

# 试题原文

注：请大家先按照搜索式阅读解题法做完题目，再看下面的讲解视频。

## Passage Three

There was once a tree in South Africa so wide that it could fit 60 people inside its hollow trunk. The tree reached 62 feet into the sky. It was more than 1,100 years old. But recently, that tree and others like it have died. (79) Scientists are wondering why.

The tree was a baobab. A baobab looks like a giant oak(橡树) turned upside down. Its branches resemble roots reaching toward the sky. It grows in Africa and is called the Tree of Life. Baobabs have been used as a shop, a prison, a house, and a bus shelter.

In 2005, scientists began a survey to determine the age of more than 60 baobabs. (80) During the process, they noticed that several of the trees had died. Their results, recently published in Nature Plants, show that nine of the 13 oldest baobab trees and five out of six of the largest died in the 12-year study period.

Stephan Woodborne conducted the baobab study with six other scientists. They say more research is needed to know why the trees died. But they think climate change may be to blame. That's because the trees showed no evidence of disease. Plus, many were in national parks, so they would have been protected from human harm. Also, Woodborne says, the most affected baobabs are on the outer edge of their ideal habitat(栖息地). Increasing heat and shifting rainy seasons have made it harder for baobabs in these areas to thrive.

Smaller and younger baobabs are dying too. "The big ones and the old ones caught attention of the media," Woodborne says, "But it's not just those, it's unprecedented(空前的) that they should be dying across the age spectrum. We've got to do a reality check on our own footprints in terms of the way we live our lives. If we all changed what we did a little bit, it would start to make a difference."

11. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?

- A. Die-off of Africa's Baobabs
- B. National Parks in Africa
- C. African Rainy Seasons
- D. Strange-looking Baobabs

12. The baobab study lasted \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 6 years
- B. 9 years
- C. 12 years
- D. 13 years

13. According to Stephan Woodborne, the baobab trees died mainly because of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. human damage
- B. disease
- C. climate change
- D. the attack of insects

14. The word spectrum in the last paragraph is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. point
- B. range
- C. edge
- D. team

15. According to Stephan Woodborne, which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?

- A. Further research is needed to know why the Baobabs died.

B. Baobab trees can live a long time.

C. The researchers found that only old baobab trees died.

D. The baobab study involved more than 60 baobabs.

## 视频讲解

