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TRAVELS ACROSS AMERICA

美国之旅

The Southwest 西南部

ELSPETH LEACOCK (美) 著

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西南部

ELSPETH LEACOCK (美) 著

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如果你希望读到地道的英语，在享受英语阅读乐趣的同时又能增长知识、开拓视野，这套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”正是你的选择。

“国家地理科学探索丛书”分为9个系列，内容涉及自然科学和社会研究，秉承《国家地理》杂志图文并茂的特色，书中配有大量精彩的图片，文字通俗易懂、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。

这套丛书以英文注释形式出版，注释由国内重点中学教学经验丰富的英语教师完成。特别值得推荐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。

本系列丛书介绍了有关美国的地理、经济和文化等方面，不仅是一种可以增长知识的阅读材料，也提供了一种认识和了解美国的新视角。希望广大中学生及英语爱好者能以客观审慎的态度，通过阅读获取有益的帮助。

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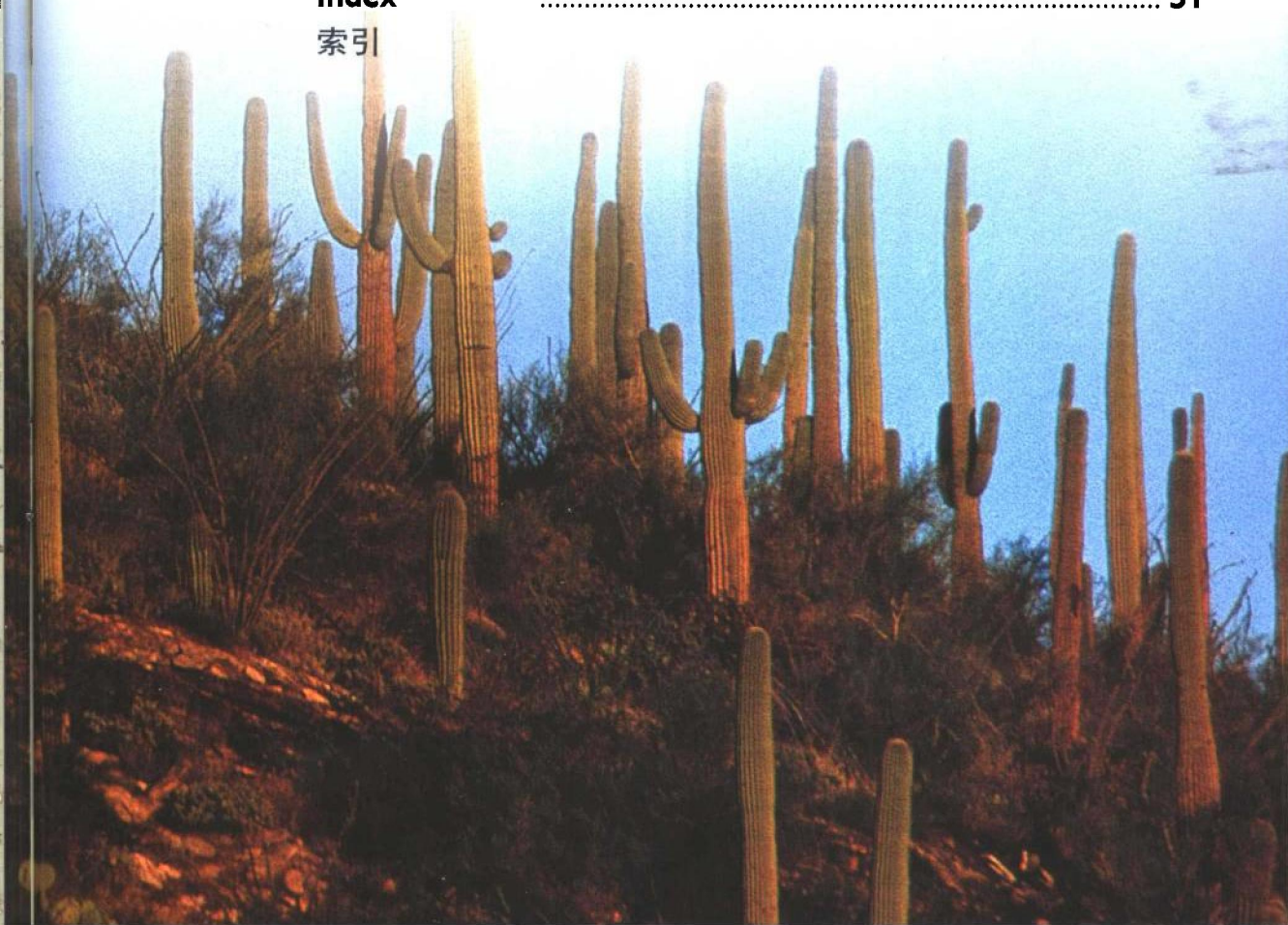
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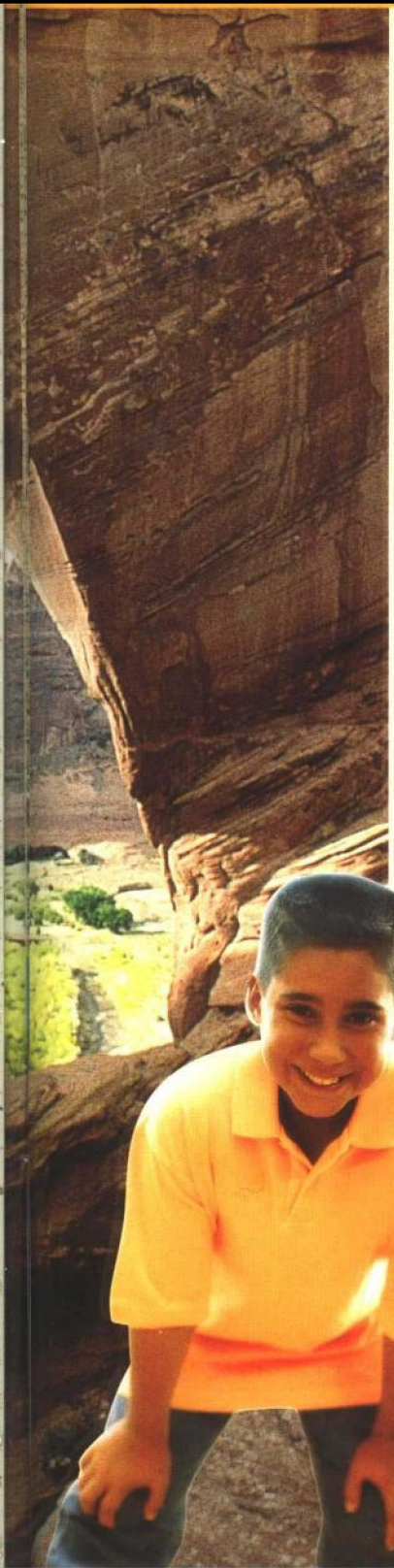


