

Hueber Lektüren

# The Cave of the Jaguar

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## The adventure begins

The light from Jim's torch didn't reach far along the dark tunnel. Jim was afraid but he knew he must hurry. He hoped he was in the right tunnel. He had to get out of the cave and find someone – anyone – to help.

For just a moment, he thought, *Am I really in a cave in the middle of Guatemala?* He almost laughed but it was the laughter of fear, not happiness.

Jim hurried along the tunnel for a few more minutes, and then he stopped. What was that sound?

Footsteps!

Jim turned off his torch and hid behind a large rock. They were footsteps of men wearing heavy shoes or boots.

*Oh no – the thieves must be coming back!*

The footsteps got closer. Then Jim heard a man speaking English. The man was angry. Jim didn't move. Light from two torches shone on the roof and walls of the tunnel. Jim hoped the rock was large enough. The men came closer and closer. Jim was more afraid than he'd ever been in his life. He thought of how he came to be here ...

'Be careful, Jimmy,' his mother Julie said. 'And remember, you can call me any time, day or night.' Jim's mother and his girlfriend Katie were at the airport to say goodbye.

'I'll be okay, Ma,' Jim said. He smiled at her. 'Don't worry.'

'I know you'll be okay, but I'm your mother. Of course I'll worry.'

Jim smiled. 'But I'll be with Uncle Simon, Ma.'

'That's another thing to worry about. We don't really know him, do we? He's a mystery. He moves from country to country all the time. What does he do in all those jungles and mountains

# Activities

## Chapters 1 and 2

### Before you read

A. Look at the picture on page 5 and circle the correct answers.

1. Which word best describes the look on the young man's face?  
a. angry   b. happy   c. scared
2. What do you think he is doing?  
a. hiding   b. playing a game   c. waiting for his friends

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

cool   clearing   signal   jungle

1. On both sides of the river there is thick \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Your new sunglasses make you look very \_\_\_\_\_!
3. We came to a \_\_\_\_\_ in the forest and stopped for lunch.
4. In the mountains, my phone doesn't get any \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Listen to Track 3 on the CD and answer these questions.

1. Who was at the airport with Jim?  
a. his mother and his girlfriend   b. his uncle
2. Where did Jim's Uncle Simon live?  
a. in Canada   b. in a number of different countries
3. Whose brother was Uncle Simon?  
a. Jim's mother's   b. Jim's father's

### After you read

#### COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. How long was Jim going to Guatemala for?  
a. three days   b. three weeks   c. three months
2. How did Jim get from Guatemala City to Rio Dulce?  
a. by taxi   b. by bus   c. by plane
3. When Jim arrived in Rio Dulce, how did he feel?  
a. excited   b. tired and hungry   c. very scared
4. When he arrived in Rio Dulce, who did Jim want to ring?  
a. Katie   b. his uncle   c. his mother

## The village of the jaguar

'I'd like to have a shower. Where can I have one?' Jim asked Simon in the morning.

'Follow me,' Simon said. They walked along a path through the jungle to a small river. A short way along, there was a waterfall. 'There's your shower,' said Simon.

That evening, Jim wrote an email to Katie.

*Hi Katie*

*I wish you were here. It's very different from Vancouver. My shower is a waterfall! This village is very small. There are no shops or anything. The villagers live in small huts with dirt floors. And I do too. There's no electricity. Simon has a generator that he sometimes turns on. We use it for our phones and for Simon's computer. But the villagers don't like the noise of the generator so Simon doesn't use it very often. We use candles at night and we go to bed early. I like being here, but I miss you.*

*Jim*

The next morning, Jim saw some children playing football in the clearing.

'Hey, Gringo!' one boy shouted in English. He was a few years younger than Jim. 'Do you play football?' The boy kicked the ball to Jim, who kicked it back.

'Good kick, Gringo!' the boy laughed. 'You can play with us.'

Jim was happy to play, but before long he had to sit down. It was too hot to play football.

After the game, the friendly boy came and sat with Jim. The other children left the clearing.

‘Hello, Gringo,’ said the boy. ‘My name is Gabor.’

‘I’m Jim. You speak English very well.’ Jim said.

‘Thank you,’ Gabor replied. ‘Simon helps me. He said you will help me too.’

‘Of course I will,’ said Jim.

Each day, Jim and Gabor walked in the jungle or played football. They spoke English when they were together. They tried speaking Spanish, but Jim’s Spanish was much worse than Gabor’s English. Jim tried to learn some Mayan words but the words were very hard to say.

One thing Jim wanted to do in Guatemala was to photograph the local animals. One day he asked Simon, ‘Can I go into the jungle to take some photos?’

Simon looked at his nephew. ‘Of course. It’s not for me to say what you can and can’t do here. But it’s best to stay on the paths, and watch where you walk.’

‘Why?’ asked Jim.

Simon replied, ‘Well, it’s easy to get lost in the jungle. The plants grow thick, so you can’t see far. And there are some big spiders and dangerous snakes in Guatemala. But remember, spiders and snakes are afraid of people, so make a lot of noise and try not to step on them.’

‘Big spiders?’ Jim asked in a small voice. He wasn’t afraid of snakes but he really hated spiders.

Simon nodded and smiled. ‘Black, hairy spiders as big as this,’ he said, holding up his open hand. ‘Tarantulas.’

Jim thought of the tarantulas he’d seen in movies. He hoped he never saw one in real life.

But that didn’t stop him going into the jungle. On his first walk, he saw a black and white bird with a big, colourful beak – a toucan. He took several good photographs before the toucan flew away.

Then one day, he found something in the jungle. He told Katie about it in an email.

## The eye of the jaguar

‘We must find the gold eye!’ one of the men said. ‘No one will want to buy the jaguar without it.’

