

NATIONAL  
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# 新理念

# 英语阅读

## 高中二年级

## 第2册AA



YZLI0890144081

**W** 上海外语教育出版社  
外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS  
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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新理念英语阅读. 高中二年级. 第2册 / 陆轶晖改编.

—上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2010

ISBN 978-7-5446-1956-1

I. 新… II. 陆… III. 英语—阅读教学—高中—教学参考资料

IV. G634.413

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2010)第138563号

图字: 09-2009-213号

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5 Shenton Way, # 01-01 UIC Building, Singapore 068808

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出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@slep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.slep.com.cn> <http://www.slep.com>

责任编辑: 武泽明

印 刷: 上海中华印刷有限公司

开 本: 889×1280 1/32 印张 2.125 字数 52 千字

版 次: 2011年3月第1版 2011年3月第1次印刷

印 数: 6 000 册

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5446-1956-1 / G · 0728

定 价: 16.00 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

# 出版前言

《新理念英语阅读》是由上海外语教育出版社从美国 Cengage Learning 出版集团引进改编的一套中小学英语读物。这套读物题材广泛，话题丰富；既有引人入胜、趣味无穷的故事，又有知识丰富、包罗万象的科普读物。把语言输入和知识输入融合在一起，让学生体验阅读的乐趣。

全套读物由美国 Cengage Learning 出版集团青少年读物金牌作家倾力打造，语言纯正、内容丰富、精彩纷呈。原汁原味的语言帮助读者培养英语语感、提升阅读兴趣。《新理念英语阅读》还强调阅读与视听的有机结合，全套读物的原版音频由英语语言专家绘声绘色、声情并茂地朗读，让读者有身临其境的感受。高中阶段另配由美国《国家地理》（National Geographic）精选的视频材料，能充分满足读者视觉和听觉的不同需求。色彩丰富、极具趣味性的插图在辅助读者阅读的同时，也让读者尽情享受前所未有的视觉盛宴。

本套读物针对每个故事精心设计了练习：小学阶段的题型和通用少儿英语星级考试接轨；初中阶段的题型和中考题的阅读部分题型匹配；高中阶段的练习分为阅读前、阅读中、阅读后以及阅读拓展训练和与视频材料相关的练习，帮助学生循序渐进地提高独立阅读能力，有效训练应试技巧。

整套读物分 9 个级别，从小学三年级到高中二年级，共 43 册，包含 78 篇故事和 132 篇科普读物。各级别根据国家《英语课程标准》规定的难度划分，充分考虑到不同年龄段学生的认知特点和阅读兴趣。

《新理念英语阅读》提供丰富多彩的阅读材料和多层次的拓展训练，在适宜性、可读性、多样性和有效性方面均凸显本套英语读物的优势。它让读者感受阅读乐趣的同时，也切实提高了他们的阅读解题能力，使其体验到新理念带给英语阅读的全新动力。

上海外语教育出版社

2010年8月



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# A Disappearing **WORLD**



**Rob Waring**, *Series Editor*



## Before Reading

### Words to Know

This story is set in Africa. It happens in the countries of Congo and Gabon, in an area called the Congo Basin.



**A An Expedition.** Read the paragraph. Then match each word with the correct definition.

This story is about an expedition that travels through parts of Congo and Gabon. The trip starts just north of the equator. The leader of the trip, Michael Fay, is with the Wildlife Conservation Society. His team's aim is to document the wildlife of this beautiful and completely natural part of the world. They must do it before this natural beauty disappears and is gone forever. The biggest challenge for the group will be to cross the varied, and sometimes dangerous, landscape of the Congo Basin.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. expedition _____   | a. animals and plants that live in natural conditions  |
| 2. the equator _____  | b. an imaginary line around Earth's middle             |
| 3. conservation _____ | c. a difficult task that tests one's skill or will     |
| 4. wildlife _____     | d. the features of a land area                         |
| 5. disappear _____    | e. the protection of plants, animals, or natural areas |
| 6. challenge _____    | f. a journey organized for a special purpose           |
| 7. landscape _____    | g. go away suddenly and not return                     |