Meet Luis, Your Guide to the Southwest

随路易斯游览西南部

Canyon de Chelly
National Monument¹
in Arizona²

1. Canyon de Chelly National Monument 谢伊峡谷国家保护区
2. Arizona 亚利桑那州



Howdy!

or *Buenos Dias*, as many say here in the Southwest. My name is Luis. I will be your guide¹ as we explore² the Southwest region³. We will visit the states of Texas⁴, Oklahoma⁵, New Mexico⁶, and Arizona.

But you don't need to pack⁷ your backpack⁸. You can stay right there in your chair and let your imagination⁹ do the traveling. What do you think we will see? Do you think the Southwest will be different from where you live? How might it be different? How might it be the same?

First, we will explore what the land of the Southwest is like. I'll show you some of my favorite¹⁰ places. Then we'll see what kind of jobs people have in the Southwest. Finally, we'll meet the people of the region. I hope you enjoy the trip. Let's go!

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------|
| 1. guide | <i>n.</i> | 导游 向导 |
| 2. explore | <i>v.</i> | 探险 探索 |
| 3. region | <i>n.</i> | 地区 |
| 4. Texas | | 得克萨斯州 |
| 5. Oklahoma | | 俄克拉何马州 |
| 6. New Mexico | | 新墨西哥州 |
| 7. pack | <i>v.</i> | 捆扎 |
| 8. backpack | <i>n.</i> | 背包 |
| 9. imagination | <i>n.</i> | 想像 想像力 |
| 10. favorite | <i>adj.</i> | 最喜爱的 |

Sedona¹, Arizona

(注释见第7页)



The Land

地 形

The Largest

The Carlsbad Caverns² in New Mexico are a series³ of huge underground⁴ rooms called chambers⁵. The largest chamber is about the size of five football fields! The caverns were formed millions of years ago.

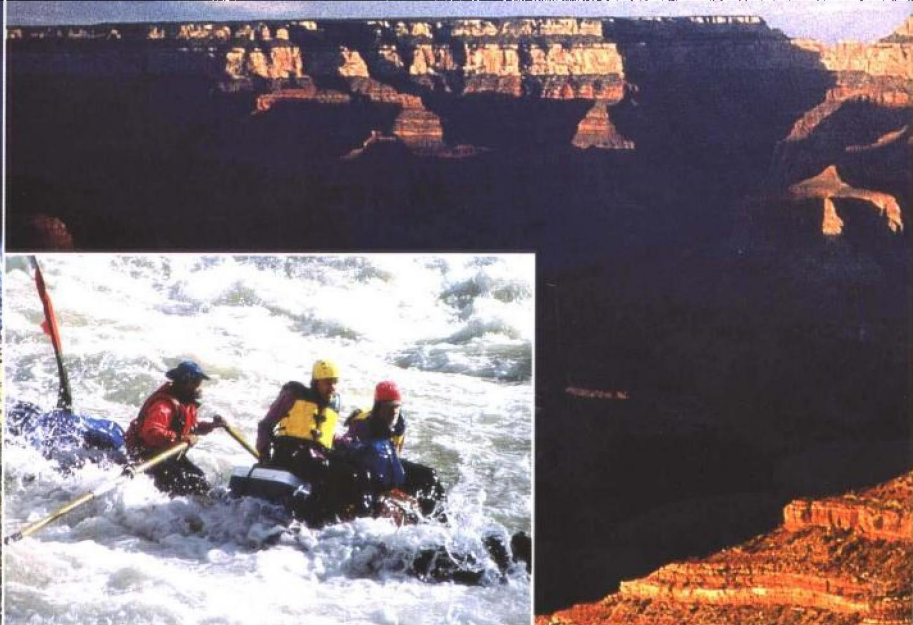
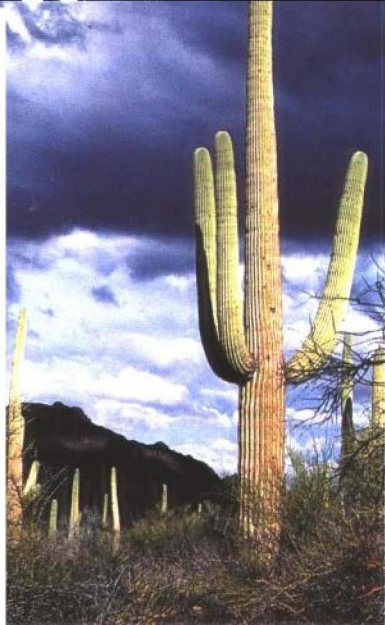
The Driest

The Southwest is the driest region in the United States, but that doesn't mean it has no water. Underneath⁶ parts of the Southwest is the Ogallala aquifer⁷. It is one of the largest underground stores of water in the world. It is about 174,000 square miles⁸! The Ogallala aquifer supplies⁹ much of the Southwest with water.

