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国 家 地 理 科学探索丛书

WORLD REGIONS & CULTURES

世界人文地理

## North America

### 北美洲

Steve Sheinkin (美) Minnie Ashcroft (美)



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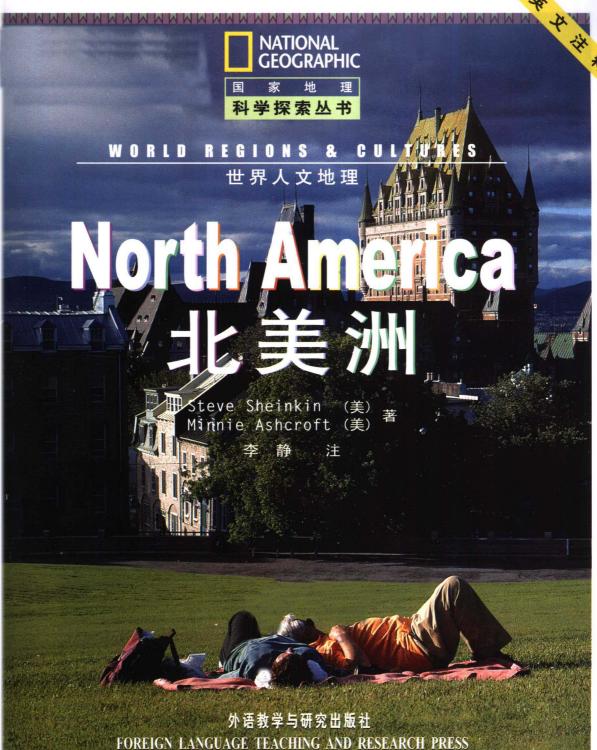
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"国家地理科学探索丛书"(英文注释版)第三辑新推出了五个系列,共13本书,包含了"世界历史"、"世界人文地理"、"我们的地球"、"发现世界"和"今日美国"等全新的内容。

这套丛书秉承《国家地理》杂志图文并茂的特色,在书中配有大量精彩的图片,文字地道易懂、深入浅出,将科学性和趣味性完美结合,称得上是一套精致的小百科全书。特别值得一提的是本套丛书在提高青少年读者英语阅读能力的同时,还注重培养他们的科学探索精神、动手能力、逻辑思维能力和沟通能力。

本套丛书既适合学生自学,又可用于课堂教学。丛书各个系列均配有一本教师用书,内容包括背景知识介绍、技能训练提示、评估测试、多项选择题及答案等详尽的教学指导,是对课堂教学的极好补充。



北京 BEIJING

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A view of the Snake River<sup>9</sup> in **Grand Teton National Park<sup>10</sup>**, Wyoming<sup>11</sup>. (注释见第5页) 日美洲之法 Scramble¹ to the top of the Rocky Mountains. Track² jaguars³ through a rain forest⁴ in Mexico. Visit a town in Canada where the sun doesn't set in summer. These are just a few of the stops on your North American adventure. How have high mountains and massive⁵ lakes affected⁶ life on this continent? Which valuable resources⁻ can be found in warm coastal waters and under frozen soil? And how can people use land and resources without harming fragile⁶ environments? Think about these questions as you explore North America.

	1. scramble	ν	攀登	
	2. track	u	。 追踪	
	3. jaguar	n.	美洲豹	J
	4. rain forest 🦡		(热带的) 雨林	ţ
	5. massive	adj.	大郎	j
	6. affect	ν.	影响	J
4	7. resource	n.	资源	
	8. fragile	adj.	易被破坏的	)
	9. Snake River		斯内克河	Ī
	O O ST	100	A A CONTRACTOR	

