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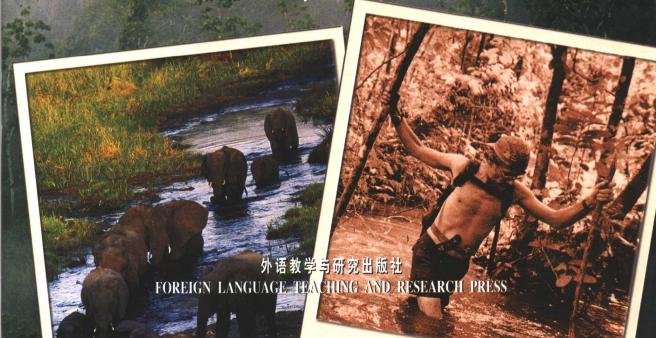
国 家 地 理 科学探索丛书

ON ASSIGNMENT

专题研究

# Journeying into Rain Forests 探险热带雨林

REBECCA L. JOHNSON (美) 著



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"国家地理科学探索丛书"(英文注释版)第二辑分为8个系列,共46本,内容涉及自然科学和社会研究,除对本套丛书第一辑已包含的"生命科学"、"物理科学"、"地球科学"和"文明的进程"4个系列进行了补充外,又推出了4个新的系列——"生活中的科学"、"科学背后的数学"、"专题研究"以及"站在时代前沿的科学家"。

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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# Contents 录

Introduction · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
引言
A Wild, Green World
绿色的野生世界
Chapter 1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
第一章
Trekking Through the Congo
跋涉刚果丛林
Chapter 2 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Borneo's Forest Orangutans
婆罗洲森林里的猩猩

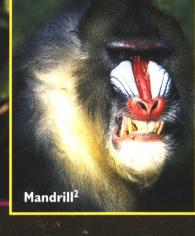




Parrots in a South American rain forest

Chapter 3 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	18
第三章	
Bolivia's Wild Madidi	
玻利维亚的野生世界	3
Chapter 4·····	
第四章	3
Preserving the Rain Forests 保护热带雨林	3
Problem Solving Think Tank	26
锦囊妙计	3
Improvising to Solve a Problem	4
应急方案	2
Problem Solving on Your Own 自己动手解决问题	21
Science Notebook···································	61
科学备忘录	30
Index · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	31
索引	
	90
	94
	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR







<ol> <li>goliath beetle</li> <li>mandrill</li> </ol>		花命龟科大甲虫	1	. whine . wade	ν.	发哀鸣声	15. jungle 16. teem		热带植丛;丛林
	n.	<b>4</b> 20 3	A SHAPE	. leech		跋涉, 蹚			充满
3. rhinoceros vi		犀咝蝰	E 4 3-		n.	水蛭	17. ecosystem	n.	生态系统
4. tangle	n.	纠结的一团	100	itchy	adj.	发痒的	18. unspoiled	adj.	未受损坏的
5: thorny	adj.	长满荆棘的	12	. yucky	adj.	肮脏的	19. scratch		抓
6. vine	n.	藤	13	. scary	adj.	骇人的	20. creep		爬行;攀缘
7. mosquito	n.	蚊	14	. biodiversity	n.	生物多样性	21. crawl		爬行
							22. repellent	n.	驱虫剂





## Introduction 引言

# A Wild, Green World 绿色的野生世界

A team of scientists struggles through a tangle<sup>4</sup> of thorny<sup>5</sup> vines<sup>6</sup>. Sweat streams down their faces. Clouds of mosquitoes<sup>7</sup> whine<sup>8</sup> around them. Quickly, they wade<sup>9</sup> across a stream. But they aren't fast enough. They step out with blood-sucking leeches<sup>10</sup> stuck to their legs...

Does this sound fun? Probably not. But itchy<sup>11</sup>, yucky<sup>12</sup>, or scary<sup>13</sup> as it may be, it takes an expedition like this to explore a rain forest.

Rain forests are the richest places for biodiversity<sup>14</sup> on Earth. These green jungle<sup>15</sup> worlds teem<sup>16</sup> with life, from treetops to the forest floor. Scientists think more kinds of plants and animals live in rain forests than in all other ecosystems<sup>17</sup> combined.

The biggest, wildest, most unspoiled<sup>18</sup> rain forests in the world today lie in Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America. In this book, you'll go on assignment to each place.

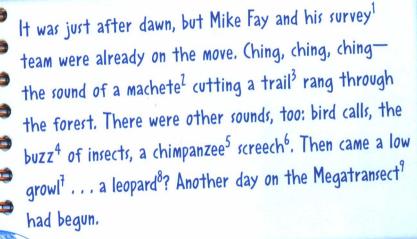
Rain forests are risky places. They are full of things that bite and scratch<sup>19</sup> and creep<sup>20</sup> and crawl<sup>21</sup>. But rain forests are also at risk. People are destroying them. To preserve them, we need to know about them. So grab some insect repellent<sup>22</sup>! Get set to journey into rain forests.

