



photo by Ken Regan

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

By Jane Goodall

Animals have always fascinated me. When I was four years old, I stayed on a farm where I helped to collect hen's eggs. I became puzzled and asked repeatedly, "Where is the hole big enough for the eggs to come out?"

When no one answered to my satisfaction, I hid in a small, stuffy henhouse for some four hours to find out. When my mother saw me rushing toward the house, she noticed my excitement. Instead of scolding me for disappearing for so long (the family had even called the police!), she sat down and listened to me tell the

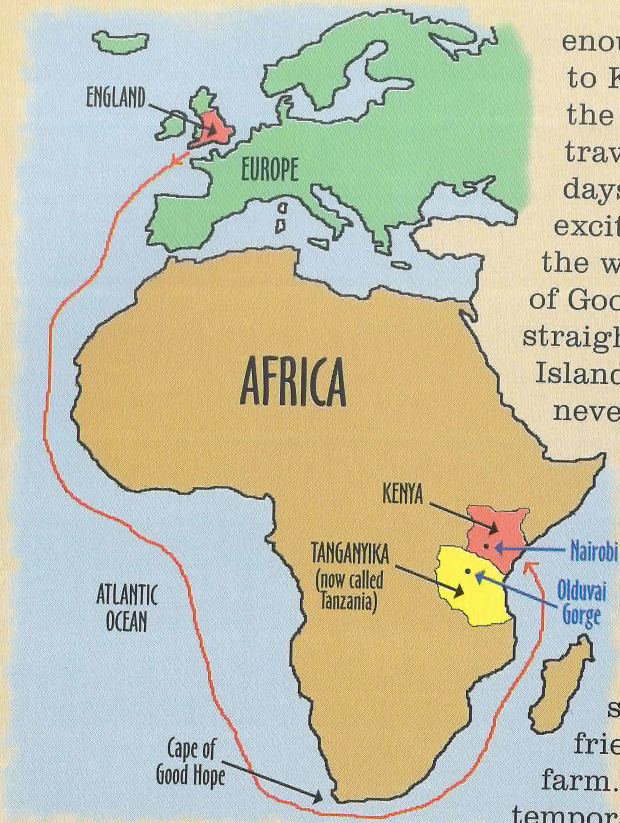
wonderful story of how a hen lays an egg.

My first books were about animals: *The Story of Dr. Doolittle* and *Tarzan*. By the time I was eight years old, I knew what I wanted to do when I grew up: go to Africa, live with animals, and write books about them. But in those days, young people—especially girls—did not go tramping into the jungle. Moreover, Africa was still thought of as the faraway "Dark Continent."

And although my family always had plenty to eat, we didn't have enough money for luxuries—we didn't have a car and

couldn't afford a bicycle. But I talked about going to Africa all the time. My mother—a very special person—used to say, "Jane, if you *really* want something and if you work hard, take advantage of opportunities, and *never give up*, you will somehow find a way."

In those days, you had to learn a foreign language to get a scholarship to a university. I was hopeless! So when I finished school, I took a secretarial class and got a wonderful job with a film company. But I went on dreaming and reading books about African animals.



enough for a boat ticket to Kenya. Boats were the cheapest way to travel in those far-off days, and the most exciting. We sailed all the way around the Cape of Good Hope. For 22 days straight from the Canary Islands to Cape Town, we never saw land—just dolphins, flying fish, and the endless, wonderful waves and swells of the ocean.

At first I stayed with my friend at her parents' farm. Then I took a temporary secretarial job in the city of Nairobi. But soon I heard that Louis Leakey was working at the natural history museum nearby. Louis Leakey was famous for his studies of our human ancestors. I made an appointment to see him.

Louis took me around

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—VANNE GOODALL, JANE'S MOTHER

the museum and asked me all sorts of questions. Because I had never given up my dream of Africa, and had continued to read books about the continent and its wildlife, I could answer many of them. And so he gave me a job as his assistant.

I traveled with Louis and his wife, Mary, on their summer fossil-hunting expedition to Olduvai Gorge. It was wild, and there were so many animals. Every evening after the hard day's work, I walked on the plains. Once I met a black rhino and, another time, a couple of two-year-old male lions. I wonder if you can imagine what it was like.

I'd dreamed of Africa all my life. And I was actually living my dream!

continued on Page 17

One day a letter came inviting me to stay with a friend in Kenya.

How could I get the money to buy a ticket? My job paid very little, and I'd saved almost nothing. I went home and worked as a waitress, saving up my wages and tips until I had

Jane, shown here as a girl, has always been fascinated with animals.



CHIMPS and TOOLS

A few months after Jane began her study, she observed a chimp she called David Greybeard pick a blade of grass and carefully trim the edges. He stuck the grass into a termite mound, left it there for a moment, and pulled it out. He then ate the termites clinging to the grass blade. David Greybeard had made a tool!



photos courtesy of the Jane Goodall Institute



This was the first report of chimpanzees making and using tools. It shocked the scientific world! Until then, humans were thought to be the only animals to make tools.