**B** **Wildlife in a Wild Land.** Here are some land formations on the expedition. Write the correct word next to each formation.

hills

ocean

rain forest

rapids

1. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

An Expedition

Distances

1 kilometer = 0.62 miles

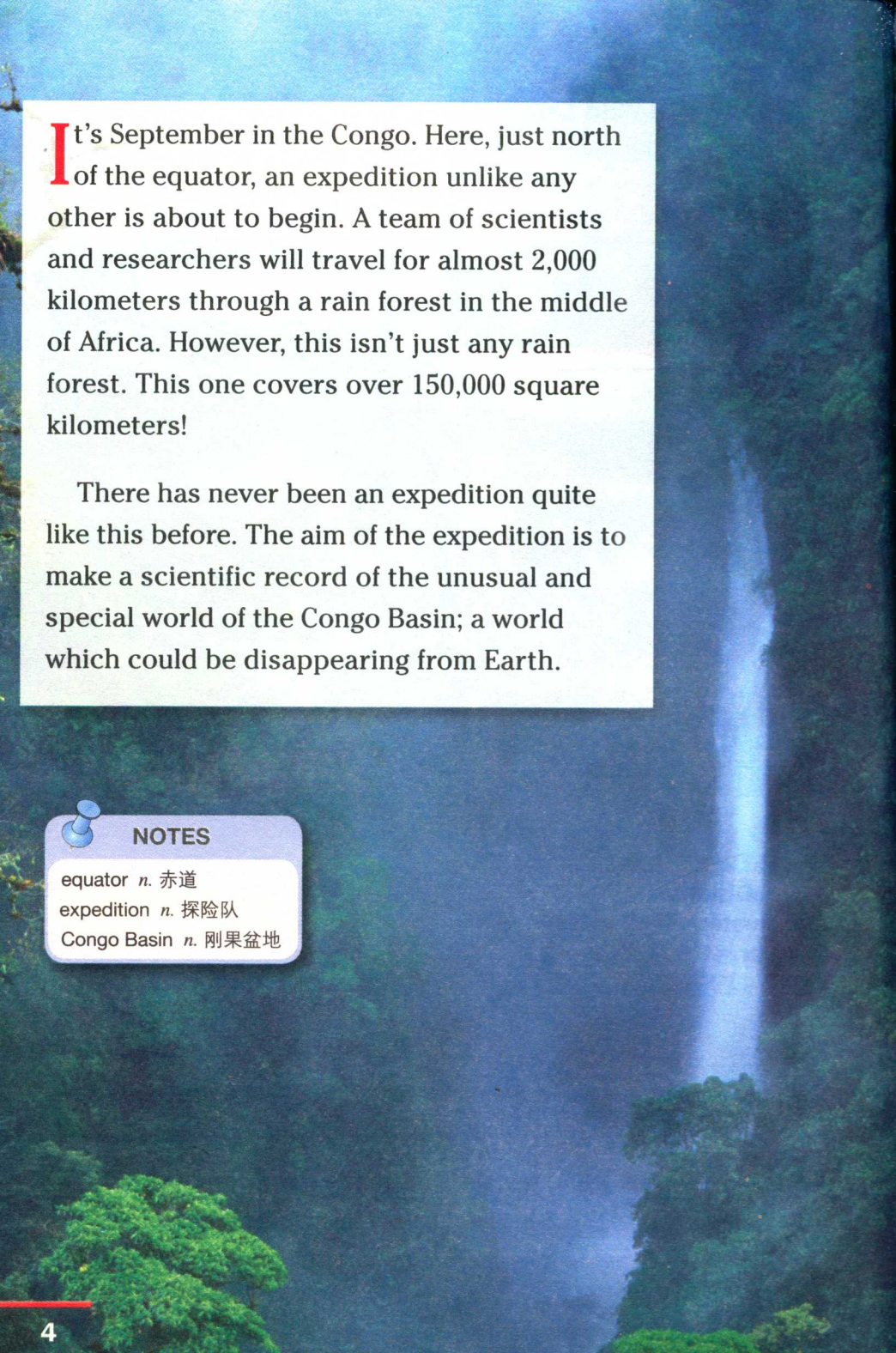
1 meter = 3.3 feet

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**C** What do you know about the rain forest of the Congo Basin? Circle your answers. Then read to check your guesses.

1. There are (a few/no) people living in the rain forest here.
2. Walking across this rain forest takes fifteen (days/weeks/months).
3. Businesses want to take (trees/animals) from the rain forest here.





**I**t's September in the Congo. Here, just north of the equator, an expedition unlike any other is about to begin. A team of scientists and researchers will travel for almost 2,000 kilometers through a rain forest in the middle of Africa. However, this isn't just any rain forest. This one covers over 150,000 square kilometers!

There has never been an expedition quite like this before. The aim of the expedition is to make a scientific record of the unusual and special world of the Congo Basin; a world which could be disappearing from Earth.



#### NOTES

equator *n.* 赤道

expedition *n.* 探险队

Congo Basin *n.* 刚果盆地



Dr. Michael Fay is a scientist from the Wildlife Conservation Society. He is leading the group. He calls the expedition "The Megatransect," or "the big crossing." The expedition will go all the way across the Congo Basin. He and his team will travel around 2,000 kilometers through the rain forests of Congo and Gabon.

The conservation of this rain forest is very important to Fay. He feels the area is a very special place that's disappearing. He says that if they don't document the wildlife here now, there may never be another chance to do it. Fay explains in his own words: "What I'm trying to do, in a desperate way, is to show the world that we're just about to lose the last little gem in the African continent. And if we don't do something now...if we don't do it today, we can forget about it."

### NOTES

The Wildlife Conservation Society

野生动物保护学会

Gabon *n.* 加蓬 (非洲国家)