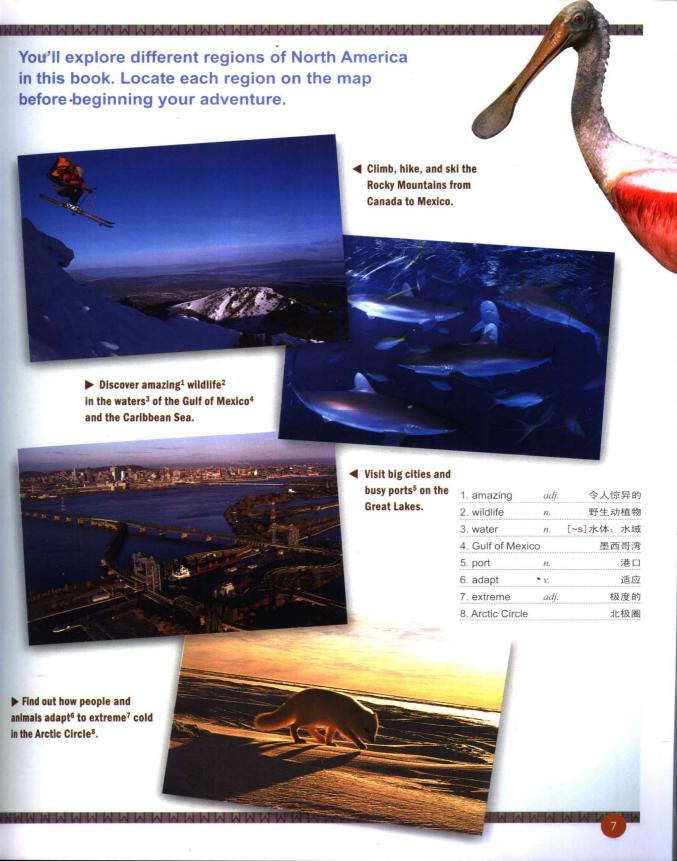
11. Wyoming

大蒂顿国家公园

怀俄明州

# American Adverture

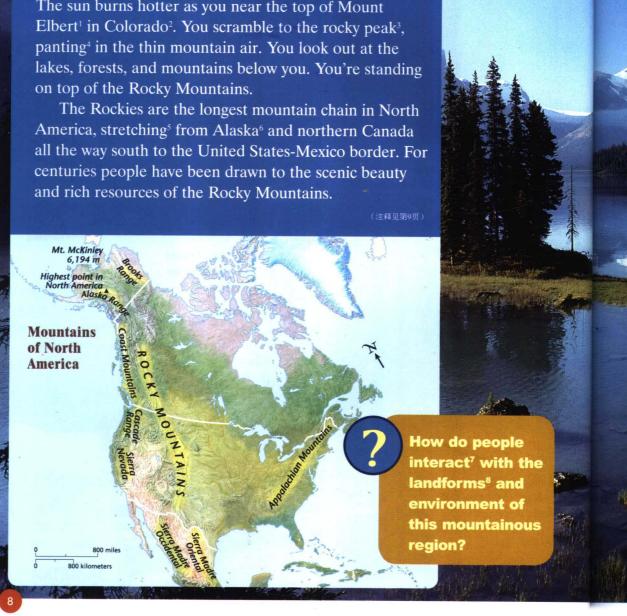


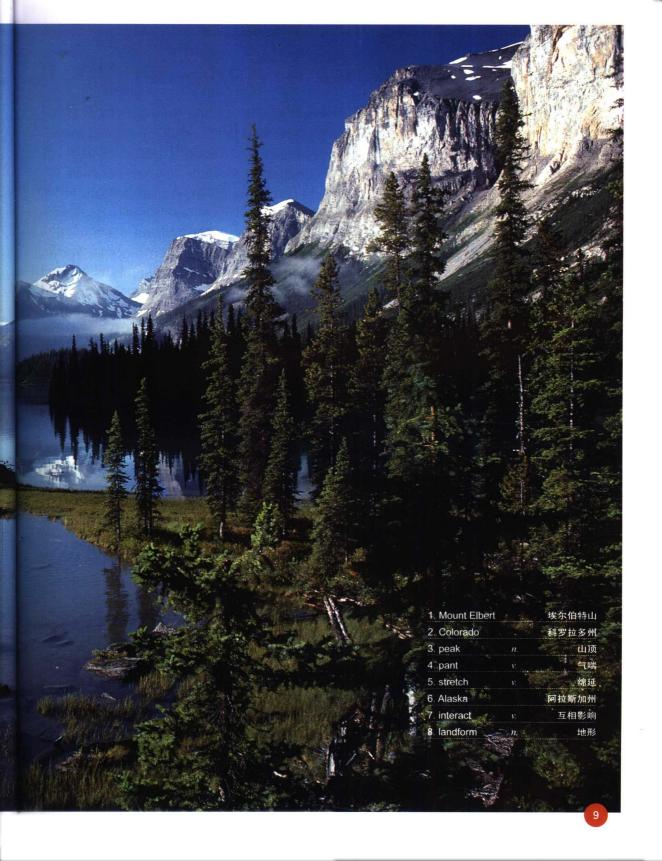


#### ROCKY MOUNTAINS

#### 落基山脉

The sun burns hotter as you near the top of Mount





# THE ROCKIES 1,000 miles 1,000

#### THE MIGHTY ROCKIES

hat would it be like to hike from one end of the Rocky Mountains to the other? You would need plenty of time. The Rockies extend more than 4,800 kilometers from north to south. The only mountain range<sup>2</sup> in the world that's longer is the Andes<sup>3</sup> in South America.

Suppose you set off on this 4,800-kilometer trek<sup>4</sup>. You'll climb snowy peaks and hike through desert canyons<sup>5</sup>. You'll walk past modern cities and through ancient forests. You'll splash<sup>6</sup> across streams<sup>7</sup> that flow into some of North America's great rivers. Keep an eye out<sup>8</sup> for eagles, bears, wolves, and mountain lions. Even at these high elevations<sup>9</sup>, there's a variety of living things to see.

1. mighty	adj.		巨大的
2. mountain ra	inge		山脉
3. Andes		安	第斯山脉
4. trek	n.		长途跋涉
5. canyon	n.		峡谷

6. splash	V.		蹚水
7. stream	n.	小溪;	小河
8. keep an eye	out	当心:	警惕
9. elevation	n.		海拔



