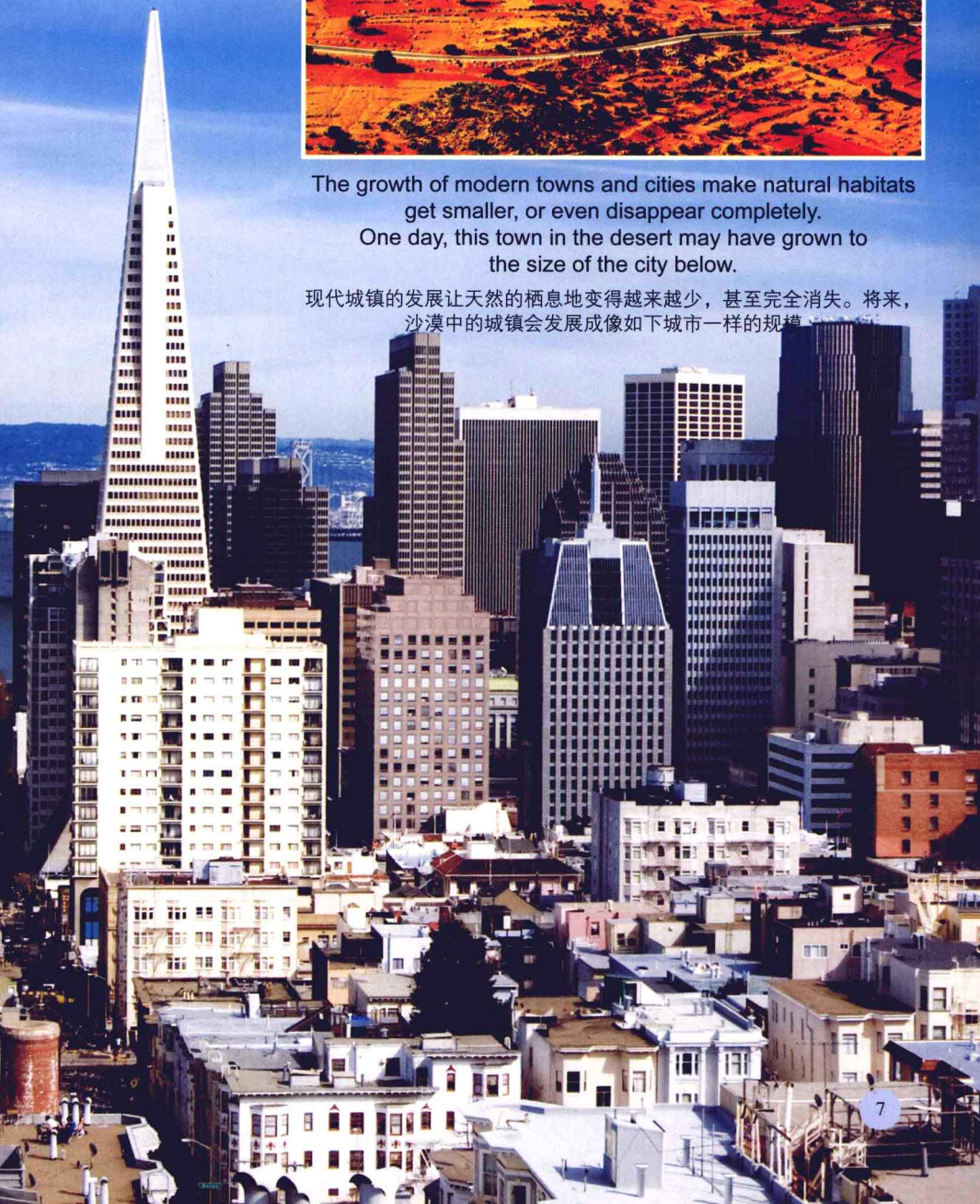




The growth of modern towns and cities make natural habitats get smaller, or even disappear completely.

One day, this town in the desert may have grown to the size of the city below.

现代城镇的发展让天然的栖息地变得越来越少，甚至完全消失。将来，沙漠中的城镇会发展成如下城市一样的规模。



LAND FOR CROPS

In order to feed Earth's growing population, more food needs to be produced. However, there is not enough **fertile** soil to do this. So, for hundreds of years, many forests have been cut down and grasslands cleared.