document *v.* 记录

desperate *a.* 不顾一切的

gem *n.* 珍宝, 美玉

continent *n.* 大陆, 陆地

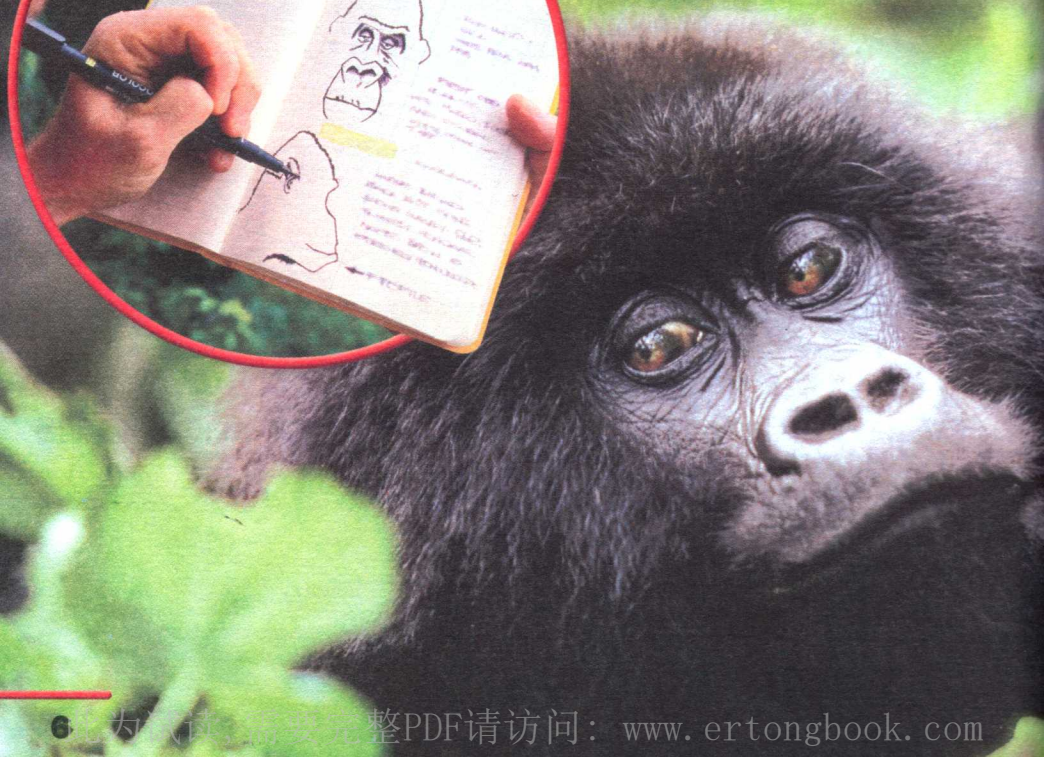
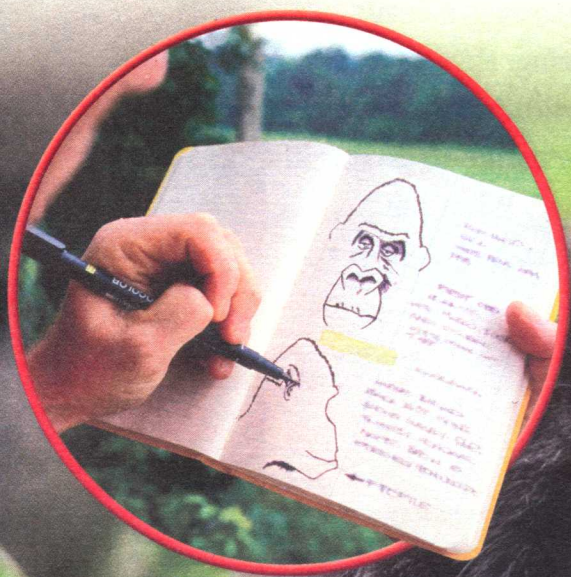
### Infer Meaning

