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国家地理

科学探索丛书

WORLD REGIONS & CULTURES

世界人文地理

Africa

非洲

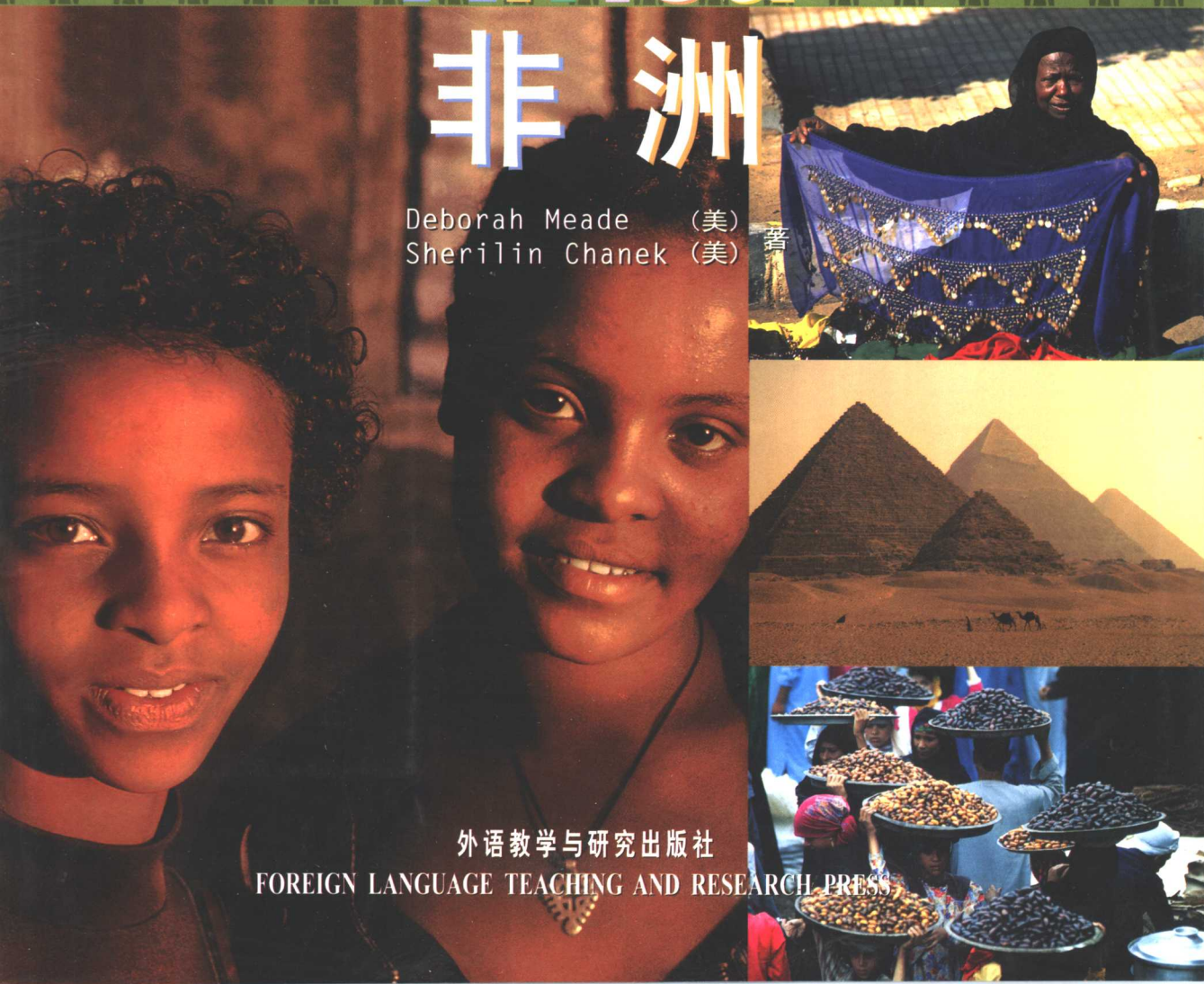
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Sherilin Chanek (美)

著

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

英文注释



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如果你希望在享受英语阅读乐趣的同时又能增长知识、开拓视野，由外语教学与研究出版社与美国国家地理学会合作出版的“国家地理科学探索丛书”（英文注释版）正是你的选择。