The Sunniest

The Southwest is the sunniest region in the United States.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Sedona | | 塞多纳 |
| 2. Carlsbad Caverns | | 卡尔斯巴德洞穴 |
| 3. series | <i>n.</i> | 系列 |
| 4. underground | <i>adj.</i> | 地下的 |
| 5. chamber | <i>n.</i> | 室 房间 |
| 6. underneath | <i>prep.</i> | 在……的下面 |
| 7. Ogallala aquifer | | 奥加拉拉
地下蓄水层 |
| 8. square mile | | 平方英里 |
| 9. supply | <i>v.</i> | 提供 |



Luis's Picks

Hot Places to Visit

*Want to see
a cactus over
50 feet high?
Then go to the
Saguaro National
Park²⁰. Just don't
lean against one!*

The Sonoran Desert¹

We'll begin our travels in the Sonoran Desert in southern Arizona. It is very hot and dry, but plants and animals live in the desert. Colorful wildflowers and prickly² cactuses³ grow here. Some cacti grow as tall as four-story buildings. Here you might see a roadrunner⁴ chasing after⁵ a rattlesnake⁶. They like it here.

The Colorado River⁷

The Colorado River is one of our country's longest rivers, flowing across 1,450 miles of land. It forms part of the Arizona border⁸. The river is swift⁹ and sometimes wild, with many rapids¹⁰ and waterfalls¹¹. A bumpy¹² raft¹³ trip down the Colorado is a popular tourist attraction¹⁴.

The river carries something else besides people: sand and pebbles¹⁵. Over millions of years the gritty¹⁶ river water carved¹⁷ away at layer¹⁸ after layer of rock. The river carved deep canyons into the land, forming the greatest canyon of them all, the Grand Canyon¹⁹.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1. Sonoran Desert | 索诺兰沙漠 | 11. waterfall | <i>n.</i> | 瀑布 |
| 2. prickly | <i>adj.</i> | 12. bumpy | <i>adj.</i> | 颠簸的 |
| 3. cactus | <i>n.</i> (pl/cactuses 或 cacti) | 13. raft | <i>n.</i> | 筏; 橡皮船 |
| | 仙人掌 | 14. tourist attraction | | 游览胜地 |
| 4. roadrunner | <i>n.</i> (中、北美洲的)走鹃 | 15. pebble | <i>n.</i> | 卵石 |
| 5. chase after | 追赶; 追逐 | 16. gritty | <i>adj.</i> | 有砂砾的 |
| 6. rattlesnake | <i>n.</i> | 17. carve | <i>v.</i> | 冲刷 |
| 7. Colorado River | 科罗拉多河 | 18. layer | <i>n.</i> | 层 |
| 8. border | <i>n.</i> | 19. Grand Canyon | | 大峡谷 |
| 9. swift | <i>adj.</i> | 20. Saguaro | | 萨瓜罗国家公园 |
| 10. rapids | <i>n.</i> | National Park | | |
| | 急流; 湍滩 | | | |



The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is my favorite park. The canyon is almost 300 miles long, 18 miles wide at its widest point, and about 1 mile deep. If a skyscraper¹ were built at the bottom² of the canyon, it would have to be 440 floors high to reach the top. That's four times higher than the Sears Tower³ in Chicago⁴, the tallest building in the United States.

Let's hike⁵ down the Grand Canyon. We can read the rocks to find out about millions of years of Earth's history. Some rocks in the very deepest part of the canyon may be as old as two billion years!

As we hike down from the top of the canyon, we can "read" each rock layer like a book. Near the top is a layer of gray⁶ stone that was once the bottom of a warm, shallow⁷ sea. This layer is from the age of dinosaurs⁸. Below that you can see footprints⁹ from ancient¹⁰ reptiles¹¹ who once walked across hot desert sands. Lower still, you can see even more fossils¹². Fossils are skeletons¹³ of some of Earth's oldest plants and animals, pressed¹⁴ into the rock. At the very bottom of the canyon are traces¹⁵ of ancient mountain ranges¹⁶.