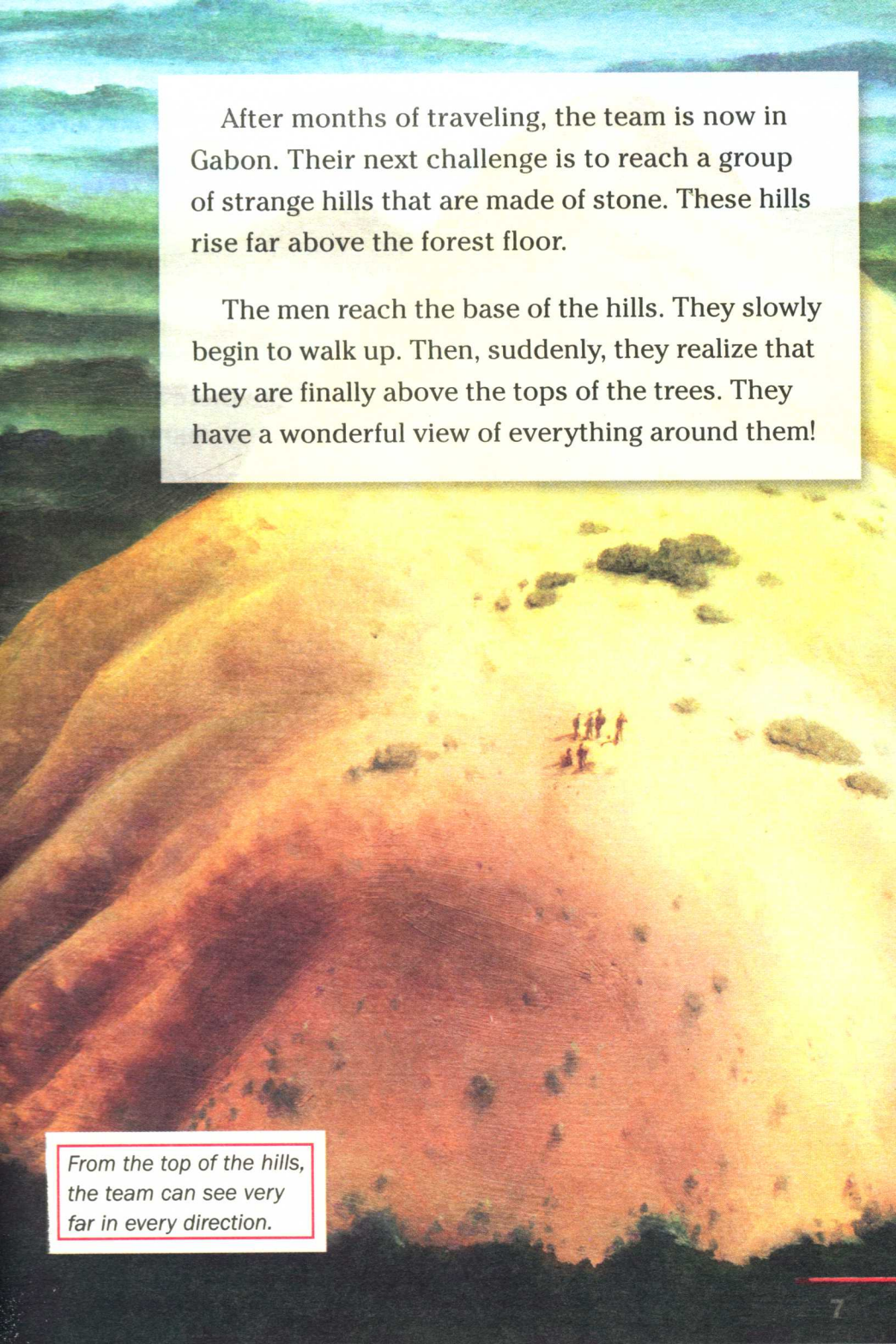
1. Why does Michael Fay feel "desperate"?
2. What does Fay mean when he says "we can forget about it"?



The Congo Basin is one of the world's most important natural areas. It contains almost one quarter of the world's rain forests. It may also have up to half of all of the wild plants and animals found in all of Africa.

Fay's plan is to collect and record data on almost every part of the rain forest. He plans to do this by walking all the way through the forest. During this time, he wants to document the trees, the plants, and the animals that he sees there. It's a big job, and it's going to take a very long time.




The background of the page is a painting of a vast, hilly landscape. The hills are covered in dense green vegetation, and the sky is a mix of blue and green. In the foreground, a large, reddish-brown hillside slopes down towards the viewer. A small group of people, dressed in red and white, are standing on a ridge in the middle ground, looking out over the landscape. The overall scene is one of a remote, natural environment.

After months of traveling, the team is now in Gabon. Their next challenge is to reach a group of strange hills that are made of stone. These hills rise far above the forest floor.

The men reach the base of the hills. They slowly begin to walk up. Then, suddenly, they realize that they are finally above the tops of the trees. They have a wonderful view of everything around them!

*From the top of the hills, the team can see very far in every direction.*





Fay describes what the team can see. "We can see a long way here, you know...70 or 80 kilometers in every direction. We can see 360 degrees around."

In today's world, it's unusual to be in a place where there are no other people. Fay also points this out. "There are no humans," he says. "There's not a single village, there's not a single road." This makes it clear just how special and completely natural this African rain forest really is. "It's an amazing place," he adds.





The team continues on their long trip. As they go, they can hear their next challenge before they reach it. Rapids!

