

to our camp at the base of the cliff, and decided to continue searching for a way up in the morning.

## CHAPTER 5

IT TOOK US SIX DAYS TO WALK AROUND THE CLIFFS. FINALLY, WE had to admit that there was no way to climb to the top. That night, we gathered around the campfire gloomily and ate our dinner in silence. Challenger spent most of the evening with his head in his hands; he seemed to be in deep thought. The following morning, the professor was in much better spirits. 'Gentlemen!' he cried, once we'd all woken up, 'I have found a way up!'

'You have?' said Lord John.

'I think so,' said the professor.

He pointed to a large column of rock to the right of where we stood – the rock was separated from the cliffs by a huge chasm. 'All we have to do is climb to the top of this rock, then we'll cross the chasm and get to the plateau.'

'How will we cross the chasm?' I asked.

'I'll tell you how when we've reached the top,' said Challenger.

With our ropes, clamps and other devices, we began the difficult climb to the top of the rock. An hour later, we'd reached the summit. The view from the top was spectacular; we could see the entire plain as well as a line of green forest stretching into the distance.

I was still admiring the view when Professor Challenger's heavy hand fell upon my shoulder.

'This way,' he said.

I followed him to an enormous beech tree.

'By George!' cried Lord John. 'We're going to make a bridge!'

'Exactly,' said Challenger. 'The tree is at least sixty feet high; if it falls the right way, we can easily cross the chasm.'

Challenger handed me an axe. 'Now my young friend, please cut down the tree,' he said.

After an hour of chopping, we heard a loud crack – the tree swayed to one side, then crashed to the ground. The trunk rolled to the edge of the platform, and there was our bridge to the unknown.

'Now I will cross the bridge first,' said Challenger.

Lord John looked alarmed. 'Wait,' he said, 'I can't allow that; there could be cannibals waiting for us on the other side. Malone and I will go down, collect the rifles and some provisions and bring





the two guides back up with us.'  
Challenger agreed reluctantly. Two hours later, we had climbed down to the camp and returned with guns, food and the two guides. Wasting no time, Challenger carefully made his way across the bridge. Once he'd reached the other side, he jumped off and waved his arms in the air. 'At last! At last!' he cried.

Summerlee, Lord John and I followed. Before long, the four of us were in Maple White's lost world. But our moment of triumph was followed by something quite unexpected. As we were making our way through the thick trees and shrubs, we heard a loud crash. We rushed back to the edge of the cliff and found that our bridge was gone!

We saw Gomez standing on the column of rock, his face full of hatred. 'Lord John?' he cried. 'I have waited for this moment for a long time; I finally have my revenge! You killed my brother Lopez on the Putomayo River five years ago, and now you will die! All of you fools will die!'

We stared at Gomez in horror and amazement. He laughed, then quickly began climbing down the rock. Lord John raced along the cliff edge – he picked up his rifle and fired. We heard a scream, and then the sound of a falling body.

Lord John hurried back to where we were standing. 'I'm terribly sorry this has happened,' he said. 'I remember Gomez's brother, he was a thief who tried to attack me one night. I had no choice but to kill him.'

Our traitor was gone, but we were trapped. There was no way we could cross the chasm. A little while later, Zambo climbed up the rock. 'Manuel has run away,' he said. 'He helped Gomez destroy your bridge. I tried to catch him, but it was too late. The Indians want to leave too; they are afraid of *Curupuri*.'

'Tell them to go and get help!' said Lord John.

Zambo nodded. He threw us some more provisions and ammunition, then returned to the camp. We set up our own camp at the edge of the cliff, and surrounded it with thorny bushes. I looked into the dark chasm that separated us from civilisation – our situation was hopeless.

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The following morning, we decided to explore the lost world. 'We don't know who or what lives here, so we must be careful,' warned Professor Challenger. We made our way through the forest and arrived at a stream where we saw an enormous three-toed footprint in the mud. Lord John examined the footprint. 'It's fresh,' he said. 'And look, there are small ones too.'

'What could have made it?' I asked. 'Was it a reptile?' Challenger shook his head. 'It could only have been made by a dinosaur.'

We stared at the footprint for a moment, then continued our journey through the bushes to an open glade, where we came upon five of the most extraordinary creatures I have ever seen.

'Iguanodons?' whispered Challenger. We crouched behind the bushes and watched the creatures in disbelief. There were two adults and three young ones; their skin was grey and covered in scales, and they were enormous. Even the little ones were as large as elephants. We watched in silent wonder as the little ones played and the adults ate leaves from a nearby tree. A short while later, the creatures disappeared into the forest.

'I can't believe this!' said Summerlee. 'Challenger, I'm so sorry I doubted you!'