“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。

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An African Journey

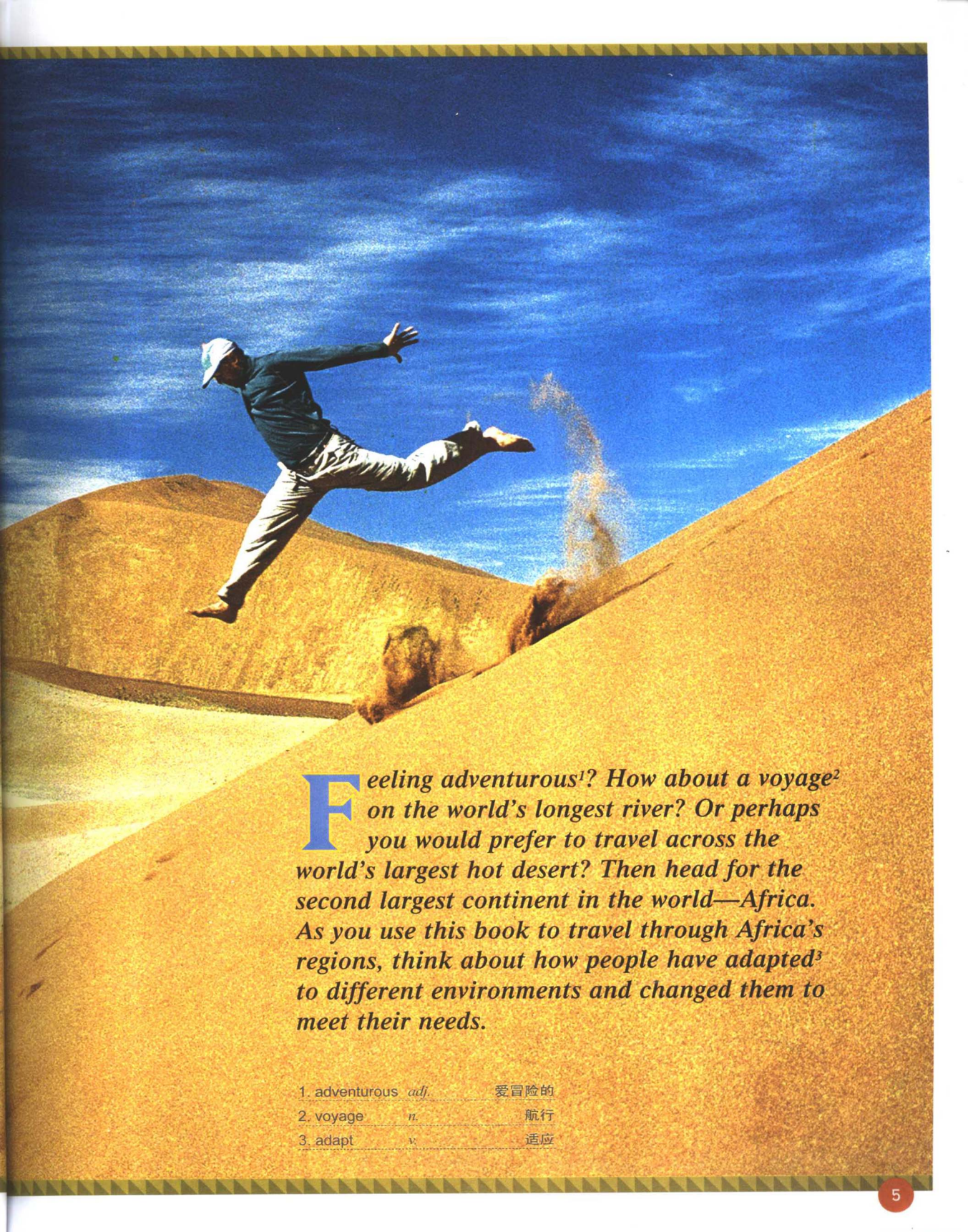
非洲之旅

Tourists come from all over the world to see Africa's amazing scenery¹, like these sand dunes² in one of Namibia's³ national parks.

