

Ranger Rick's ADVENTURES

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RANGER RICK RACCOON HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT SOME FRIENDS IN THE RAINFOREST OF GHANA (GAH-NUH), A COUNTRY IN WESTERN AFRICA. SCARLETT FOX AND BOOMER BADGER HAVE JOINED HIM ON THE TRIP.

It'll be fun to meet your friends, Rick. If we ever find them, that is.

Don't worry, we'll find 'em—you can't miss 'em!

Maybe you should ease up on the sweets, Boomer.

Yeah—that's the fifth chocolate bar you've had today!

MUNCH!
SLURP!
GULP!

GRRRAAAK GRRRAAAK

We finally found them!

Huh?

Yikes!

Yo, Rick! You made it!

Scarlett and Boomer, meet Kofi and Cujo. They're black-and-white colobus monkeys!

Ooh, yummy!

Glad to meet you. And especially glad to meet a fellow chocolate lover!

Monkeys love chocolate?

Yes. In fact, we couldn't live without it!

My thoughts, exactly!

You're kidding, right?

No—it's true!

Just follow us, and we'll show you.

I don't feel so good.

Uh-oh. Chocolate candy sure is yummy, but...

...eating too much can make a tummy feel crummy!

THE FRIENDS WALK ALONG WHILE KOFI AND CUJO LEAP THROUGH THE TREES. SOON BOOMER STARTS TO LAG BEHIND.

We can leave him behind and let him get better. He'll be safe till we return.

Well, OK—but we can't be gone long.

A LITTLE WHILE LATER...

WRRRAAAA

Wow—what kind of animal is THAT?

That's no animal—that's TROUBLE! Let's go see.

Look—they're cutting down the rainforest! Why?

For the wood or to clear the land for crops. Either way, it's bad news for us!

Boomer—he could be in danger!

Let's get back there, and quick!

WRRRAAAA

And look—the loggers are cutting here, too!

There's Boomer!



CRACK



The tree's falling!

And Boomer's right in its path!



Gotta hurry, Cujo!



Got 'im!



You saved Boomer!



Yes, and now it's time to save ourselves. It's way too dangerous around here!

And it's time to show you how some people are SAVING the rainforest. Let's go!



AFTER A FEW MINUTES ...

Huh? FOOTBALLS?

They're not footballs, Boomer. They're seedpods.

This, my friends, is the scene of one very keen bean.

KOFI EXPLAINS THAT THE "FOOTBALLS" ARE SEEDPODS OF CACAO (KUH-COW) TREES. THE SEEDS INSIDE THE PODS CAN BE MADE INTO CHOCOLATE. FARMERS HAD PLANTED THE TREES AMONG THE BIGGER RAINFOREST TREES.



Cool! A chocolate farm!

Cacao trees grow best in the shade of larger trees.

So, this is a crop that people can grow without cutting down the forest.



And look at all the animals living here!

We and many other forest creatures find good homes in this kind of farm.

And that's a good thing, now that so much of the forest is being cut down in other places.



Is that what you meant when you said you can't live without chocolate?

Yes, I guess you could say for real ...

... that life here on our chocolate farm is a pretty sweet deal!



All this excitement has made me hungry. Got any more of that chocolate, Boomer?



Here, you can finish off my stash. I'd be a real dummy to put more candy in MY tummy!

MORE FACTS

• Cacao trees originally came from the rainforests of Central and South America, but now they're grown in the tropics around the world. Today, most chocolate comes from western Africa.

• Cacao trees grow naturally in the shade of tropical rainforest trees. But, in many places, people are cutting down the rainforest to make room for huge farms that have ONLY cacao trees. This destroys the forest homes of many wild animals.

• Cacao trees that grow in the sun make more seeds. But, unlike shade-grown cacao trees, sun-grown trees attract more pests. So farmers need to use lots of chemicals on them. These chemicals can harm the environment, local wildlife, and people who work the farms.

• Some farmers and chocolate companies have chosen a different way. They're growing and selling chocolate that's friendly to forests, wildlife, and workers. To support these farmers and companies, buy chocolate with the words "shade-grown," "organic," and "fair trade" on the label.

