

ED'S BLOG

2nd of April 2008

Camana, Peru

We took an overnight bus from Lima, arriving in Camana early yesterday morning. What did we see when we arrived? To the west, there was the Pacific Ocean. To the east, I was surprised to see lots of desert. I expected to see many surprising things during our journey, but I didn't think we would have to walk through a desert to get to the source of the Amazon River!

We spent yesterday making final preparations for our expedition – we bought some supplies and studied our maps. This morning, we got up early and ate a big breakfast. Then we went down to the beach and put our toes in the Pacific Ocean before we started walking east. The next time we touch an ocean, it will be the Atlantic.



13th of July 2008

It's official. We are now in the jungle. On Thursday afternoon, we turned a corner on the path into a valley and all of a sudden there was the forest. I heard a strange noise. At first I thought it was a chain saw¹ or a lorry², but then I looked up into the trees. Two groups of howler monkeys were screaming. Howler monkeys are one of the loudest animals on the planet. It was a perfect entrance into the forest.

22nd of October 2009

Cho³ and I are hungry and thirsty. The area around the river is impossible to walk through so, unfortunately, we had to move far from the river, where everything is dry. Sometimes we are so thirsty we try to get a few drops of water from the vines in the jungle. Luckily, it sometimes rains a little at night and we can refill our water bags. Many of the smaller rivers are dry. Dry rivers mean no fish, and no fish means no food. We live hand to mouth.

12th of November 2009

Today, while we were walking, I almost stepped on a pit viper. This black and brown poisonous snake looks so similar to the forest floor that it is easy to step on one by accident. It was a miracle it didn't bite me. This was about the 200th snake we have seen but I was still frightened. It reminded me how alone we are in a forest with so many dangerous creatures. The anti-venom⁴ medicine we carry with us only works for 48 hours. If a snake bit one of us, we would have to get the victim to a hospital within two days – that is, if we

could carry him through the jungle on a stretcher. If the snake had bitten me today, I don't know if I would have survived. We are very far away from any hospitals.

35 **10th of December 2009**

Today at 12:49 I just stopped and sat down on my pack. I didn't feel sick or exhausted. Cho understood exactly how I felt. The problem wasn't physical; it was mental. We knew we had another depressing Christmas away from our families ahead of us. We knew it would be spent in the jungle eating farine with salt⁵. We had another seven kilometers to walk before 40 we could sleep and then walk again. Everything seemed so familiar and boring. But we weren't thinking of stopping and giving up; we would both die before coming home as failures.

(I wrote that yesterday and it's funny how different one can feel from day to day. I'll leave it in only because it would give a false impression if Cho and I pretended to be jolly the whole time. Cho and I are fine. Like everyone else, we just have our ups and downs.)

6th of May 2010

For the past two weeks, Cho and I have been walking through cattle ranch⁶ after cattle ranch. Dirt roads connect these ranches, so walking 50 has been easy and we have made great progress. But aren't we meant to be in the middle of the Amazon jungle? This whole area used to be dense⁷ tropical forest!

It's important to understand that the Amazon 55 Rainforest is not an endless resource – if people continue to cut it down, then one day it will all be gone.

9th of August 2010

Maruda, Brazil – The Atlantic Ocean!!!!

60 This is the best day of my life so far. Cho and I walked from midday Sunday straight through the night and arrived at the Atlantic Ocean at 9:00 this morning. We walked 85 km in 21 hours. Feelings? Almost impossible to describe. 65 I thought I'd be disappointed but I wasn't. Standing with Cho, looking at the Atlantic Ocean, I was close to tears. I'll never forget this day. No one can ever take it away from me.



F 1 Answer the questions.

1. Ed describes many different feelings during his journey. Find an example of each of the following feelings in Ed's blog: surprised, frightened, depressed.
2. Read the blog entry for the 10th of December 2009 again. What information in exercise C on page 11 could help explain Ed's feelings on that day?
3. Why do you think Ed wrote about the cattle ranches? (lines 47-57)
4. How did Ed feel when he reached the Atlantic Ocean?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

C Read about Ed Stafford. Why did he go on this expedition?

*This excerpt will help you with question 2

ED STAFFORD – On August 9, 2010 Ed Stafford became the first person to hike the whole length of the Amazon River. He walked over 6,000 kilometers, climbing steep mountains and fighting his way through the jungle. Ed thought it would take him a year, but it took him 860 days – more than twice as long! For Ed, the expedition was more than just an adventure. He hoped his journey would show people how amazing and important the Amazon Rainforest is. He wrote a blog to get people to pay attention to the Amazon.

Inter  **2** Use what you have learned about inferring to answer the following questions in your notebook.

1. Choose the TWO correct answers.
From the first two entries of the blog, we can understand that
 - a. the final preparations took a long time
 - b. Ed couldn't drive to the beginning of the river
 - c. the howler monkeys were dangerous
 - d. Ed had to walk west to reach the river
 - e. it took Ed over three months to reach the rainforest
2. What information in the blog helped you answer the question above?
3. What information in the entry for the 10th of December 2009 helps us understand that Ed was homesick?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____