1. scenery *n.* 景色; 风光

2. sand dune 沙丘

3. Namibia 纳米比亚



Feeling adventurous¹? How about a voyage² on the world's longest river? Or perhaps you would prefer to travel across the world's largest hot desert? Then head for the second largest continent in the world—Africa. As you use this book to travel through Africa's regions, think about how people have adapted³ to different environments and changed them to meet their needs.

- | | | |
|----------------|------|------|
| 1. adventurous | adj. | 爱冒险的 |
| 2. voyage | n. | 航行 |
| 3. adapt | v. | 适应 |



AFRICA

0 mi 500 mi
0 km 500 km



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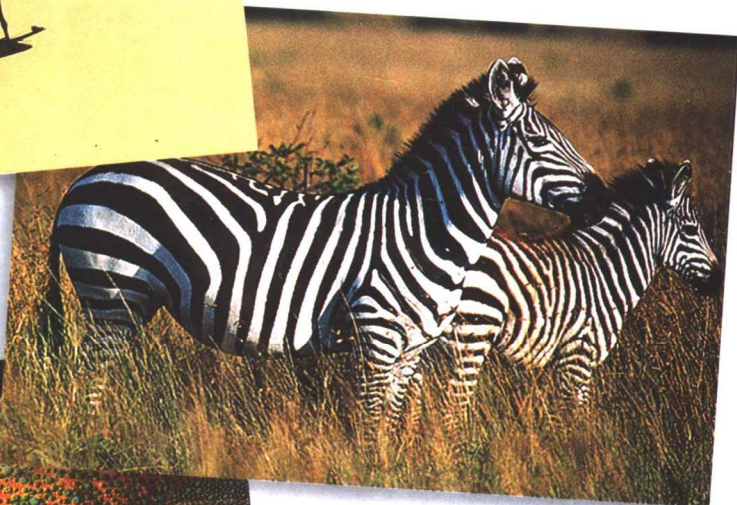


In this book you will explore four regions with very different environments. Before you begin your journey, locate¹ these regions on the map of Africa.



◀ Walk or ride across the Sahara, the largest hot desert in the world.

▶ Take a safari² through the Serengeti Plain³, one part of Africa's vast savanna.



◀ Explore the hot and moist⁴ rain forest of the Congo Basin⁵.

▼ In the Great Rift Valley, see how forces have shaped a variety of landforms⁶.



1. locate *v.* 指出……的位置
2. safari *n.* (徒步) 旅游
3. Serengeti Plain 塞伦盖蒂平原
4. moist *adj.* 潮湿的; 多雨的
5. Congo Basin 刚果盆地
6. landform *n.* 地形

SAHARA

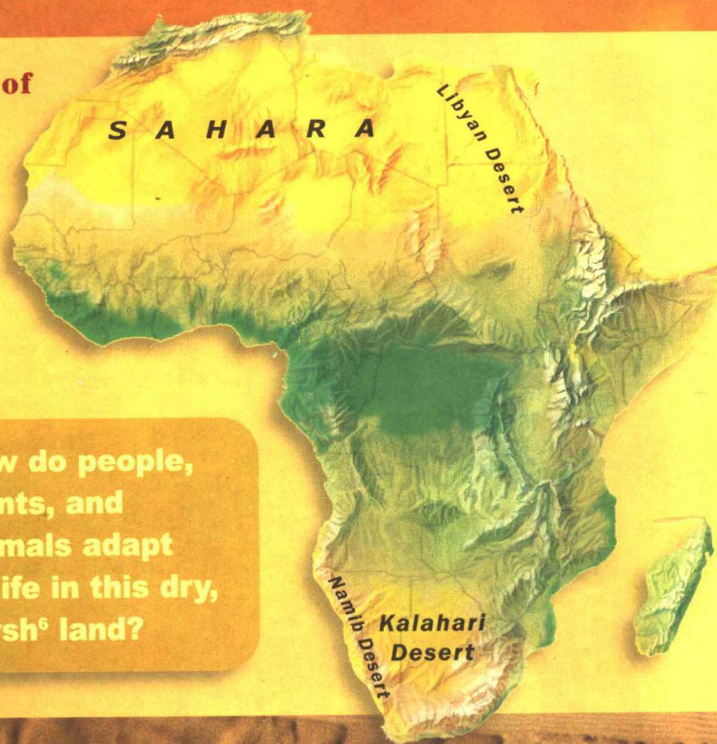
撒哈拉沙漠

Imagine standing in a sea of sand. Everywhere you look, you see miles of dunes and sky. This is one desert landscape¹. In some desert areas, rocky plains stretch² almost flat to the horizon³. In others, the wind has sculpted sand so it looks like waves on a vast sandy ocean.