Hikers cross a frozen lake in the Canadian Rockies.



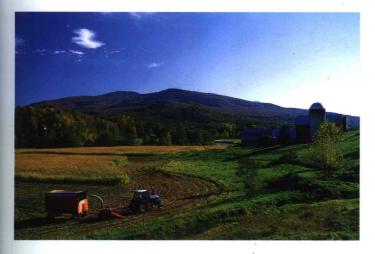


#### **Young Mountains**

What caused this range of high peaks to rise in North America? That question takes you deep underground, to the huge pieces of Earth's crust¹ called tectonic plates². Two of these plates—the Pacific Plate³ and the North American Plate—come together near the western coast of North America. When these plates collided⁴ millions of years ago, land above the North American Plate was thrust⁵ upward, forming mountains.

Geologists<sup>6</sup>, scientists who study the formation of Earth and its landforms, think the Rockies were formed about 70 or 80 million years ago. That makes them young for a mountain range. By comparison, the Appalachian Mountains<sup>7</sup> in eastern North America are about 250 million years old.

Over the course of millions of years, ice, wind, and water have eroded<sup>8</sup>, or worn down<sup>9</sup>, the peaks of mountains. The Appalachians have been exposed to erosion for a much longer period of time than the Rockies. As a result, the Appalachians are lower and rounder than the rugged<sup>10</sup> Rockies.





In North America, the Pacific and North American Plates collided with great force, causing the Rocky Mountains to rise.