In the last 2,000 years, many natural habitats in Europe and North America have been destroyed to make room for more people and their crops. Now this is also happening in Asia, South America, and Africa, where rainforests and other habitats are disappearing – fast.

We need to find a way to save these wild habitats and also feed everybody.

作物用地

为了养活地球上日益增长的人口，需要生产更多的粮食。但是，没有足够的肥沃富饶的土地来种植、生产粮食。所以，上千年以来，很多森林都因此被砍伐、草地因此被破坏。

在最近的2000年中，欧洲和北美洲的很多天然的栖息地都被破坏了，以让更多的人居住和种植粮食。现在，亚洲、南美洲和非洲也在发生着这样的事情——雨林和其他的栖息地正在快速地消失。

我们需要找到一种方法，既能保护植物的栖息地，又能给人们提供食物。



OIL PALMS

In Indonesia and Malaysia, ancient rainforests are being cut down to make room for palm trees. Palm oil from these trees is used to make products like soap and margarine. The rainforests are also home to millions of plants and animals. However, as their habitat is slowly destroyed, many of these now face extinction.

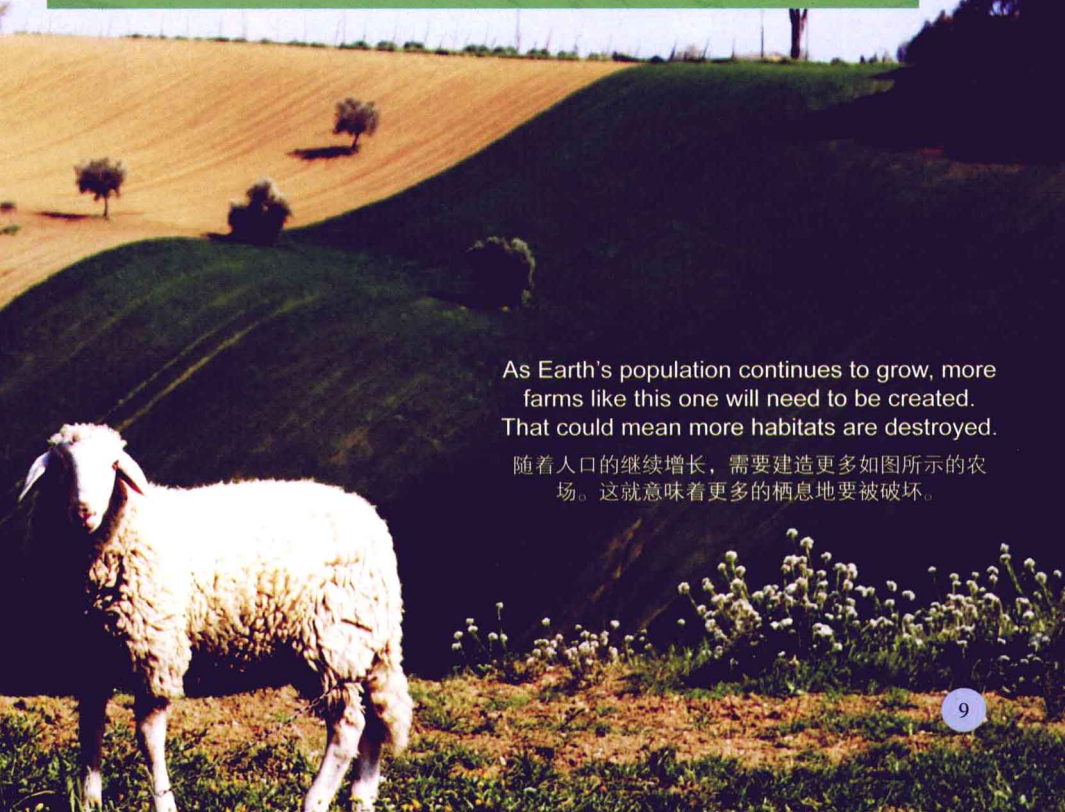


油棕

在印度尼西亚和马来西亚，为了种植油棕，原始雨林正在被砍伐。产自树上的棕榈油被用来生产肥皂和人造黄油等产品。雨林也是众多动植物的家园。但是，随着栖息地被破坏，很多动植物正濒临灭绝。

As Earth's population continues to grow, more farms like this one will need to be created. That could mean more habitats are destroyed.