A desert can be an environment of extremes⁴. Temperatures can be scorching⁵ hot by day and turn freezing cold at night. Some desert areas can go for months or even years without rain. Let's explore the world's largest hot desert, Africa's Sahara.

(注释见第9页)

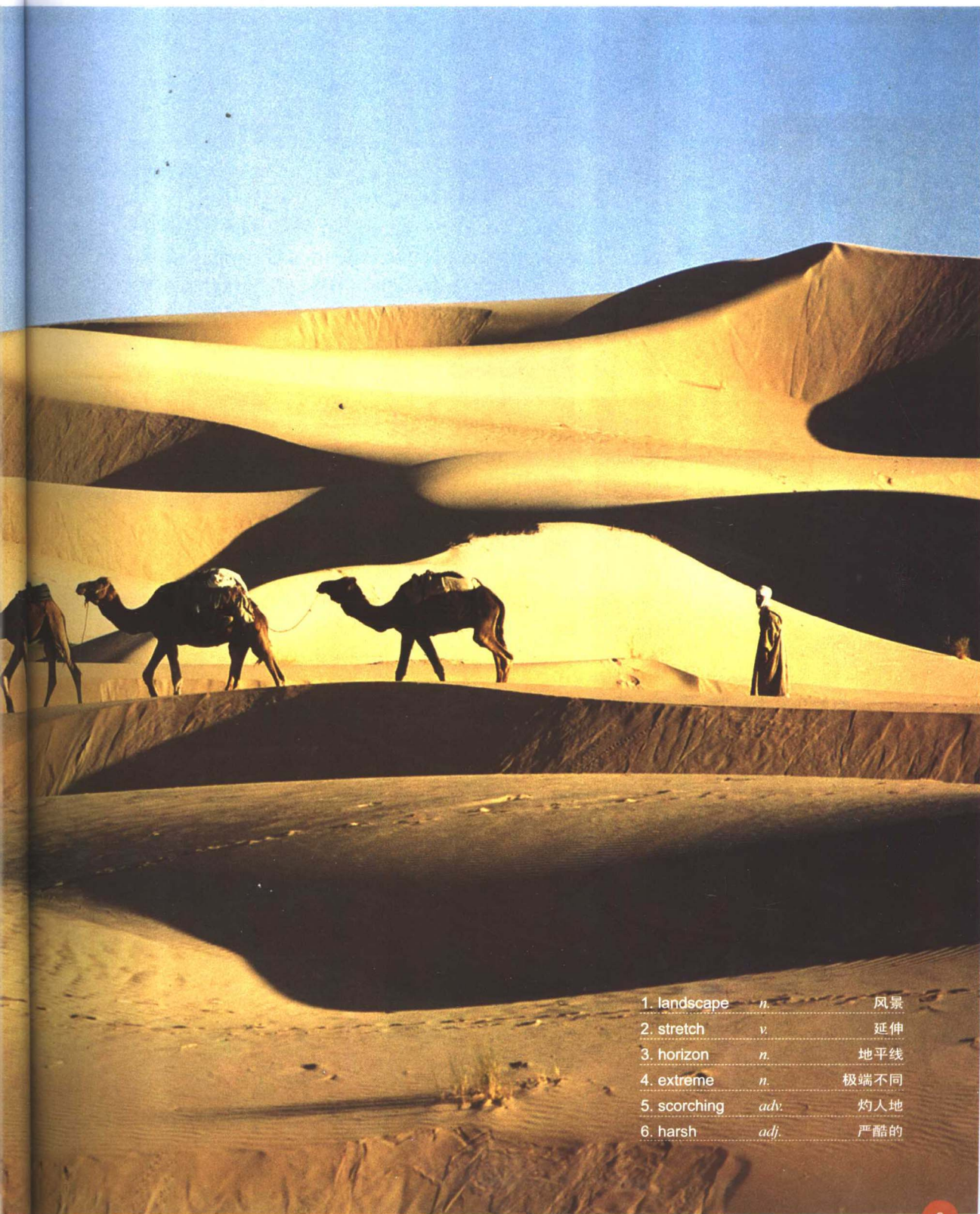
Deserts of Africa



?