In fact, tool-making was part of the scientific definition of a human. If tool-making was a human trait, were chimps human? Jane's discovery opened a new debate about what it meant to be a human being.



IN THOSE DAYS, PEOPLE—ESPECIALLY WOMEN—DID NOT GO TREKKING OFF TO WORK WITH WILD ANIMALS. BUT FINALLY THE AUTHORITIES AGREED THAT I COULD GO, PROVIDED I HAD A COMPANION. AND WHO VOLUNTEERED TO COME FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS? MY WONDERFUL MOTHER!

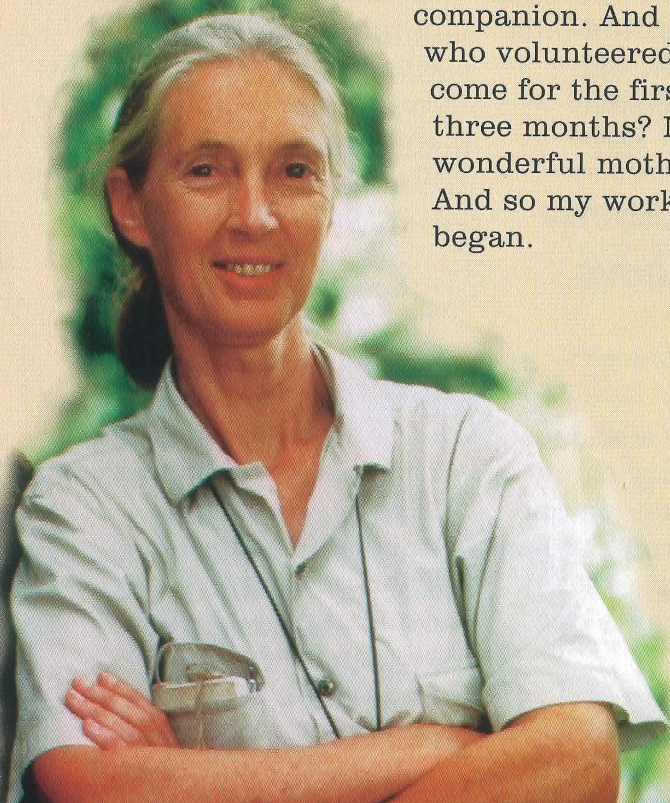
continued from Page 15

Louis decided I was the person he'd been looking for to go to Lake Tanganyika to study chimpanzee behavior. But I had to overcome a major problem. At that time, the country of Tanganyika (now called

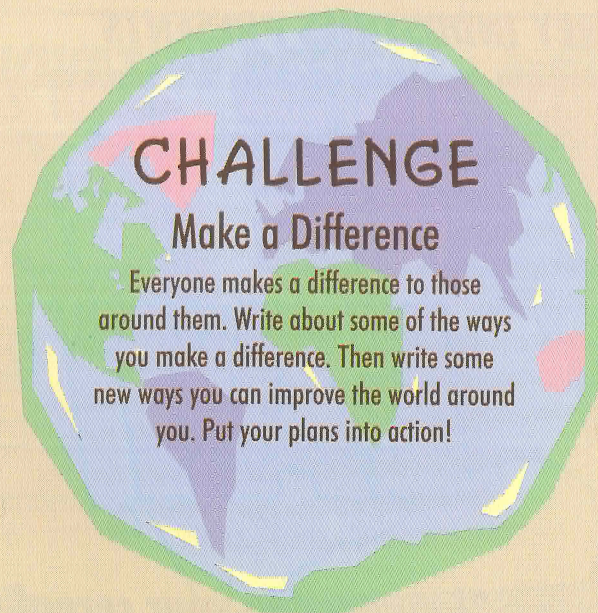
Tanzania) was under

Britain's rule. The British authorities were horrified at the thought of a young, untrained girl going into the bush. In those days, people—especially women—did not go trekking off to work with wild animals. But finally the authorities agreed that I could go,

provided I had a companion. And who volunteered to come for the first three months? My wonderful mother! And so my work began.



In 1957, when Jane first began her chimpanzee studies, some people thought she wouldn't last more than three weeks in Kenya. 40 years later, she's still busy investigating the behaviors of these fantastic animals.



Everyone makes a difference to those around them. Write about some of the ways you make a difference. Then write some new ways you can improve the world around you. Put your plans into action!

I have told my story because it shows anything is possible if you take my mother's advice: Follow your dream. Don't let anyone tell you it is impossible. Work hard, take advantage of opportunity, and NEVER GIVE UP.

And remember: What you do, as an individual, makes a difference. You cannot live through a day without impacting the world around you. You can make the world a better place for the environment, animals, and people.

Roots & Shoots

Want to make a difference in the world? Check out Roots & Shoots, the Jane Goodall Institute's program for people and the environment. Join with members from more than 30 countries and share reports of projects that help animals, people, and the places where they live.

To find out how to become a member of Roots & Shoots, write to:

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