随着人口的继续增长，需要建造更多如图所示的农场。这就意味着更多的栖息地要被破坏。





This plane is spraying
crops with pesticides.
这架飞机正在给作物喷洒农药。



These combine harvesters can
accidentally kill plants and animals
while they are harvesting crops.

这些联合收割机在收割作物时可能会意
外地将动植物杀死。



INTENSIVE FARMING

To feed everyone in the world, farmers don't just need more land to grow things. They need to grow more food on the land they have. This is called **intensive farming**.

Intensive farming means using more machines to grow more crops. Machines can work much faster, and for much longer than people.

Intensive farming also means using more **pesticides** to get rid of weeds and insects more quickly. These pesticides can harm the habitat, endangering animals that eat poisoned plants and insects.

集约化农业

为了养活世界上所有的人口，农民们不只需要更多的土地，他们更需要在土地上种植更多的粮食。这就产生了**集约化农业**。

集约化农业就是用更多的机器来种植更多的粮食。机器工作起来比人更快，而且时间也会更持久。

集约化农业也意味着要使用更多的**农药**来抑制杂草和昆虫生长繁殖。这些农药会危害栖息地，也会让吃了有毒的植物、昆虫后，动物处于危险之中。



Intensive farming may also use chemical fertilizers to make crops grow faster. These can pollute nearby water habitats, killing wildlife.

集约化农业也会使用化学肥料，以让作物生长得更快。这些化学肥料会污染周围的水环境，杀死野生生物。

TIMBER FROM THE RAINFOREST

The increase in human population also means more homes are needed. Most of the trees used for building homes and furniture come from **sustainable** forests. This means that once the trees are cut down, more trees are planted to replace them. Wildlife habitats will be damaged, although they will eventually grow back. Then the wildlife that has been driven out will return.

来自雨林的木材

人口的增长也意味着需要更多的房屋。大部分用来建造房屋和家具的树木都是来自于可再生的树林。

这就是说一旦树木被砍伐，需要种植更多的树进行更替。这样一来，虽然树木最终会生长起来，但野生生物的栖息地同样会受到破坏。树木生长起来后，已经被赶走的野生生物才会回来。