How do people, plants, and animals adapt to life in this dry, harsh⁶ land?





- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------|
| 1. landscape | <i>n.</i> | 风景 |
| 2. stretch | <i>v.</i> | 延伸 |
| 3. horizon | <i>n.</i> | 地平线 |
| 4. extreme | <i>n.</i> | 极端不同 |
| 5. scorching | <i>adv.</i> | 灼人地 |
| 6. harsh | <i>adj.</i> | 严酷的 |

FACT FILE

The Sahara

Size

About 8,600,000 square kilometers

Average Summertime

Temperature

Above 32°C

Average Wintertime Temperature

10°C–15°C

Highest Temperature

Ever Recorded

58°C in Al Aziziyah, Libya⁹

Average Yearly Rainfall

Less than 200 millimeters

Amount of Water a Person Loses in the Sahara

7.5 liters a day;

15 liters if walking

SCARCITY¹ IN THE DESERT

Are you thirsty yet? If you were walking through the desert you'd need to drink a lot of water. The Sahara is a very hot and arid², or very dry, place. The weather rarely changes from one day to the next. Most days there are more than ten hours of sunshine, then the night sky is clear and starry³. Saharan skies might have thin, high clouds, but these clouds rarely carry enough moisture to produce rain.

How has desert life adapted to the scarcity, or lack, of water? Plants, animals, and people have somehow managed to make parts of the Sahara their home.

Finding and storing water are essential⁴ for desert dwellers⁵. Some plants store moisture in their leaves. The few trees tap into⁶ underground sources of water, spreading their roots over long distances.

Desert animals depend on these plants, not only for food but also as their source of water. Larger desert animals such as camels are able to store several days' supply of water in their bodies.

Life-giving Water

Despite the harsh conditions, people have found ways to live and travel in the Sahara. People have built villages and towns around oases⁷. Oases are places in the desert where underground water comes to the surface, either through springs⁸ or wells.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1. scarcity | <i>n.</i> | 缺乏; 不足 |
| 2. arid | <i>adj.</i> | 干旱的 |
| 3. starry | <i>adj.</i> | 布满星星的 |
| 4. essential | <i>adj.</i> | 必要的 |
| 5. dweller | <i>n.</i> | 居住者 |
| 6. tap into | | 利用 |
| 7. oasis | <i>n.</i> | (pl.oases) (沙漠中的) 绿洲 |
| 8. spring | <i>n.</i> | 泉; 泉水 |
| 9. Libya | | 利比亚 |



