

PART 1



CHAPTER 1

“Wow, I can’t believe this view,” Lucy said, eyes glued to the small plane’s window as thousands of trees passed below. It was the Amazon rain forest, the largest rain forest in the world. She, her friend Oliver, and her parrot, Moe, had flown far to reach this amazing biome in South America. It was even greener than she’d imagined. Best. Summer. Vacation. Ever!

They didn’t come to sight-see, however. Lucy and Oliver’s teacher, Professor Meridian, had given them their first mission as Locators. The Locators were a group of kids who solved problems in the world using maps, technology, and spatial thinking.

Lucy, Oliver, and Moe had been recruited by Professor Meridian to join her special school and the Locators, and now they were finally going on a mission. Lucy was *so* ready to prove to her professor that she could count on Lucy and her team.

Their first mission was to find and protect one of the rain forest’s most endangered species, the jaguar. Deforestation threatened jaguars across the Amazon, and Professor Meridian had received an alert that there’d been an increase in jaguar sightings near towns recently. She’d deployed the Locators to find out what was happening, and Lucy wasn’t about to let her down.

Oliver seemed...less enthusiastic. Ever since they’d reached the Amazon, he’d been nervously checking the plane’s autopilot system and muttering to himself. Usually, Oliver knew everything there was to know about computers and technology, so this was a worrying sign.

“What’s wrong, Oliver?” Lucy asked.

“Um, nothing! Nothing at all. We should arrive any minute.”



Moe popped up from the back seat in a puff of feathers. “Yeah, right! We’re flying in circles.”

“We are?” Lucy said. With only forest in every direction, it was hard to tell.

“I’m a bird, I know a thing or two about flying. If I say we’re lost, it means WE’RE LOST!”

Trying to keep calm, Lucy grabbed her tablet from her backpack and pulled up the map the professor had given them. It showed the route from their hometown to their destination. But without more information, she couldn’t tell where the plane was.

“I don’t get it. We should be close,” Oliver said. “The landing strip is only a tiny distance away on the map. I overrode the autopilot to make the plane circle around, thinking we would see it eventually, but...”

Lucy realized the problem. Nothing was wrong with the map—Oliver just wasn’t reading it right. Although the Amazon on the map didn’t look big, that was because of the map’s scale. The “tiny distance” Oliver saw on the map represented *hundreds* of miles in the real world. Who knew how far away they were?

“*SQUAWK!*” Moe fluttered onto Lucy’s shoulder and pointed to the fuel gauge with his wings. “You better figure out where we need to go soon or else we’ll run out of gas.”

As soon as he said it, the gauge started to blink—it was almost empty! The plane had flown in circles for too long. Now they probably wouldn’t have enough fuel even if they *did* know where to go.

“This is bad,” Oliver said, eyes wide.

“What can we do?” Lucy asked. She searched the vast rain forest below.



Her eyes settled on a clearing near a river. “There,” she said, pointing. “Do you think we can land there?”

“The autopilot system isn’t designed to land without a runway.”

“We’re not going to find a runway in time. It’s either there or in the trees,” Lucy said. She *really* hoped it wouldn’t be in the trees. “I know you can do it.”

Oliver gulped. He flipped some switches and changed some settings. “OK, I’ll try. But it’s going to be bumpy. Everyone, buckle up.”



“See, that was easy,” Lucy said as she climbed out of the cockpit. They’d managed to land, but one glance at the plane and she knew it was wrecked.

“Oh no,” Oliver groaned, “our equipment is ruined. We’re doomed!” He rummaged around inside the plane before coming out with the phone Professor Meridian had given them. “Even the phone is busted.”

Lucy frowned at Oliver’s dramatics, then took stock of the surroundings: dense foliage and underbrush. Birds sang from the treetops (Moe squawked back). In the distance loomed a single, jagged peak.

“Doomed!” Oliver fell to his knees. “We have no clue where we are and there’s jungle for miles in every direction.”

“*SQUAWK*,” Moe said. “You humans may be doomed, but for me this is a hot vacation spot.”

“Everyone keep calm.” Lucy pressed a button on her tablet. “We’ll ask Professor Meridian for help on this instead.” The tablet crackled to life. Luckily, the professor had modified it before their mission to receive a signal even in the most remote areas.

