

JANA SEDLÁČKOVÁ, ALICE BUCKINGHAM

TRAVEL AROUND ASIA



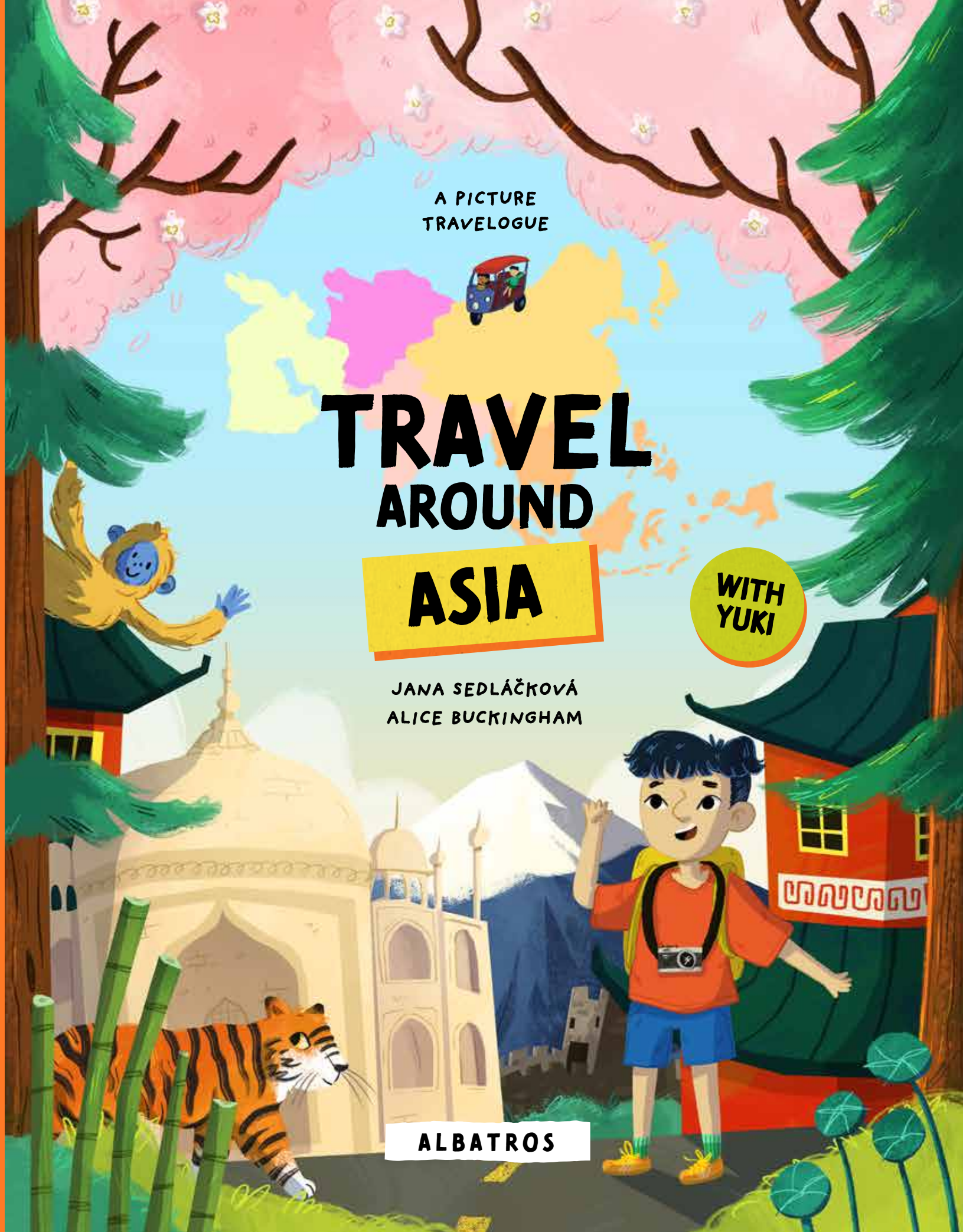
A PICTURE
TRAVELOGUE

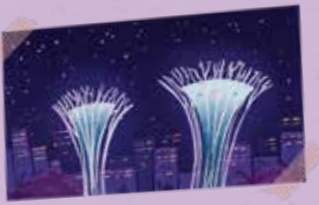
TRAVEL AROUND ASIA

WITH
YUKI

JANA SEDLÁČKOVÁ
ALICE BUCKINGHAM

ALBATROS





WHAT CAN YOU FIND OUT IN THIS BOOK?