Wild Weather

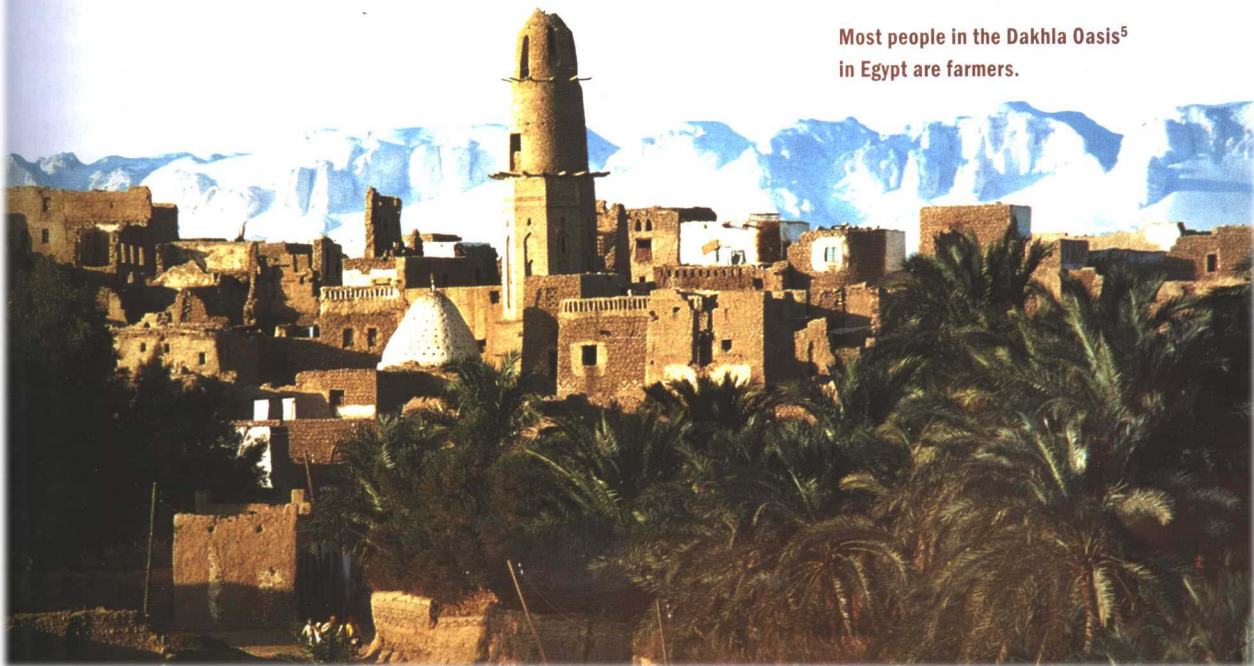
Storms of Dust and Wind

You're walking in the Sahara. Suddenly the world becomes dark. You've been caught in a harmattan³, a strong, dry wind that blows in winter, carrying clouds of sand and dust. If you were caught in one of these dust storms⁴ you would need to protect your eyes from the blowing sand. Winds can reach speeds of over 161 kilometers per hour. But even if your eyes were uncovered, you wouldn't be able to see much. The dusty clouds sometimes even block out the sun. When they move on, they leave everything in their path covered with a thin layer of dust.

Oases supply water for drinking, cooking, washing, and also farming. The few rivers flowing through the Sahara, such as the Nile¹ and the Niger², also provide water in the desert.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Nile | 尼罗河 |
| 2. Niger | 尼日尔河 |
| 3. harmattan | <i>n.</i> 哈麦丹风 |
| 4. dust storm | 尘暴 |
| 5. Dakhla Oasis | 达赫拉绿洲 |

Most people in the Dakhla Oasis⁵ in Egypt are farmers.



Since ancient times the Tuareg have traveled long distances across the Sahara.

Desert Travelers

People have traveled across the desert for thousands of years, often carrying goods over long distances. A small number of people today are nomads¹, who move from place to place. One of these nomadic groups is the Tuareg², who live mostly in West Africa. They are sometimes called the “blue people” because their blue clothing, colored with dye³ made from indigo⁴, often rubs off onto their skin, turning it blue. Today, many live in villages on the edge of the Sahara, but some continue their nomadic tradition.

Why do some of the Tuareg continue to travel in the desert? Their story shows how people adapt to different environments and make use of the natural resources in each one.

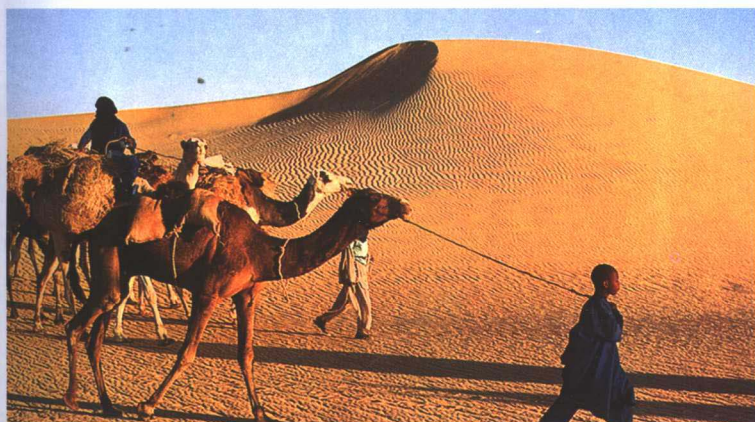
An Important Resource

One reason the Tuareg continue to make a living in the desert is the availability⁵ of a needed resource: salt. The origins⁶ of this resource began long ago, when the Sahara was a very different land.

