

NATURE
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听读系列

拓展英语
挑战听力

SOLAR EMPIRE
HEAVENS ABOVE

苍穹寻奇

月蚀、满月、彗星、各种宗教节庆、古老历法的故事 ——

人民教育出版社

自然英语

Discovery

听读系列

苍穹寻奇

人民教育出版社综合编辑室 策划
北京京文多媒体教育有限公司



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关于“自然英语—Discovery 听读系列”

——致读者

读者朋友们，大家好！很高兴“自然英语”可以和您一起分享英语世界。

“自然英语”是京文教育旗下，一个“关注中国英语学习者的需求，引领世界顶级文化资源进入”的英语教育领域的品牌。她提倡最淳朴有效的自然英语学习法，她为英语学习者整合了最地道纯正的语言，最深沉的人文关怀，最广阔的知识领域和最精益求精的制作品质等几大方面，开发出英语学习的资源和工具。京文教育将努力把“自然英语”打造成一个从品质到功用都过硬的品牌英语！

“自然英语”的第一个系列产品，是京文教育携手美国DCI集团、人民教育出版社，联合推出的《自然英语——DISCOVERY 听读系列》，在英语学习的听读领域，来帮助中国的学习者提高水平。这套自然英语系列丛书，也同时为大家带来了丰富而新鲜的英语文化资料，其独特的内容视角和访谈主持的形式将使国内英语学习者耳目一新。

这套《自然英语——DISCOVERY 听读系列》具有如下特点：

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- 经典品牌，电影效果，真实语境，震撼听力！

- 深沉的人文关怀精神，触动内心世界的精彩讲述。
- 人文历史、科技军事、天文地理、时政经济……庞大系列专题，全方位满足你的探知欲望！
- 主题访谈，可以减少听力训练中的盲目性，控制听力理解难度，把主题领域里的表达方法完全告诉你，树立您英语学习的成功感。

她可以成为各种英语书本及教程内容的补充和延伸，可全方位满足学习者的英语热情和探知欲望。自然地帮助您提高听、读、思维及说的能力。小巧的口袋本普及版形式方便随身携带。希望她能给您带去崭新而愉快的学习体验。

总之，让我们的“自然英语”，
带您，开拓视野，涤荡心灵，冲击大脑！
让您，听的自然，想的自然，说的自然！
带您进入最自然的英语状态！

编者 2002 年 10 月

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SOLAR EMPIRE—HEAVEN ABOVE

Richard Noone is moving his family from the Florida coast to a new home in the mountains of Georgia. He probably won't tell the buyers of his old house his reasons for leaving.

"<inaudible> This is Charles. <inaudible>"

"On May 5th of the year 2000, a major surge of the Antarctic ice sheet triggered by a unique planetary alignment will produce tidal waves that will destroy these buildings behind me."

"From ... the earliest time it was believed the heavens above influenced life here below. On the fifth day, of the fifth month, in the year 2000, the five planets known to ancient man move into a rare formation thought to have dire consequences." Noone is convinced a disaster of Biblical proportions is at hand.

He believes the cosmic alignment on the 5th of May, 2000, will throw the Earth so far off its axis; the frozen waters of the Antarctic will melt, flooding all low lying coastal regions around the world.

"I think based on ... an old saying, the wise man builds his house upon the rock, and the fool upon the sand, because of a possible major surge of the entire Antarctic ice sheet, I would prefer not to be near an ocean. 'Well, thanks for a good move.'"

苍穹寻奇

理查德·努恩打算把家从佛罗里达海岸搬到佐治亚州的大山中。他可能不会告诉新屋主他搬家的原因。

“这是查尔斯。”

“2000年5月5日，部分行星将形成独特的直线排列，使南极冰原剧烈起伏摆动，所引发的海啸将摧毁我身后的建筑。”

“自古以来，人们就相信浩瀚苍穹影响着地球上的生命。2000年5月5日，古人熟知的五大行星将形成罕见的排列，并将造成可怕的后果。”努恩相信这将是圣经预言的大灾难。

他认为当天的星体排列会使地球远离原来的轴线，南极的冰将融化，淹没全球所有沿岸低地。



“俗话说：智者建屋于坚岩，愚者建屋于软沙。由于整个南极冰原将产生剧烈起伏，我宁可离海远点。谢谢你们帮我搬家。”

“Therefore, I’m moving to the mountains of North Georgia to be away from a very real, ah, upcoming disaster, perhaps the ultimate disaster.”

With the tools of modern science, astronomy can explain the workings of our solar system and the movement of the planets around the sun. And, yet, through the ages, many have chosen to explain heavenly events through astrology, they believe that the heavens exercise a supernatural influence over life here on Earth.

“I think from time immemorial, ancient man has observed the stars and the stars have always been a symbol of time and season, plant and harvest.”

From the dawn of history, man has stood on Earth gazing into the heavens, trying to make sense of it all. Staring into the vastness of space and twilight, what could have been more baffling to early man? The setting sun disappearing with the



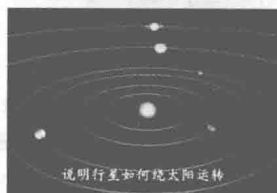
light and its warmth. The rising moon ushering in the cold, dark night, and a light show of distant stars slowly materializing before their eyes.