(注释见第4页)

Chapter **1** 第一章

# Trekking Through the Congo

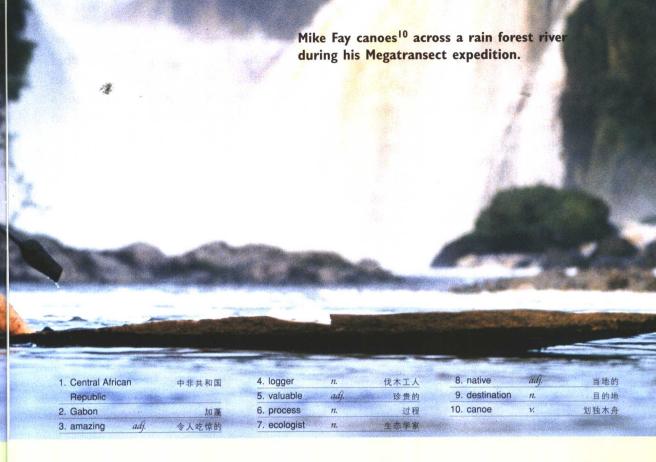
# 一步是到了是人工的





In the heart of Africa lies the world's second-largest rain forest. It sprawls<sup>10</sup> across Congo, the Central African

1. survey	n.	测勘	7. growl	n.	咆哮
2. machete	n.	大砍刀	8. leopard	n.	豹
3. trail	11.	小道	9. Megatransect		此处指 J.M. Fay
1. buzz	n.	嗡嗡声			的考察项目
5. chimpanzee	n.	黑猩猩	10. sprawl	ν.	延伸
screech	17	42 04			



Republic<sup>1</sup>, and Gabon<sup>2</sup>. Living here is an amazing<sup>3</sup> collection of animals, from rare forest elephants to shy gorillas.

The people nearby depend on the forest for food. They also gather products they can sell to make a living. Loggers<sup>4</sup> cut trees for valuable<sup>5</sup> wood. Farmers clear land to plant crops. In the process<sup>6</sup>, animals are killed or chased from their homes. The forest changes forever.

It is hard to balance the needs of people with the need to save the forest. But scientists are working hard to learn about the rain forests before they are changed forever.

Ecologist<sup>7</sup> J. Michael Fay decided to try to save this forest by walking through a large part of it. He would gather information. He took a writer and a photographer from the National Geographic Society. Native<sup>8</sup> guides made up the rest of the group. These guides knew parts of the forest better than anyone on Earth.

Mike called his expedition

Megatransect. On September 20, 1999,
Mike set out from Bomassa, Congo.

His final destination<sup>9</sup> was the coast of
Gabon, hundreds of kilometers away.

### Life in the Forest

For the next 455 days, Mike and his team traveled through the forest. Sometimes they paddled<sup>1</sup> down rivers in dugout<sup>2</sup> canoes. But most of the time, they walked.

When they could, they followed elephant trails. Sometimes a trail led through a swamp<sup>3</sup>. The team had no

choice but to wade into murky<sup>4</sup> water where leeches lurked<sup>5</sup>. Sometimes there was no trail. Then the team had to hack<sup>6</sup> one out. They cut through the undergrowth<sup>7</sup> with a machete.

How did the team keep from getting lost? They used maps, compasses<sup>8</sup>, and a GPS<sup>9</sup>. A GPS lets you pinpoint<sup>10</sup> your exact location<sup>11</sup> on Earth.

1. paddle	$\mathcal{V}_{\cdot}$	划桨行进	5. lurk	$V_*$	潜伏	9. GPS		全球定位系统
2. dugout	11.	独木舟	6. hack	ν.	砍	10. pinpoint	ν.	精确地确定的位置
3. swamp	n.	沼泽	7. undergrowth	11.	下层灌丛	11. location	n.	位 置
4. murky	adj.	肮脏的	8. compass	n.	罗盘	12. rinse	ν.	用清水漂净



Mike recorded all he saw and heard. He jotted<sup>1</sup> notes in yellow waterproof<sup>2</sup> notebooks. He wrote down details about trees, flowers, and fruit. He recorded seeing butterflies, leopard tracks<sup>3</sup>, and old chimpanzee nests. He even wrote about elephant droppings<sup>4</sup>.

草草记下

防水的

1. jot

2. waterproof

With a video camera, Mike filmed the team walking among the trees and slogging<sup>5</sup> through swamps.

He recorded sounds, too. He captured<sup>6</sup> everything from a gorilla's grunts<sup>7</sup> to the songs tree frogs sing at night.

Michael Nichols, the National Geographic photographer with Mike Fay, took lots of pictures. In fact, he shot 2000 rolls of film on the trek!



# Forest Dwellers<sup>1</sup>, Large and Small

Every day brought new discoveries. The team met all sorts of animals. Snakes slithered<sup>2</sup> across the path. Chimpanzees shrieked<sup>3</sup> from the treetops. Huge gorillas stared.