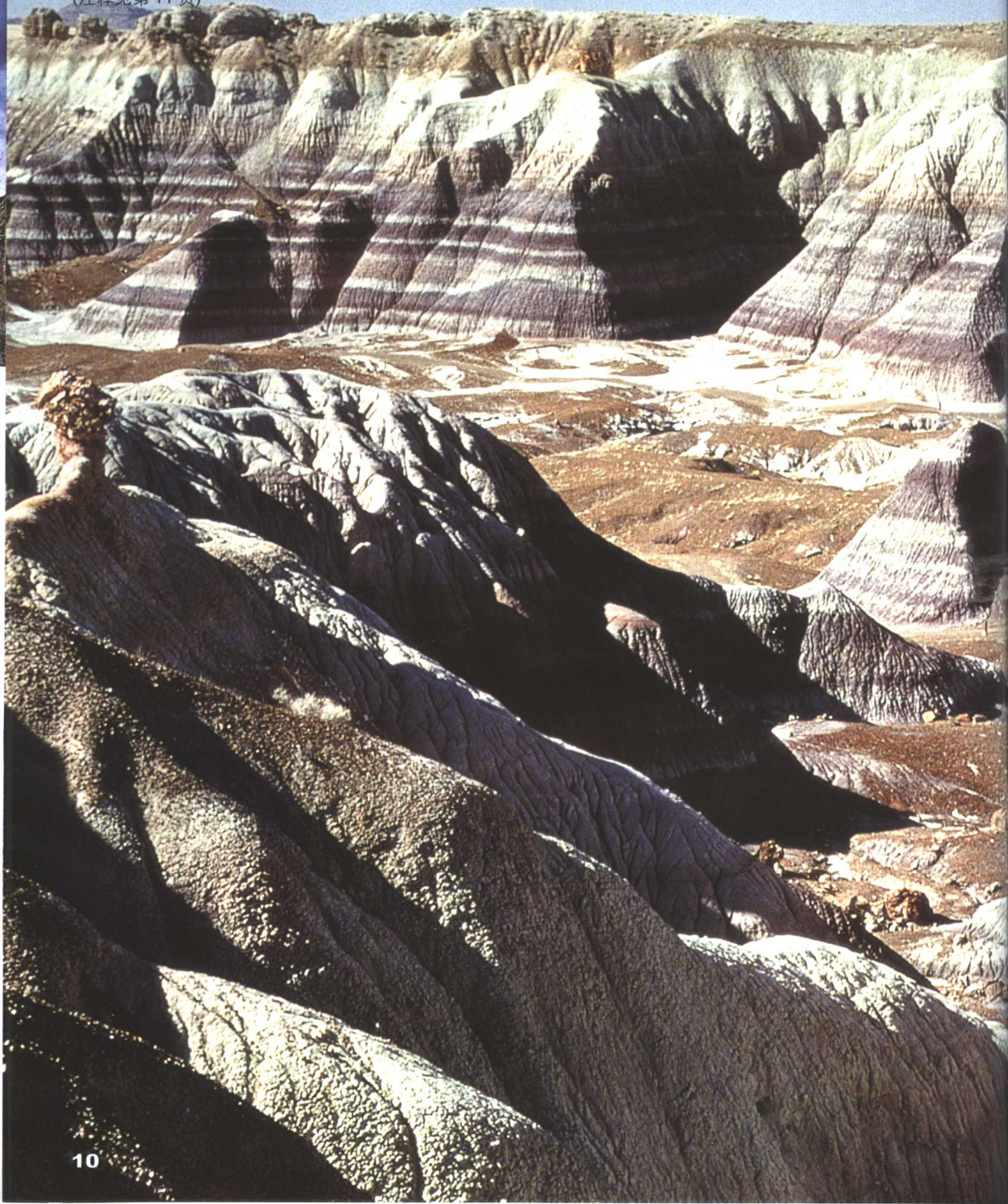
Fun Facts

The Southwest is a great place to find fossils. You can find everything from real dinosaur bones¹⁷ to fossilized plants and insects¹⁸. You should take pictures of all of the fossils that you find. Leave the fossils for others to enjoy.

