



U8 Aye-Aye: The Lemur with the “Deadly” Finger



trunk

primary

rare

digs

typical

coast

creature

mental

Off the southeast _____ of Africa, on the island of Madagascar, there lives a _____ with a “demonic” digit. It’s a _____ type of lemur that lives high up in the treetops and is known to locals as an aye-aye.

在非洲東南**海岸**不遠處的馬達加斯加島上住著一種有著「惡魔」手指的**生物**。牠是一種**罕見的**狐猴，住在樹梢高處，當地人稱之為「指猴」。

Aye-ayes have a pointed face, round eyes, and very large ears, which are _____ of lemurs. However, aye-ayes also have a special third finger which is thinner than the others. It is this finger that many local people believe to be unlucky. Aye-ayes use their third finger to tap rapidly on the _____ of a tree. Then they shape their huge ears into cups to better hear the echo of their tapping sounds. By listening to the echoes, the aye-ayes can build a _____ picture of the spaces inside the tree where grubs, its _____ food source, could be lurking. Once an aye-aye hears a grub moving inside a tree, it uses its long front teeth to quickly chew a hole through the tree trunk. When it finds a grub, it puts its longest finger inside the hole and _____ the grub out. 指猴有張尖尖的嘴、圓圓的眼睛和一對大耳朵，這些是狐猴的**典型**特色。然而，指猴還有一根特別的第三指，比其他手指都要來得細。就是這跟手指讓多當地人認為不祥。指猴會用第三指快速地輕敲**樹幹**。然後把牠們的大耳朵捲成杯狀以便將敲擊聲的回音聽得更清楚。藉由聽這些回音，指猴可以在**腦海裡**建構出樹內側的空間圖，那裡是甲蟲幼蟲(指猴的**主要**食物來源)可能潛藏的地方。一旦指猴聽到幼蟲在樹裡面移動，就會用牠的長門牙快速地在樹幹上咬穿一個洞。當牠找到幼蟲就會把最長的手指放進洞裡把蟲**挖**出來。

Legends plight stuck native curse strange
threatened death conservationists terrified

Scientists have two theories about how the aye-aye got its _____ name. The first is that “aye-aye” comes from the Malagasy phrase “heh-heh”, which means “I don’t know.” When _____ people were first asked what the animal was called, they replied, “heh-heh”, and the name _____. 科學家對於指猴這個**奇特**的名字是怎麼來的有兩種看法。一種看法是aye-aye源自於馬達加斯加語彙中的heh-heh，意思是「我不知道」。當地人第一次被問到這種動物叫什麼時，他們回答heh-heh，然後這個名字就**流傳**了下來。

The second theory is that locals were _____ of the aye-aye and would cry “Aye! Aye!” at the sight of one. To this day, many still fear aye-ayes, believing that the animal’s third finger represents the arrival of _____. _____ tell of an aye-aye’s ability to _____ a person simply by pointing at them. It’s no wonder, then, that aye-ayes are often killed on sight. Over time, humans have killed so many aye-ayes and cut down so many trees that these animals have become _____. 第二種看法是當地人很**怕**指猴，看到指猴時會大喊Aye! Aye!。直到今日，許多人仍害怕指猴，認為這種動物的第三指代表**死亡**降臨。**傳說**提到指猴只要指向人就能**詛咒**他們。因此指猴常常一被看到就遭到殺害也就不足為奇。久而久之，人類殺害非常多的指猴且砍伐了非常多的樹林，以致於這些動物已**瀕臨絕種**。

The aye-aye’s _____ has drawn attention from scientists who want to save them. However, it is an uphill battle as many of the locals are unwilling to let go of their fear and hatred of aye-ayes. At any rate, _____ aren’t ready to give up on these unique animals just yet. 指猴的**困境**引起想拯救牠們的科學家的關注。然而，這是一場艱苦奮鬥，因為許多當地人不願意放下他們對指猴的恐懼與怨恨。無論如何，**保育人士**還沒有要放棄這些獨特的動物。