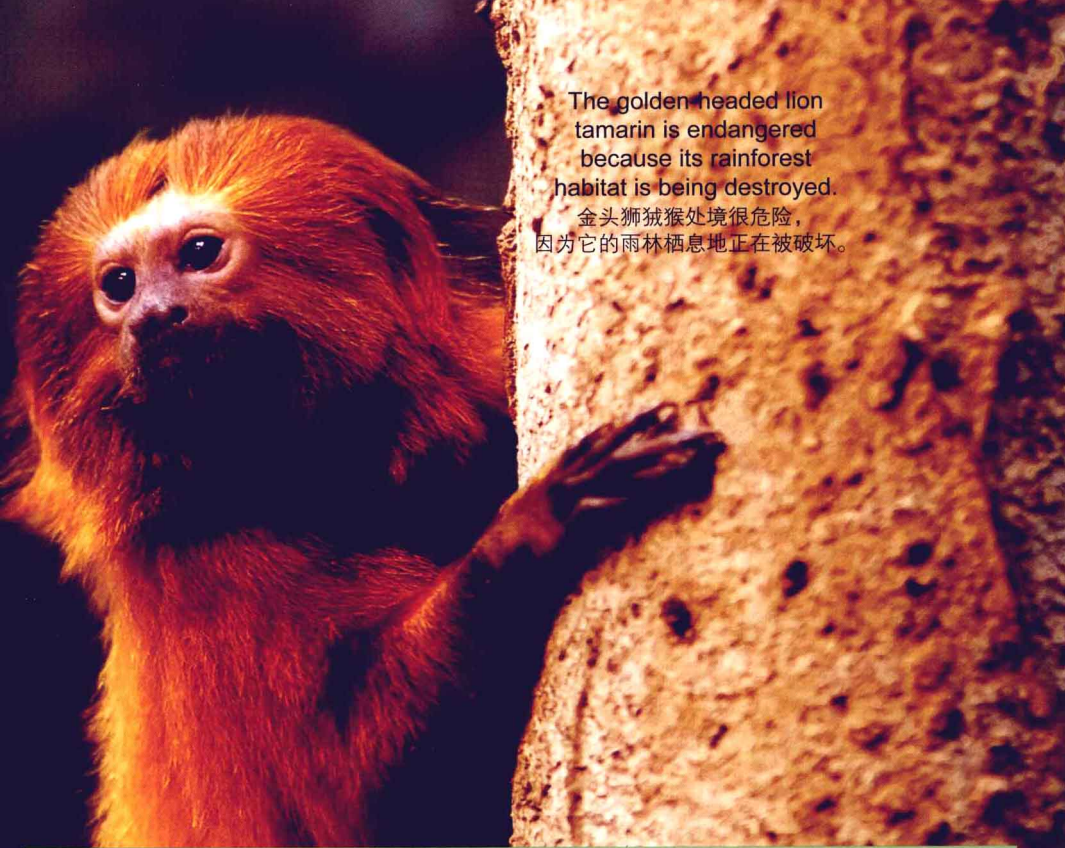


People love mahogany for making beautiful furniture.

人们喜欢用桃花心木来做漂亮的家具。

Rainforest timber like **mahogany** is valuable because it is strong and attractive. Once these trees are cut down, the land is usually cleared for crops or for grazing cattle. This land will never fully return to being a wildlife habitat unless the trees are replanted.

像**桃花心木**这样的雨林木材是很珍贵的，因为它们既结实又漂亮。一旦这些树被砍伐，种植这些树木的土地通常被清理出来种植粮食或放牧牲畜。这些土地将永远不能再变回野生生物的栖息地，除非在这些土地上重新种植这些树木。



The golden headed lion tamarin is endangered because its rainforest habitat is being destroyed.

金头狮狨猴处境很危险，因为它的雨林栖息地正在被破坏。

PROTECTING BRAZIL

In just 10 years, an area of rainforest twice the size of Portugal was destroyed in Brazil. There is good news, however. The government has created new laws to protect the rainforest.

保护巴西

在巴西，仅仅10年间，面积相当于两个葡萄牙大的雨林被毁坏了。但庆幸的是，政府已经制定了新法规来保护雨林。



This map shows how much forest has been destroyed. Tropical rainforest is shown as bright red. Pale red and brown areas are cleared land. Burned areas appear black.

这张地图显示了有多少雨林已经被破坏。热带雨林显示为鲜红色。浅红色和棕色的地区是被清空的土地。被烧毁的地区显示为黑色。

DAMAGE FROM MINING

Many useful or valuable materials come from the ground. These include metals such as iron, copper, or gold and fuels like oil, gas and coal.