1. skyscraper	<i>n.</i>	摩天大楼	10. ancient	<i>adj.</i>	远古的
2. bottom	<i>n.</i>	底; 底部	11. reptile	<i>n.</i>	爬行动物
3. Sears Tower		西尔斯塔	12. fossil	<i>n.</i>	化石
4. Chicago		芝加哥	13. skeleton	<i>n.</i>	骨架; 骨骼
5. hike	<i>v.</i>	远足; 徒步旅行	14. press	<i>v.</i>	压
6. gray	<i>adj.</i>	灰色的	15. trace	<i>n.</i>	痕迹
7. shallow	<i>adj.</i>	浅的	16. range	<i>n.</i>	山脉
8. dinosaur	<i>n.</i>	恐龙	17. bone	<i>n.</i>	骨
9. footprint	<i>n.</i>	足迹; 脚印	18. insect	<i>n.</i>	昆虫

The Painted Desert¹

(注释见第 11 页)



Meteor Crater²

Not every landform³ takes millions of years to develop. Meteor Crater was made in minutes. Meteor Crater is three-quarters of a mile wide and almost 600 feet deep. It was gouged⁴ out long ago, when a gigantic⁵ meteor slammed⁶ into Earth! I'm glad I wasn't around to see that! Now, on to the plateaus. This landform rises steeply⁷ above the surrounding land.

The Plateau Region

In this region the land takes on some fantastic⁸ shapes. Wind and water has eroded⁹, or worn away, the huge Colorado Plateau¹⁰. The small, flat-topped landforms and towers of rock that were formed are called mesas¹¹ and buttes¹². Some rise 1,000 feet straight up.

Adding dramatic¹³ color to this region is the Painted Desert. For almost 150 miles, it looks like an artist has drawn lines of blue, lilac¹⁴, red, and yellow in the rocks. But all of this beauty is natural. The desert is especially beautiful at sunrise and sunset when the colors are the brightest.

A place you can't see, but it is there—is the Great Divide¹⁵. On one side of the Great Divide all rivers flow east into the Gulf of Mexico¹⁶ and the Atlantic Ocean. On the other side all rivers flow west to the Pacific Ocean.

Mountains of Rock

The land is getting much higher now.

It is almost 5,000 feet higher than it was at the Colorado River.

Off to the north are the peaks¹⁷ of the great Rocky Mountain Range¹⁸. The Rockies are young for mountains. Young mountains are tall and have sharp peaks. As mountains age, their peaks erode. Old mountains are rounded and lower.

If we were to stand at the foot of the Rockies, we would be 6,000 feet above sea level¹⁹. Wheeler Peak²⁰, New Mexico's highest mountain, is 13,161 feet. At these heights, winter snows might begin in September or even in August. All winter long the snow piles up, making this area a snowboarder's²¹ paradise²².

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Painted Desert | | 佩恩蒂德沙漠 |
| 2. Meteor Crater | | 流星陨石坑 |
| 3. landform | <i>n.</i> | 地貌 |
| 4. gouge | <i>v.</i> | 开凿 挖出 |
| 5. gigantic | <i>adj.</i> | 巨大的 |
| 6. slam | <i>v.</i> | 猛烈撞击 |
| 7. steeply | <i>adv.</i> | 陡峭地 |
| 8. fantastic | <i>adj.</i> | 奇异的 |
| 9. erode | <i>v.</i> | 侵蚀 |
| 10. Colorado Plateau | | 科罗拉多高原 |
| 11. mesa | <i>n.</i> | 平顶山 台地 |
| 12. butte | <i>n.</i> | 孤山 孤峰 |
| 13. dramatic | <i>adj.</i> | 给人深刻印象的 |
| 14. lilac | <i>n.</i> | 淡紫色 |
| 15. Great Divide | | 大分水岭 |
| 16. Gulf of Mexico | | 墨西哥湾 |
| 17. peak | <i>n.</i> | 山峰 山尖 |
| 18. Rocky Mountain Range | | 落基山脉 |
| 19. sea level | | 海平面 |
| 20. Wheeler Peak | | 惠勒峰 |
| 21. snowboarder | <i>n.</i> | 滑雪板运动爱好者 |
| 22. paradise | <i>n.</i> | 天堂 |
| 23. crystal | <i>n.</i> | 晶体 |
| 24. glitter | <i>v.</i> | 闪闪发光 |
| 25. Petrified Forest National Park | | 石化木森林国家公园 |

Luis's Picks

A Petrified Place



Would you like to see a forest that has been turned into solid rock with huge crystals²³ that glitter²⁴ like fine jewels? Just head for the Petrified Forest National Park²⁵ in Arizona. It has one of the largest collections of fossilized wood in the world.