‘Sorry, Mr Martinelli,’ the other man said. ‘The eye must have fallen out of the statue when I hit that PAL agent with it.’

‘You did what? Oh, you’re an idiot.’

‘Yes, Mr Martinelli. Sorry, Mr Martinelli.’

The men were standing next to the big rock. Jim didn’t move.

‘What’s that?’ Martinelli said.

Jim thought, *No – they’ve seen me!*

But then Martinelli’s accomplice said, ‘It’s the eye! I’ll get it.’

Jim heard one man take a few steps. ‘Yes!’ the man said.

Martinelli said, ‘Come on, Doug. Let’s get out of here. Alan and Tex will be at the meeting place soon.’

The men began to walk up the tunnel towards the entrance. Jim followed them quietly.

Doug said, ‘I wish we hadn’t ridden that PAL agent’s motorbike into the river. It’s too hot to walk all the way to the meeting place.’

Martinelli replied, ‘We had to. We wanted those villagers to think the PAL agent took the statue. And we didn’t want anyone to use the motorbike to follow us.’

Soon, Martinelli and Doug stood in the sunlight outside the cave. Martinelli held the jade jaguar. Jim could see the statue clearly. It was about thirty centimetres high and was made from one piece of jade. The statue looked more human than animal. It was sitting on its back legs with its front paws on its knees. It had large teeth and big, round eyes. One eye was gold. It shone in the sun. The other eye was an empty hole.

B. Circle T for true or F for false for these sentences.

1. Behind the waterfall was the entrance to a cave. T / F
2. Jim asked the people to take him into the cave. T / F
3. Jim lit a candle to light his way in the cave T / F
4. In the cave, Jim saw statues, pots and wall paintings. T / F

C. Complete these sentences.

1. The cave paintings were half-human, half- \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In the cave, Jim saw five human \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jim stepped back in fright when he saw a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Itzel was the village leader and \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Write short answers to these questions.

1. Who spoke to Jim in English to tell him what Itzel was saying?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did Jim stay all day after Itzel spoke to him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did the local Maya people make for their rain god many years ago?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who did the villagers think had taken the jaguar?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

A. Write the correct conjunctions in the spaces.

so when until but

1. Katie said something \_\_\_\_\_ Jim didn't hear it well.
2. Jim didn't want to meet the men \_\_\_\_\_ he stayed behind a tree.
3. Jim decided to wait \_\_\_\_\_ the men left the pool.
4. The statue was old \_\_\_\_\_ the Spanish came to Guatemala.

B. Use the letters to make words from Chapters 5 and 6. The first letter is given for each word.

1. djae: j \_\_\_\_\_
2. dogl: g \_\_\_\_\_
3. tslee: s \_\_\_\_\_
4. tsneo: s \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think Simon stole the jaguar statue? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_



# Glossary

*adj.* adjective; *n.* noun; *v.* verb

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>ancient</b> /'eɪnf(ə)nt/ <i>adj.</i>         | uralt, aus alten Zeiten  |
| <b>artefact</b> /'ɑ:tɪ,fækt/ <i>n.</i>          | Kulturartefakt   |
| <b>backpack</b> /'bæk,pæk/ <i>n.</i>            | Rucksack   |
| <b>bat</b> /bæt/ <i>n.</i>                      | Fledermaus   |
| <b>bright</b> /braɪt/ <i>adj.</i>               | hell   |
| <b>candle</b> /'kændl/ <i>n.</i>                | Kerze  |
| <b>cave</b> /keɪv/ <i>n.</i>                    | Höhle  |
| <b>cheek</b> /tʃi:k/ <i>n.</i>                  | Wange  |
| <b>Christian</b> /'krɪstʃən/ <i>n.</i>          | Christ   |
| <b>clearing</b> /'kli:nɪŋ/ <i>n.</i>            | Lichtung   |
| <b>coconut</b> /'kəʊkə,nʌt/ <i>n.</i>           | Kokosnuss  |
| <b>craft</b> /krɑ:ft/ <i>n.</i>                 | Handwerk   |
| <b>drove</b> /drəʊv/ <i>v.</i>                  | <i>fuhr</i> ( <i>past tense</i> von <i>drive</i> )                                       |
| <b>duffel bag</b> /'dʌfl ɪ,bæg/ <i>n.</i>       | Reisetasche  |
| <b>entrance</b> /'entrəns/ <i>n.</i>            | Eingang  |
| <b>flew</b> /flu:/ <i>v.</i>                    | <i>flog</i> ( <i>past tense</i> von <i>fly</i> )   |
| <b>footprint</b> /'fʊt,prɪnt/ <i>n.</i>         | Fußabdruck, Fußstapfen   |
| <b>footstep</b> /'fʊtstep/ <i>n.</i>            | Schritt  |
| <b>generator</b> /'dʒenə'reɪtə/ <i>n.</i>       | Stromaggregat  |
| <b>gringo</b> /'grɪŋɡəʊ/ <i>n.</i>              | Gringo ( <i>Abwertende Bezeichnung für eine englischsprachige Person in Südamerika</i> ) |
| <b>gunshot</b> /'ɡʌn,ʃɒt/ <i>n.</i>             | Schuss   |
| <b>hate</b> /heɪt/ <i>v.</i>                    | hassen   |
| <b>helmet</b> /'helmt/ <i>n.</i>                | Helm   |
| <b>hide</b> /haɪd/ <i>v.</i>                    | verstecken   |
| <b>howler monkey</b> /'haʊlə ɪ,mʌŋki/ <i>n.</i> | Brüllaffe  |
| <b>hug</b> /hʌɡ/ <i>v.</i>                      | jd. umarmen  |
| <b>humid</b> /'hju:mɪd/ <i>adj.</i>             | feucht, schwül   |