“Okay, wow,” says Fay when he sees them—The Kongou Chutes. These rapids are an important part of the landscape that the team wants to protect. This area is a land of fast-moving water and very old forests. Both of these things are currently in danger because of logging. Businesses want to come here. They plan to cut down the trees so they can sell them as wood. If this happens, it will be very bad for the animals and plants in the area. It will also be bad for the land itself.

But, right now, the team has a more immediate problem. These rapids are very fast and very dangerous! According to Fay’s plan, the team must cross the river here. Will they be able to cross safely? If they do, how will they do it?



#### NOTES

rapids *n.* 急流

chutes *n.* 瀑布

landscape *n.* 地貌

logging *n.* 伐木

#### Predict

Answer the questions. Then scan page 10 to check your answers.

1. How will the team cross the dangerous rapids?
2. What will they need to do it?



The crossing is only a few hundred meters wide, but getting across it is not an easy task. The team members have a lot of experience. They use guide ropes, stepping stones, and everything they know to get across the dangerous waters safely.

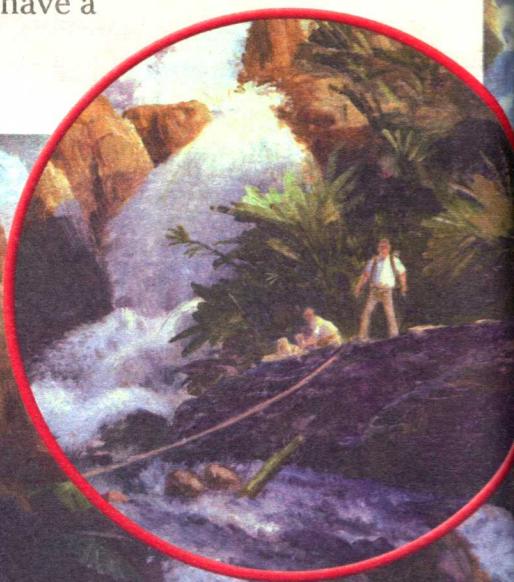
After a lot of hard work, everyone finally makes it across the rapids. However, the team has to spend a lot of time doing it. It takes them a full day to get themselves and their supplies across the rapids, and they still have a very long way to go!