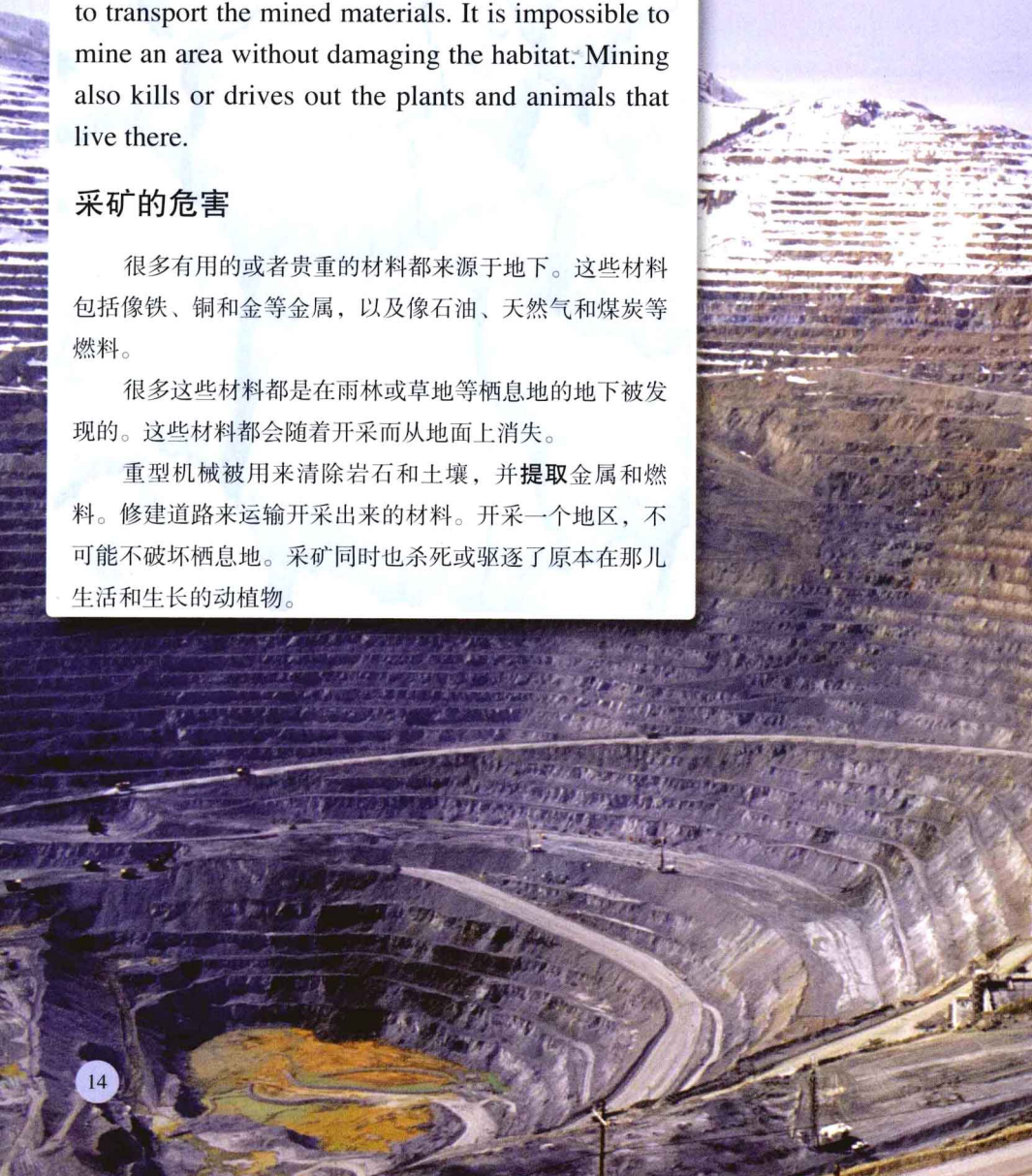
Many of these materials are found in the ground underneath habitats like rainforests or grasslands. They must be mined, or removed from the ground. Heavy machinery is used to remove rock and soil, and **extract** the metals and fuels. Roads are built to transport the mined materials. It is impossible to mine an area without damaging the habitat. Mining also kills or drives out the plants and animals that live there.

采矿的危害

很多有用的或者贵重的材料都来源于地下。这些材料包括像铁、铜和金等金属，以及像石油、天然气和煤炭等燃料。

很多这些材料都是在雨林或草地等栖息地的地下被发现的。这些材料都会随着开采而从地面上消失。

重型机械被用来清除岩石和土壤，并**提取**金属和燃料。修建道路来运输开采出来的材料。开采一个地区，不可能不破坏栖息地。采矿同时也杀死或驱逐了原本在那儿生活和生长的动植物。





In 2007, a company in Armenia got permission to mine for copper. Some people are worried that animals living nearby like this Syrian Brown bear and short-toed eagle will be endangered.

2007年，美国的一家公司获准开采铜矿。一些人担心此举会让生活在附近的动物，如叙利亚棕熊和短趾雕，处于危险的境地。



A copper mine in Utah, USA.

在美国犹他州的一个铜矿。

USING TOO MUCH WATER

Everyone uses water at home and school. This water has to come from rivers, lakes, reservoirs or wells.

The problem is that more water is being used by people than is being replaced by rain. Many rivers and lakes are now beginning to dry up.

With less water, wildlife that lives in or by these rivers and lakes will be unable to survive. Fish and freshwater plants will die, and other animals will be forced to leave. Some species of animals and plants could even become extinct.

过度消耗水资源

每个人在家和学校都会用到水。这些水来自河流、湖泊、水库或水井。

现在的问题是，水被人们消耗的速度超过了它被雨水补充的速度。很多河流和湖泊正在走向干涸。

缺水使生活在河流、湖泊中或附近的野生生物将不能生存。鱼和淡水植物会死亡，其他的动物会被迫离开。一些动植物物种甚至会灭绝。