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CHOCOLATE HILLS OF BOHOL ISLAND

TOO BAD THEY ARE NOT MADE OF REAL CHOCOLATE!

WIDTH: 400 FT; HEIGHT: 100-160 FT

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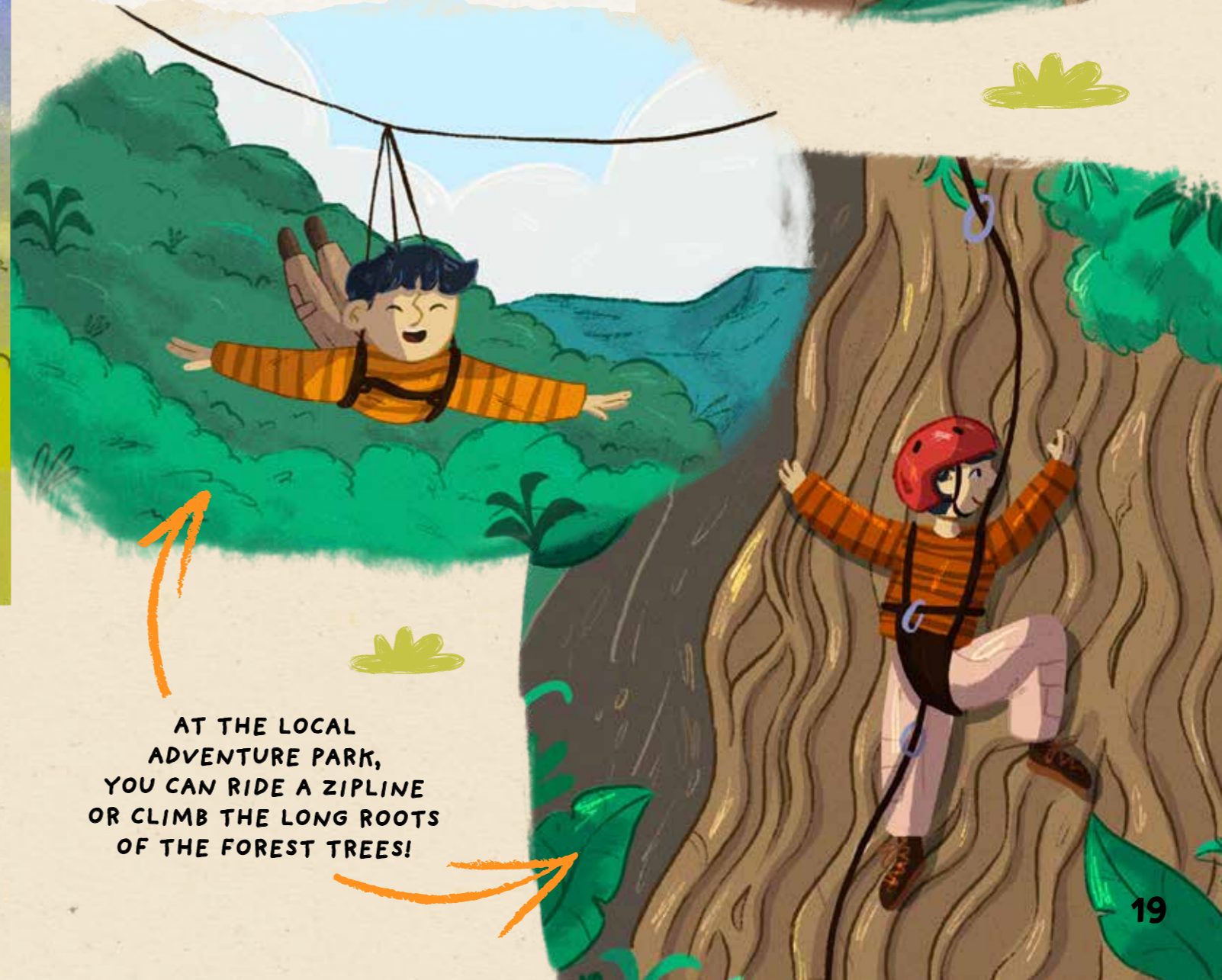
SYMMETRICAL MOUNDS

I would never have believed that nature could create something so amazing – about 1,300 unusual cone-shaped mounds that resemble each other and turn brown every year during the dry season (February to May), looking like big scoops of chocolate ice cream. Then, in the rainy season, their grassy slopes turn green again.