#### NOTES

guide rope 导绳

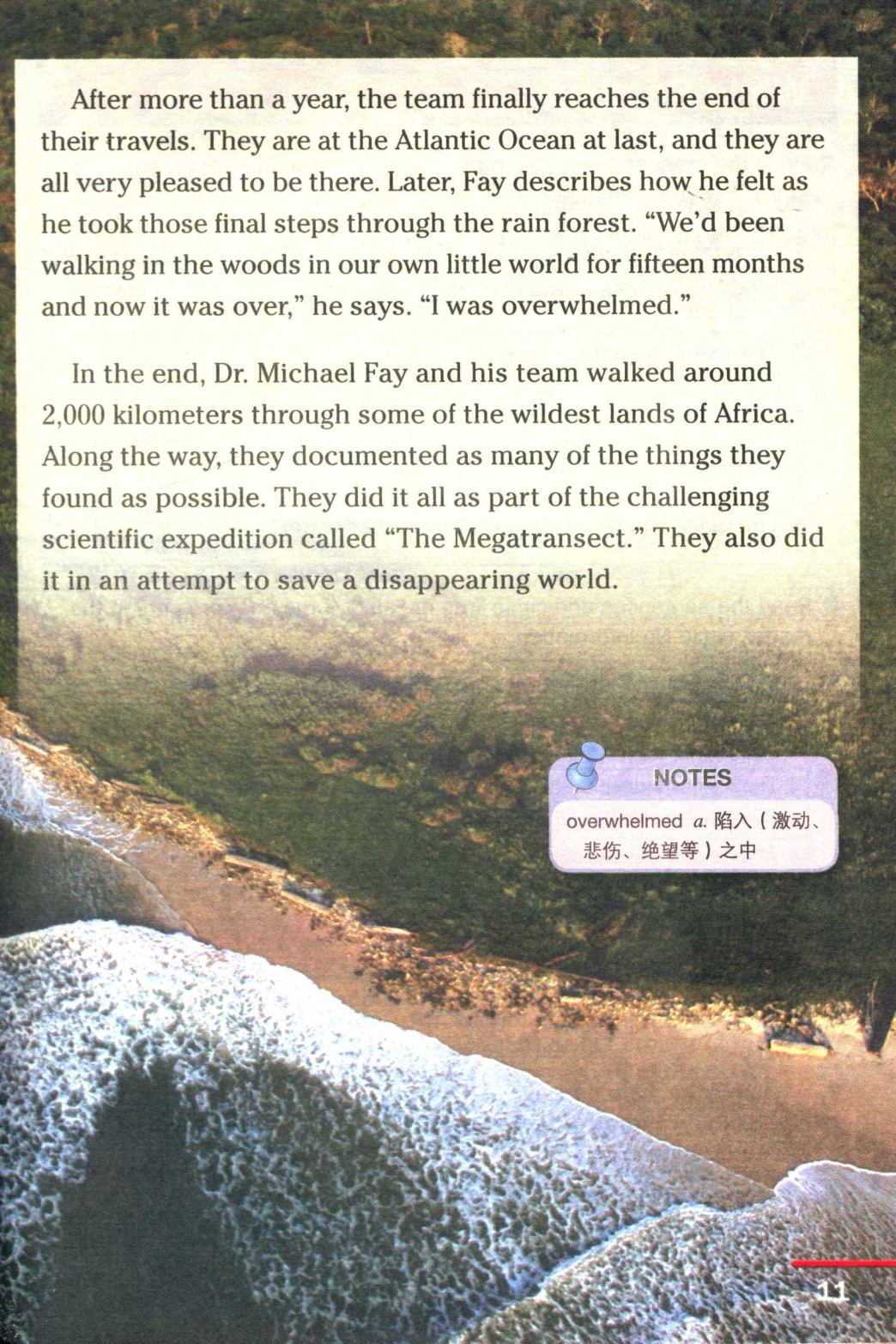
stepping stone 垫脚石



guide rope

stepping stones





After more than a year, the team finally reaches the end of their travels. They are at the Atlantic Ocean at last, and they are all very pleased to be there. Later, Fay describes how he felt as he took those final steps through the rain forest. “We’d been walking in the woods in our own little world for fifteen months and now it was over,” he says. “I was overwhelmed.”

In the end, Dr. Michael Fay and his team walked around 2,000 kilometers through some of the wildest lands of Africa. Along the way, they documented as many of the things they found as possible. They did it all as part of the challenging scientific expedition called “The Megatransect.” They also did it in an attempt to save a disappearing world.



#### NOTES

overwhelmed *a.* 陷入（激动、悲伤、绝望等）之中



## While Reading

A. Read the story and find this information. All of the answers are names starting with a capital letter.

1. The month when the expedition starts:

2. The country where the expedition starts:

3. The leader's name:

4. The name of the expedition:

5. The natural area that the expedition goes across:

6. The place where the expedition crosses water:

B. Read the sentences and circle True or False. If the answer is not in the reader, circle No Information.

1. The reason for the expedition is to get scientific information.	T	F	NI
2. The expedition is in three countries.	T	F	NI
3. Some of the scientists get sick during the expedition.	T	F	NI
4. The scientists climb the hills to look at the rain forest.	T	F	NI
5. The scientists use a bridge to cross the rapids.	T	F	NI
6. At the end of the expedition, the leader is happy.	T	F	NI

## After Reading

1. Compared to other rain forests, the Congo Basin is:

A. small                      B. average size                      C. dark                      D. large

2. What is the main purpose of the expedition?

A. to study and record information                      B. to walk a long way  
C. to disappear                      D. to meet people

3. In the sentence, "What I'm trying to do, in a desperate way, is to show the world that we're just about to lose the last little gem in the