Believe it or not, millions of years ago the Sahara was lush⁷ and green, with a huge network of lakes and rivers. Over time the area experienced cycles of wet and dry periods. Gradually many of the lakes and rivers dried up. As this water evaporated⁸, salt pans⁹, or beds of salt, remained.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|
| 1. nomad | <i>n.</i> | 游牧民 |
| 2. Tuareg | <i>n.</i> | 图阿雷格人 |
| 3. dye | <i>n.</i> | 染料 |
| 4. indigo | <i>n.</i> | 槐蓝属植物 |
| 5. availability | <i>n.</i> | 利用的可能性 |
| 6. origin | <i>n.</i> | 起源 |
| 7. lush | <i>adj.</i> | 草木茂盛的 |
| 8. evaporate | <i>v.</i> | 蒸发 |
| 9. salt pan | | 浅盐湖 |





Adam leads camels on a caravan through the desert.

These deposits¹ of salt have been mined² by people in the Sahara for hundreds of years. The human body needs salt for survival³, and people use it for a variety of purposes. Salt is used to improve the taste of food, for medicines, for drying and preserving⁴ meats and other foods, and for making things like soap.

For centuries, caravans⁵ of people and camels have transported⁶ salt thousands of miles across the Sahara. Long ago salt was so valuable that it was traded for gold. Today, people still collect salt from Saharan deposits. Although many caravans have replaced their camels with trucks, the salt trade remains important to the area's economy. Like water, salt continues to sustain⁷ life in this area.

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. deposit | <i>n.</i> | 沉积物 |
| 2. mine | <i>v.</i> | 开采 |
| 3. survival | <i>n.</i> | 生存 |
| 4. preserve | <i>v.</i> | 保藏（食品等） |
| 5. caravan | <i>n.</i> | （由商人等组成 往返于沙漠等地带的）旅行队 |

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------|
| 6. transport | <i>v.</i> | 运输；运送 |
| 7. sustain | <i>v.</i> | 维持（生命等） |
| 8. annual | <i>adj.</i> | 每年一次的 |
| 9. Bilma Oasis | | 比尔马绿洲 |
| 10. Nigeria | | 尼日利亚 |

Meet Adam Illius

Adam Illius is a ten-year-old Tuareg boy taking part in his first caravan through the Sahara. The caravan is making its annual⁸ trip to collect salt at the Bilma Oasis⁹ and then will travel further to sell it at markets in northern Nigeria¹⁰. Adam, along with his father, 14 other men, and 150 camels, will walk up to 15 hours a day. They will cover more than 2,400 kilometers. Adam is excited about joining the family business, but knows the long walk through the Sahara will be tiring, and possibly dangerous.



Sahara Caravan



WEBSTER'S ROUTE

Traveling far across the Sahara, would you rather ride in a truck or on a camel? Donovan Webster, a reporter for National Geographic, took a 6,440-kilometer journey across the Sahara in 1997. As he traveled in a line of four-wheel drive vehicles, he passed sights new and old—including discarded¹ satellite dishes and sneakers², war-torn³ towns, flowering desert oases, and a camel caravan. He wrote:

"Most every day we drive about 110 kilometers across the soft sand, often becoming bogged down⁴ and having to dig our way out with hands and shovels⁵. . . . We pause at midday, when the sun heats the desert so thoroughly its sand grows impassably⁶ soft. Then we wait out the inferno⁷ for a few hours, hiding beneath a large canvas⁸ sheet draped⁹ across the roofs of the parked cars—creating the only shade for hundreds of miles."

One day, Webster met a caravan with 500 camels. It was on a 30-day journey to collect salt from salt mines in the oasis towns of Fachi and Bilma in Niger. Many of the men were Tuareg, who have been making these journeys across the desert for many years.

- | | | |
|---------------|------|----------|
| 1. discarded | adj. | 丢弃的; 抛弃的 |
| 2. sneaker | n. | [~s] 旅游鞋 |
| 3. war-torn | adj. | 受战争破坏的 |
| 4. bog down | | 被阻; 不能前进 |
| 5. shovel | n. | 铲; 铁锹 |
| 6. impassably | adv. | 不能通行地 |
| 7. inferno | n. | 炽热 |
| 8. canvas | n. | 粗帆布 |
| 9. drape | v. | 成褶皱状垂下 |