1. crust	n.	地壳
2. tectonic plat	е	(地壳) 构造板块
3. the Pacific P	late	太平洋板块
- 4. collide	v.	碰撞
5. thrust	V.	挤
6. geologist	n.	地质学家
7. Appalachian	Moui	ntains
		阿巴拉契亚山脉
8. erode	v.	
8. erode 9. wear down	v.	阿巴拉契亚山脉
	v. adj.	阿巴拉契亚山脉 侵蚀 磨蚀
9. wear down		阿巴拉契亚山脉 侵蚀 磨蚀
9. wear down 10. rugged	adj	阿巴拉契亚山脉 侵蚀 磨蚀 崎岖的

Vermont's<sup>11</sup> Green Mountains<sup>12</sup> show the effects<sup>13</sup> of millions of years of erosion. These rounded mountains are part of the Appalachian range.

#### The Continental Divide<sup>1</sup>

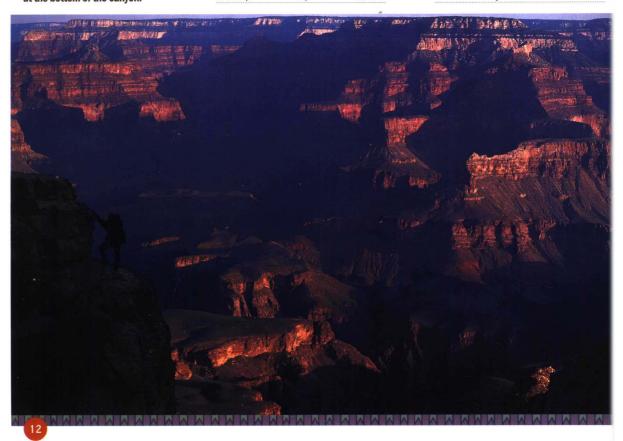
Picture rain falling on the pointed roof of a house. The water has to flow down one side or the other, right? The same thing is true of rain and melting<sup>2</sup> snow in the Rocky Mountains. The water flows down from the mountains, forming streams and rivers.

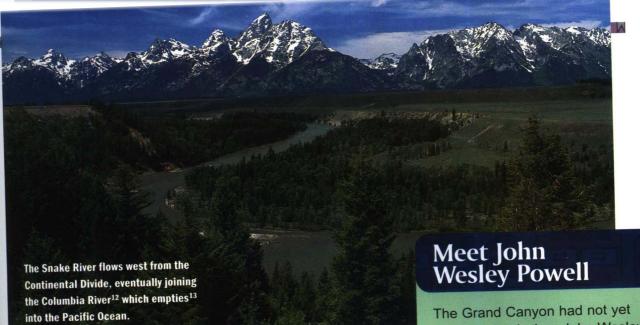
If you think of the Rocky Mountains as a very long, steep<sup>3</sup> roof, think of the Continental Divide as the top of the roof. The Continental Divide is a high ridge<sup>4</sup> running along the top of the Rockies. On the western side of the Continental Divide, rivers flow west toward the Pacific Ocean. On the eastern side, rivers flow east to the Mississippi River<sup>5</sup> or the Gulf of Mexico.

Hiking in the Grand Canyon<sup>6</sup> is almost like looking back in time. Each colorful layer of rock was formed during a different period of Earth's history. The oldest rocks are at the bottom of the canyon.

1. Continental	Divide	大陆分水岭
2. melting	adj.	融化的
3. steep	adi.	陡峭的

4. ridge	n.	山脊
5. Mississipp	i River	密西西比河
6. Grand Car	nyon	大峡谷





#### Carving<sup>1</sup> the Grand Canyon

One of the major rivers flowing west out of the Rockies is the Colorado River. The Colorado carries water to the dry lands of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. It has also carved one of the great natural wonders of the world. Over millions of years, the Colorado River's rushing water has slowly eroded deep channels<sup>2</sup> in the Colorado Plateau<sup>3</sup>. In this way, the Colorado River carved the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon really is grand. This 446-kilometer long canyon is more than 1.6 kilometer deep in many places. The canyon is so deep that there are different kinds of weather at different levels. At the bottom of the canyon, the Colorado River flows through a hot desert, where temperatures can soar<sup>4</sup> to 49°C. Temperatures are cooler at the top of the canyon's North Rim<sup>5</sup>, which is 2,438 meters above sea level.