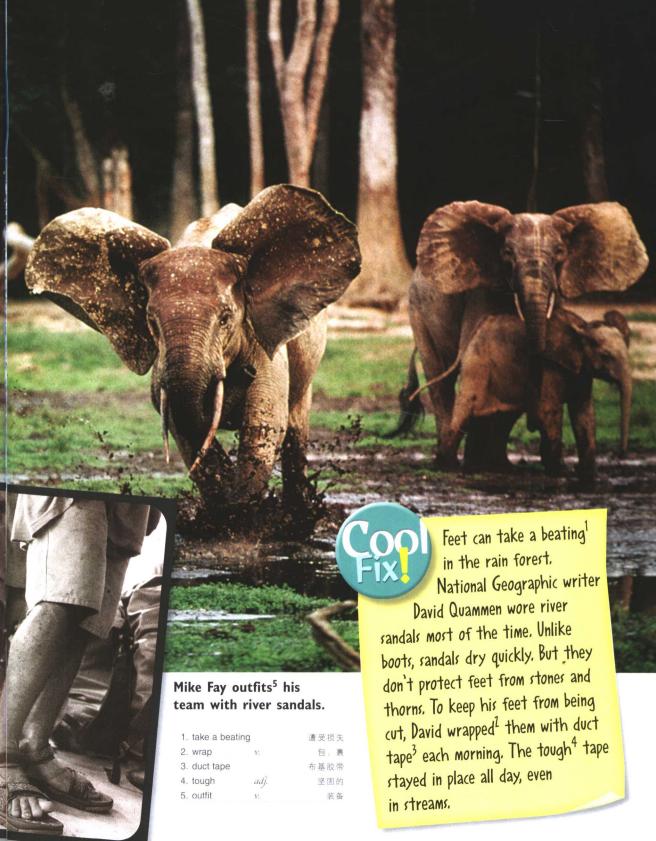
One night the team sat around the campfire eating dinner. Suddenly, an elephant came crashing<sup>4</sup> through the forest. It ran right through camp! Fortunately, no one was hurt. It was a hair-raising end to another day in the jungle.

Elephants can be dangerous. But some tiny animals posed<sup>5</sup> a greater threat. Mosquitoes, biting flies, and ticks<sup>6</sup> were constant<sup>7</sup> companions<sup>8</sup>. Some insects carry diseases. People can get malaria<sup>9</sup>, for instance, from the bite of certain mosquitoes.

Team members had to be careful where they stood. They watched out for elephant droppings. The droppings were full of tiny worms. The worms would crawl onto a person's feet. Then they'd dig under the skin and cause painful blisters<sup>10</sup>.

1. dweller	n.	居住者
2. slither	1'.	(蜿蜒地) 滑行
3. shriek	<i>V.</i>	尖声喊叫
4. crash	V.	擅自闯入
5. pose	$V_{i}$	造成
6. tick	11.	虱蝇
7. constant	adj.	不断的
8. companion	11.	同伴
9. malaria	11.	疟疾
10. blister	n.	水疱
11. splash	11.	溅起的水 (或泥浆等)
12. charge	$V_{\star}$	向前冲





### Threats to the Forest

The team saw and recorded amazing things on their journey. They traveled through parts of the African forest no one had ever explored before.

On their trek, they also saw death many times. Forest elephants had been slaughtered<sup>1</sup> for their tusks<sup>2</sup>. Other animals, from monkeys to birds, had been killed. People killed them to supply city people with "wild meat." And the team met loggers. Some were cutting down trees in national parks.

Will the Megatransect help this African forest? That question would have to wait to be answered until Mike emerged<sup>3</sup> from the forest. It was December 2000. The team had covered about 1,930 kilometers (about 1,200 miles) on the trek.

Soon Mike began organizing his notes, tapes, and films. These data<sup>4</sup> will help him make a "picture" of the forest. Mike hopes the picture will be a powerful tool. He will use it to help preserve this African rain forest.

<ol> <li>slaughter</li> </ol>	$V_{-}$		屠杀
2. tusk	n.		长牙
3. emerge	$V_{i}$		出现
4. datum	11.	(pl. data)	数据

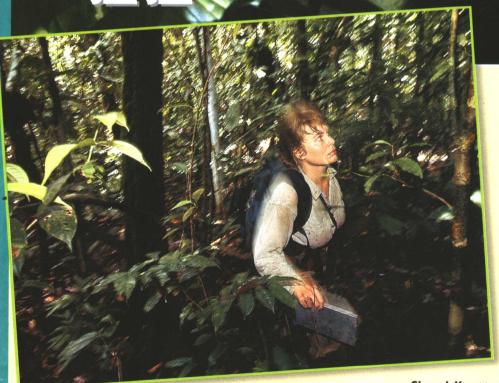
There are more types of plants and animals in the rain forest than anywhere else on Earth.







# Borneo's Forest Orangutans 婆罗洲森林里的 猩猩



**Cheryl Knott**