LEGEND HAS IT THAT THEY ARE THE FOSSILIZED TEARS OF A MYTHICAL GIANT.

CUTENESS OVERLOAD!

A unique island landscape is home to this adorable little monkey with wide bulging eyes – a primate small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. It's called the Philippine tarsier, and it's one of the smallest primates in the world. This is especially funny when you consider that we humans are primates too! Anyways, this kind is super shy, so you should never try to touch it because any touch, noise, or even a camera flash will make it worried. It likes to nap peacefully in the trees all day, waking up only when it's dark outside – which is called being "nocturnal."



AT THE LOCAL ADVENTURE PARK, YOU CAN RIDE A ZIPLINE OR CLIMB THE LONG ROOTS OF THE FOREST TREES!



HONG KONG LION AND DRAGON DANCE FESTIVAL

9 TO 15 DANCERS HIDDEN INSIDE



HEAR THEM ROAR!

GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

On January 1, 2011, a total of 1,111 lions and dragons walked around Hong Kong!

DRAGONS IN CHINA SYMBOLIZE POWER AND COURAGE.

NOISY AND COLORFUL

Lion and dragon dance festivals are held regularly throughout China, especially during Chinese New Year. I went straight to the biggest one in the busy streets of Hong Kong. It's a really fun spectacle!

Dancers in colorful costumes march to the sound of drums, gongs, and firecrackers exploding everywhere. The dragons and lions they bring to life represent legendary animals (as lions never lived in ancient China, their existence was only whispered about back then). They are said to bring people good luck in the New Year and to drive away evil spirits.

YIPPEEE! HAPPINESS ALL YEAR LONG GUARANTEED!



EMPOWER YOURSELF!

Many lion dancers are also Kung Fu masters. Intrigued, I decided to learn some of their moves. During my first lesson, I discovered that Kung Fu isn't just about fighting – it's about mastering any skill through hard work and practice. So, if I struggle with kicks and punches, I could always become a master at flower arranging instead!

HOW TO ATTRACT A LION

Each lion performance lasts about 15 minutes and demands a lot of energy and focus from the dancers. To grab the lion's attention, you can prepare a head of lettuce and hide a red envelope with a bit of money inside. The lion will perform some amazing acrobatics as a thank-you for your gift, and then suddenly grab the lettuce and envelope... And guess what? After munching down the treat, the lion keeps the envelope but spits out the lettuce leaves. If they touch you, it's a good sign – you'll be blessed with lots of luck and money for the whole year!

BRUCE LEE WAS A REAL KUNG FU MASTER!



RELEASE YOUR INNER DRAGON

Kung Fu is an art that focuses on the gradual growth of a person in both body and mind. It's not just about being skilled; it's about being patient and, most importantly, finding joy in movement. If you want to try it too, check out these pictures I drew.



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THE LOST CITY OF ANGKOR WAT

WHERE HAVE ALL THE INHABITANTS GONE?

ATTENTION!

YOU'LL NEED THE FOLLOW PROPER DRESS CODE: INDIANA JONES'S HAT, HIS WHIP, HIS LEATHER JACKET, HIS SACHEL FOR ARTIFACTS, AND... JUST KIDDING! YOU DON'T NEED TO DRESS LIKE INDIANA JONES, BUT YOU DO NEED TO COVER YOUR KNEES AND SHOULDERS, AS THIS IS A SACRED PLACE.



A DROUGHT AND A FLOOD

My friend Rani and I went to explore the ancient Khmer temple of Angkor Wat in modern-day Cambodia. One of my favorite movies, Tomb Raider, was filmed there. Even though I know it was just a made-up story, the whole place had a mysterious atmosphere that reminded me of movie adventures.