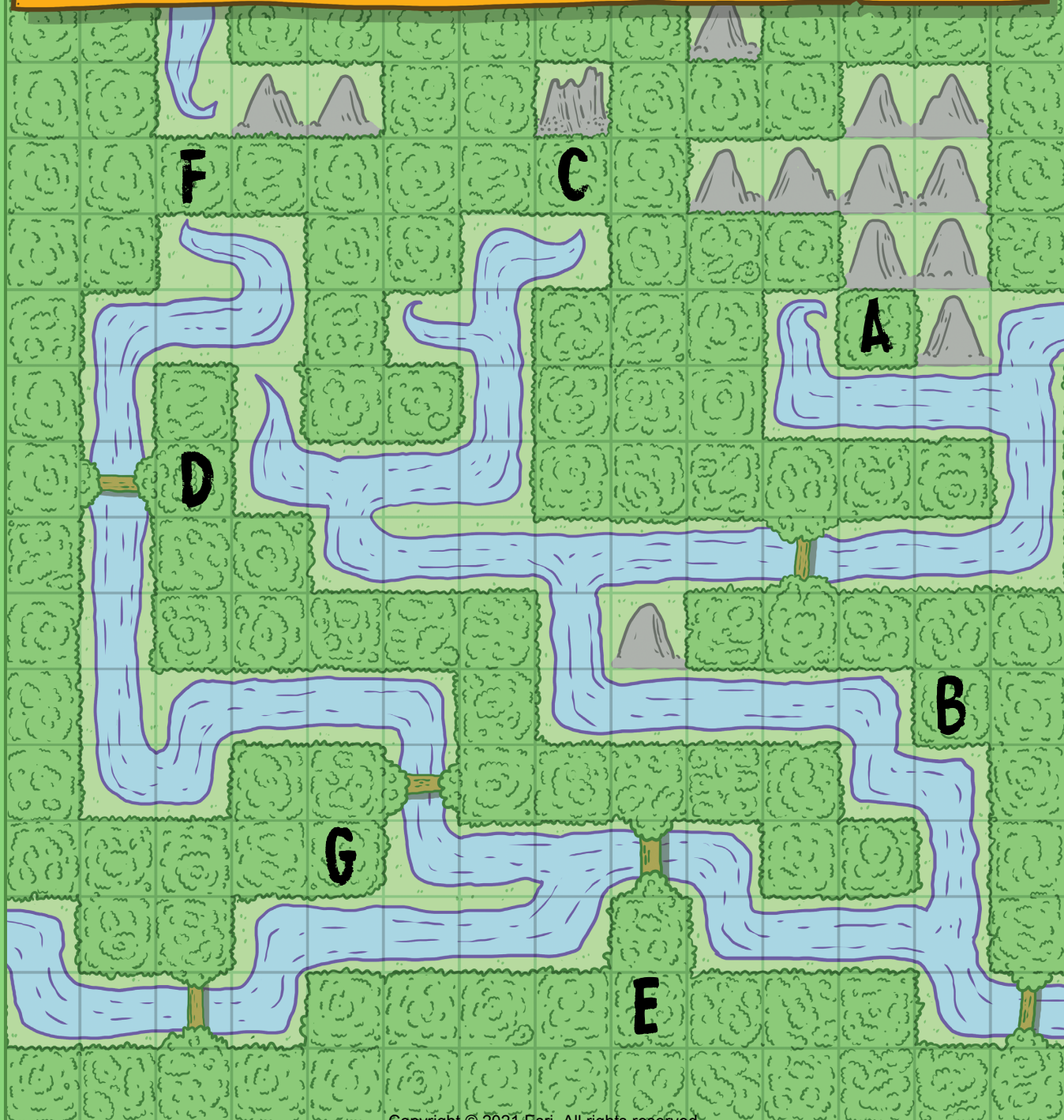
Professor Meridian appeared on-screen. Each wall of her office had



LOCATE THE TEAM

Circle the letter where Lucy, Oliver, and Moe crashed.
Search the previous pages for clues.

MISSION 01



a monitor with a high-tech map. On her desk, though, was an old-fashioned globe.

Lucy explained the situation.

“Aha, it’s quite the pickle you’ve gotten yourselves into, my intrepid students,” the professor said. She placed a hand under her chin, tapping it with one finger as she considered them.

“I’m sorry I wrecked the plane, Professor,” Oliver said.

“Don’t worry—these things happen when you’re on an adventure, believe me. Now, I’m sending you a map of the northern Amazon basin. Investigate your surroundings and see if you can determine your location on the map.”



CHAPTER 2

“I think I found where we are,” Lucy said after comparing the map to their surroundings. “It looks like we’re close to the mountain called Pico da Neblina.”

“Very good. That means you’ve crashed only 200 miles from your destination.” The professor made it sound like a good thing, but 200 miles was a *long* way. “Tell me, in which cardinal direction does the mountain lie?”

Lucy pulled out her trusty compass. The dial indicated that Pico da Neblina was to the north.

“Superb!” the professor said. “You’re only a few miles from a camp of soil researchers. One of them is a former Locator member.”

“So there’ll be a helicopter there to take us where we need to go?” Oliver looked ready to jump for joy. He preferred working on a computer to hiking through the jungle.

“Nope,” Professor Meridian said. Oliver’s face fell. “But they can help you get there in other ways. Then you’ll be able to investigate what’s threatening jaguars in the Amazon.”

Lucy was eager to get going. This was her first chance to study animals up close. She wondered what a jaguar looked like in the wild, creeping through underbrush, stalking its prey. She tugged Oliver in the direction to leave, only to remember she didn’t know the way yet.

“Professor,” she said to the tablet, “can you add the camp’s location to the map?”

“Already done,” Professor Meridian said. On the tablet, the map zoomed in and showed the area in more detail. “It’s up to you to plot your route.”



LOCATE THE SHORTEST ROUTE

Draw the shortest path from the crash to the camp. Avoid rivers and mountains, and do not move diagonally. There are several routes, so think about why yours is the shortest.

MISSION 02