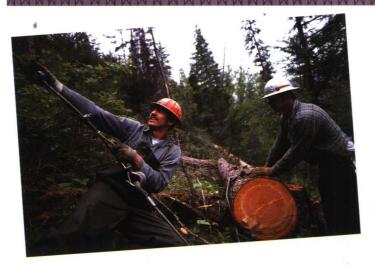
ν.	雕刻:	塑造
n.	海峡:	水道
ateau	科罗拉多	高原
ν.		骤升
	北线;	北缘
n.	[~s	]急流
adj.	ß	月暗的
	n. ateau v. n.	n. 海峡: ateau 科罗拉多 v. 北线: n. [~s

8. glide	v.		滑行
9. roar	n.	怒号:	呼啸
10. peer	ν.		凝视
11. winding	adj.	剪	宛蜒的
12. Columbia F	River	哥伦比	七亚河
13. empty	ν.		流出

The Grand Canyon had not yet been mapped when John Wesley Powell explored the region in 1869. In his journal, Powell described the danger of riding his boat over Colorado River rapids<sup>6</sup> into an unknown canyon.

"Down in these grand, gloomy" depths we glide<sup>8</sup>, ever listening, for the mad waters keep up their roar<sup>9</sup>; ever watching, ever peering<sup>10</sup> ahead, for the narrow canyon is winding<sup>11</sup> and the river is closed in so that we can see but a few hundred yards, and what there may be below we know not."





Loggers<sup>16</sup> (left) cut down pine trees<sup>17</sup> in Montana<sup>18</sup>. Before gold was found in the Rockies, few people lived in these mountains. The gold nuggets<sup>19</sup> shown below are from South America.





#### TREASURES OF THE ROCKIES



In the winter of 1859, a young man named George Jackson found gold in an icy Rocky Mountain creek<sup>1</sup>. News of the discovery spread in all directions, and thousands of hopeful miners rushed to the Rockies. Tiny towns grew into booming<sup>2</sup> cities. Businesses flourished<sup>3</sup> and railroads were built. Denver<sup>4</sup>, Colorado, quickly became the biggest city in the Rocky Mountains. The gold rush<sup>5</sup> changed the mountains forever.

#### **Rocky Mountain Resources**

Natural resources are still an important part of the Rocky Mountain economy<sup>6</sup>. Gold, silver, copper, and lead<sup>7</sup> are mined in the Rockies today. The region is also rich in fossil fuels<sup>8</sup>, such as oil, natural gas, and coal. These fuels were formed from the remains<sup>9</sup> of plants and animals that were buried<sup>10</sup> under the mountains for millions of years. People use fossil fuels to make electricity, power cars, and heat homes.

Rocky Mountain forests and meadows<sup>11</sup> are also valuable resources. Trees from the forests are cut into lumber<sup>12</sup> to build houses. Ranchers<sup>13</sup> graze<sup>14</sup> their cattle and sheep on the grasses of mountain pastures<sup>15</sup>.

1. creek	n.	小溪; 小河
2. booming	adj.	急速发展的
3. flourish	ν.	兴旺; 繁荣
4. Denver 丹倞	弗 (私	罗拉多州首府)
5. gold rush		淘金热
6. economy	n.	经济
7. lead	n.	铅
8. fossil fuel		矿物燃料
9. remains	n.	[复]遗体: 残余
10. bury	v.	埋葬
11. meadow	n.	草地: 牧场
12. lumber	n.	木材
13. rancher	n.	牧场工人
14. graze	v.	放牧
15. pasture	n.	牧场
16. logger	n.	伐木工人
17. pine tree		松树
18. Montana		蒙大拿州
19. gold nugget		天然金块