Luis's Picks

A Wet and Wild River

If you love white-water rafting, the Rio Grande is the place to go. In the canyons of New Mexico and in Big Bend National Park¹⁰ in Texas, you can find great places to ride the rapids.

The Rivers

Each spring the snow melts¹, and water trickles² down the mountains. Brooks³ flow together to form rivers. The Rio Grande (which is Spanish for “big river”) begins to the north in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. In New Mexico the river flows out of the mountains. It passes through rugged⁴ canyons and onto flat plains as it journeys to the Gulf of Mexico. For 1,240 miles it forms the border that separates Mexico from Texas and the United States. But for its entire⁵ length⁶ of 1,885 miles, the Rio Grande provides water for the people, plants, and animals that live along it.

The Southwest has other rivers, too. The San Juan and Pecos rivers⁷ supply New Mexico with water. The Arkansas River⁸ is the main river in Oklahoma. The Red River⁹ borders Texas and Oklahoma. Texas has over 5,000 square miles of inland water. The Southwest may be dry, but it is wet too!

- | | | | | |
|------------|------|------|----------------------------|---------|
| 1. melt | v. | 融化 | 7. San Juan and | 圣胡安河 |
| 2. trickle | v. | 滴, 淌 | Pecos rivers | 和佩科斯河 |
| 3. brook | n. | 小溪 | 8. Arkansas River | 阿肯色河 |
| 4. rugged | adj. | 崎岖的 | 9. Red River | 雷德河 |
| 5. entire | adj. | 整个的 | 10. Big Bend National Park | 大本德国家公园 |
| 6. length | n. | 长度 | 11. Rio Grande | 里奥格兰德河 |



The Great Plains¹

The Great Plains is a vast landform that stretches² from south Texas north into Canada. The rolling³ grassland slopes⁴ gently down from the foot of the Rocky Mountains to the woodlands of eastern Oklahoma and Texas.

Thousands of barking⁵ prairie dogs⁶ built towns that stretched for miles. Early settlers had to travel all the way around a prairie dog town. Their horses or oxen could break a leg in the prairie dogs' holes.

The Great Plains is the home of grass-loving animals. Once, huge herds⁷ of buffalo⁸ roamed⁹ these plains. Native Americans and early settlers hunted buffalo. In the 1800s buffalo herds were so thick that they stopped wagon trains¹⁰ for hours! It was like today's traffic jams¹¹.

Talking about traffic jams, it's time to move on. Let's see how the people in the Southwest use the land and the region's natural resources to earn a living.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|--------|--------------------------------|----|-------------|
| 1. Great Plains | | 大平原 | 9. roam | v. | 游荡 |
| 2. stretch | v. | 伸展 | 10. wagon train | | 马车队 |
| 3. rolling | adj. | 起伏的 | 11. traffic jam | | 交通阻塞 |
| 4. slope | v. | 倾斜 | 12. Tallgrass Prairie Reserve | | 高草(大)草原保护区 |
| 5. bark | v. | 犬吠 | 13. Woolaroc Wildlife Preserve | | 伍拉罗克野生生物保护区 |
| 6. prairie dog | | 草原土拨鼠 | 14. settler | n. | 移居者 |
| 7. herd | n. | 兽群 | | | |
| 8. buffalo | n. | 水牛, 野牛 | | | |

Buffalo Tales

Would you like to see buffalo today? Go to the Tallgrass Prairie Reserve¹² and the nearby Woolaroc Wildlife Preserve¹³ in Oklahoma. When the settlers¹⁴ first traveled west, there were over 20,000,000 buffalo. By the late 1800s there were fewer than 1,000. Today there are about 200,000 buffalo.