'No one at home will ever believe this,' said Lord John. 'Then we need proof,' said Summerlee. We continued our journey through the woods and came to an opening in the trees. Suddenly a loud whistling noise filled the air. We carried on until we reached a line of rocks – beneath us was a large pit filled with pterodactyls. Lord John motioned to us to be quiet and we observed the horrible creatures in quiet amazement. They had huge, leathery wings, sharp beaks and red eyes, and there were at least a thousand of them. The smell that came from the pit was unbearable.

We watched the creatures for some time, then made our way back to our camp. But there was another surprise in store for us: when we got to the camp, we found our belongings had been scattered everywhere.

'What could have done this?' I asked.





Challenger shook his head. 'I don't know.'  
We gazed with frightened eyes at the dark shadows that surrounded us – who or what was watching us?



## CHAPTER 6

WHEN I WOKE UP THE FOLLOWING MORNING, I HAD A strong feeling that something evil was watching us. My companions and I spent the whole day at the camp, too afraid to leave. We fell asleep before nightfall, but were awakened in the early hours of the morning by high-pitched screams. I jumped to my feet and listened as the cries echoed all around us. Moments later, there was silence.

'What was that?' I whispered.

'I think it was a dinosaur attacking another dinosaur,' said Challenger. 'They hunt at night.'

In the morning, we made a horrible discovery: the family of iguanodonts had been killed and the glade was covered in blood. Professor Challenger examined the scene. 'A large, carnivorous dinosaur must have done this,' he said.

Lord John glanced around nervously. 'Let's not make too much noise,' he said. 'The dinosaur might come back.'

We decided to make a map of the surrounding area, and began by exploring the nearby forests. I have spoken a great deal about the





## CHAPTER 5 Reading Comprehension

### 1 Match the two halves of the sentences.

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. The professor thought     | a. was a dinosaur footprint.       |
| 2. Challenger and his men    | b. and a pit full of pterodactyls. |
| 3. Edward cut down           | c. someone was watching them.      |
| 4. Gomez was a traitor,      | d. of a way to cross the chasm.    |
| 5. The first thing the men   | e. climbed to the top of a big     |
| discovered in the forest     | f. a tree to make a bridge to the  |
| 6. As they explored, the men | lost world.                        |
| saw iguanadons               | g. and Lord John had to kill       |
| 7. Back at the camp, they    | him.                               |
| thought that                 |                                    |

### 2 Write the names.

1. He felt a hand on his shoulder as he was admiring the view from the top of the rock.
2. He feared there was danger on the other side.
3. He was the one to cross the bridge to the cliffs first.
4. He wanted revenge, so he destroyed the bridge to trap the men.
5. He tried to catch someone who ran away.
6. He apologised to Challenger for doubting him.
7. He made a signal to his friends to remain quiet.

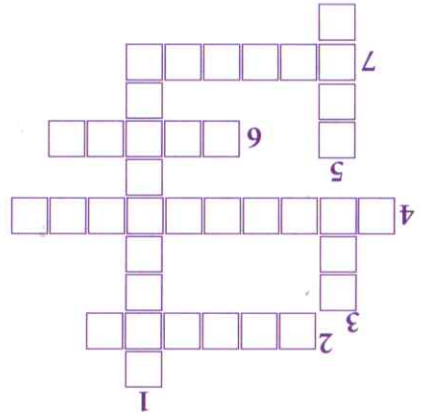
### Vocabulary

#### 3 Complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

spectacular allow admit stare whispering disappear mud

1. This year's fireworks display was \_\_\_\_\_; everyone really enjoyed it.
2. They were \_\_\_\_\_ as they were walking up the stairs, because the children were sleeping.
3. My parents do not \_\_\_\_\_ me to play computer games if I haven't tidied my bedroom.
4. Ted had been helping his father in the garden all morning and was totally covered in \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4 Do the crossword.



1. Not easy
2. The top part of a hill or mountain
3. A tool for chopping wood etc.
4. Things that you own
5. To move very quickly
6. A fully grown person or animal
7. Not making a sound

### Follow-up activities

#### 5 Discuss.

1. Do you think the professor's idea was good? Have you ever had a great idea when faced with a difficult situation? What was it?
2. The professor wanted to cross the bridge but Lord John held him back because he thought there might be danger ahead. Do you think that Lord John was right? What kind of dangers might be there?
3. Are you surprised that Gomez betrayed the team? Why / Why not? How do you think that the men are going to get back now that Gomez has destroyed the bridge?
4. Now there is clear proof that Challenger was telling the truth. How do you think they are going to show this proof to the rest of the world? What would you do in their place?
5. Who do you think entered to the men's camp? Do you think the men are still in danger?

#### 6 Imagine you are Professor Challenger and that you keep a diary of your adventures. Write a page in your diary describing what happened on the day you finally made it to the lost world. (100-120 words)