Believe it or not, back in the 15th century, Angkor Wat, the capital of the ancient Khmer Empire, was the largest metropolis in the world! Sadly, though, after years of very little rain – called a drought – flooding caused everyone to leave the city. For many centuries, it was mostly forgotten, swallowed whole by the trees and vines of the jungle. Except for a few Buddhist monks who came here to meditate in silence, you wouldn't find a soul. It wasn't rediscovered until a French explorer arrived in 1860.

- The Angkor Wat temple is the largest religious place in the world (size: 400 acres = over 300 American football fields).
- It was first made to look like Mount Meru, the mythical home of the Hindu gods.
- Climbing those tall and steep stairs must have been tough, showing how hard it was to reach the gods' kingdom.
- Only very important people were allowed to go up to the highest floors.

- The towers look like pretty lotus flowers.
- No machines were used to build it – 300,000 workers from the ancient Khmer kingdom did it all by hand with the help of 600 elephants, moving tons of limestone through the jungle.
- The temple lines up perfectly with the stars and planets.
- The towers used to shine with gold on them.



LIKE A TOMB RIDER!

Rani had a brilliant idea. Among the ruins of the Ta Prohm Temple and the massive roots of a giant fig tree, we played hide and seek! It was super fun. When Rani popped out from around the corner and shouted "Boo!" at me, I got so scared that I almost climbed all the way up those twisted roots!



1860: A global sensation! French naturalist Henri Mouhot has discovered a magnificent lost city in the heart of the overgrown Cambodian jungle!
#followthebutterfly, #luckyday, #lostcityfound

At another temple in the city, called Bayon, you will find several smiling statues. Why are they smiling, you may ask? Well, they were made during a time when Buddhists lived here. So they might all be stone Buddhas smiling with compassion and happiness.



CHEESE! 



I WAS BLESSED BY A VERY FRIENDLY BUDDHIST MONK... MAYBE ONE DAY I'LL DISCOVER A LOST CITY TOO!

RICE FIELDS IN BANAUE

THE HIGHEST TERRACES OFFER SPECTACULAR VIEWS!

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TOTAL AREA: 4,000 SQUARE MILES

THE LOCAL RICE TERRACES STRETCH FROM THE FOOTHILLS OF THE MOUNTAINS UP TO 5,000 FEET.

EMERALD-GREEN HARDWORK

Wow, these fields are really huge! The first farmers began making these special gardens over 2,000 years ago, high in the mountains of the Philippines' largest island. Ugh, let me tell you, it must have been a lot of work! They used simple tools to build walls made of dirt that followed the shape of the hills. They started at the bottom and worked their way up, making one field after another, all the way to the top, where the rainforest begins.

A BAMBOO STICK – EVERY HIKER'S STEADY (AND STEADYING) COMPANION!

SOPHISTICATED CANAL SYSTEM

The rainforest is the source of many streams that are necessary for farmers to grow rice. Since rice is a pretty thirsty plant – it needs tons of water! – this situation is quite challenging. But the farmers – smart as they are – have figured it out over the centuries. They simply use bamboo pipes and canals to carefully move the water from one field to another. Whoever first came up with this idea must have been a real brainiac!

WOW!
I READ IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER THAT IF WE SPREAD THE TERRACES OUT IN LENGTH, THEY WOULD ENCIRCLE HALF THE GLOBE.

TIP!

If you want to see the bright-green color of the fields, visit the terraces between March and June. Later, at harvest time, the fields slowly turn brown. And after the harvest, they are just big – but beautiful! – brown puddles.

AN OLD FILIPINO WOMAN CLEANS RICE IN A TRADITIONAL STRAW BOWL





A PICTURE
TRAVELOGUE

TRAVEL AROUND ASIA

DID YOU KNOW THAT DRAGONS STILL LIVE ON KOMODO ISLAND? WHAT SECRET INGREDIENT WAS USED TO GLUE THE STONES OF THE GREAT WALL TOGETHER?

THIS BOOK PROVIDES A FUN AND ENGAGING WAY TO LEARN ABOUT THE DIVERSE LANDSCAPES AND CULTURES OF ASIA. WITH VIVID ILLUSTRATIONS AND FASCINATING FACTS, IT'S SURE TO INSPIRE YOUNG EXPLORERS TO DREAM OF VISITING THESE AMAZING PLACES SOMEDAY!

9+

TARGET
GROUP



SOCIAL
EDUCATION



FUN TO READ



VOCABULARY



LEARNING

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