“因此，我将搬到佐治亚州北部的山区，远离即将来临的灾难，也许就是一场毁灭性的灾难。”

天文学家借助现代科学仪器解释太阳系的运行，说明

行星如何绕太阳运转。但长久以来，许多人选择用占星术解释天文现象，他们认为浩瀚苍穹对地球上的生物有超自然的影响力。



“我认为自古以来，人们便观察星象，通过星象决定时间、季节，安排播种与收获。”

远古以来，人们立足地球，仰望天空，想了解其中的奥秘。面对浩瀚天际的黎明微光，古人心中必然十分困惑。太阳西下，光与热也随之消逝；月亮升起，清冷的暗夜到来，遥远的繁星也纷纷出现。

For most ancient civilizations, anything that couldn't be explained by the primitive science of the day, was believed the result of supernatural, often divine forces at play. They noticed patterns in the great star grid that have been passed down to us, remarkably intact, as the constellations of the zodiac, astral signs thought to exercise a mystical influence over our lives. Imagine what early men must have felt beneath the canopy of cosmic glitter.

"You have to look at the entire history of our understanding of the world, and for that matter, the cosmos, as a continuity that goes back at least to the old Stone Age. Now, that doesn't mean it ... didn't have fits, and starts, and dead ends, but our ancestors began the process of carefully, thoughtfully, and systematically observing nature, and that legacy is still with us today."

The story of how we have systematically observed the heavens begins in the days before recorded time. For primitive man, the sun reigned supreme. Its recurring cycles of



light and darkness formed the basis of the first organizing principle of our natural world, day and night.

This was the most basic astronomical observation, and man's first attempt to explain what was going on down here by observing what was happening up there. In effect, ushering in a belief system that looked for casual connections between heavenly and earthly matters. Many believed the sun needed to be persuaded to reappear after the cold, dark night.

大多数的古代文明将原始科学无法解释的现象全部归因于超自然或神灵的力量。他们观察到星体排列的图案，那些图案完整地流传至今成为黄道十二宫的各种星座。现在的人们还认为星座对我们的生活有着神秘的影响力，所以古人面对浩瀚星空必定更觉得神秘。



“我们必须从旧石器时代开始纵观人类研究宇宙的过程。虽然其中有间歇停顿，但古人早已谨慎而有系统地开始观察、思考大自然，这笔遗产一直流传到今天。”



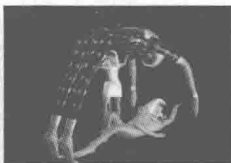
我们对天体的系统性观察应该是在有文字记载的历史之前就开始了。原始人认为太阳至高无上，它掌管着白天和黑夜，这种周期性的日夜循环形成了自然界的基本规律。

这是最原始的天文观察，也是人类利用天文观察解释地表变化的初次尝试。人们开始探寻天体与地表现象间的表面关联，许多人甚至相信太阳经过人哄劝才会再度东升，驱走阴冷的长夜。

What was going on up there? For our earliest ancestors, with little in the way of scientific knowledge, it was a natural next step to ascribe supernatural answers to nature's most basic questions.

On the west coast of England, Doctor Susan Blackmore has made a lifelong study of how different peoples have understood nature. Many ancient civilizations believed man also played a significant part in causing heavenly events.

"I once took part in this Druid ceremony. It was a wonderful event. Hundreds of us climbing ... head in London or with odd jobs to do, carrying things, saying the right words, and so on, and it all built up to this enormous climax as we asked for the sun to rise, said the final words, and boom, the sun rose. Now, I honestly felt, as much as I know about science and the way that things work, I honestly felt that we had made the sun rise. And, it just shows, from a psychological point of view, how easy it is for us to connect cause and effect when I've made a lot of effort then I'm sure that I've made it happen. Well, that way we can easily get led astray."



Early man's sense of wonder at the sun's immense powers led naturally to belief in a sun god. In different forms they are found in the pantheons of many early cultures. On the ceilings of their Egyptian temples, the red dots follow the sun's daily path across the sky. A painstaking and elaborate tribute to the god that brought them day and night. In fact, the Egyptians explained the sun daily cycles through the goddess, Nut. Her arched body was said to cover the whole Earth. Every night she swallowed the sun. It then trailed through her body to rise again the following morning. The sun also provided the most basic, natural daily clock. Most primitive people noticed a relationship between time and shadows, and it was in Ancient Egypt that the first recorded sundials were found.

天体究竟如何运行？我们最早的祖先缺乏科学知识，很自然地便会将这些基本现象归因于超自然的力量。



英格兰西部海岸的苏珊·布莱克摩博士毕生研究人们对自然现象的不同认识。也有许多古文明相信人类可影响天体运行。

“我参加过德鲁伊教仪式，那真令我难忘。我们有几百人，一起爬上伦敦的山坡进行各项仪式并诵念咒语。我们请求太阳东升时，活动到了最高潮。刚刚念完咒语，太阳就突然跳了出来。说实在的，虽然我十分了解科学原理，但也觉得是我们这些举行仪式的人使太阳出现的。这说明我们常常在事物间轻易划上因果关系，由于自己在某件事情上花了许多功夫，便感觉是自己让它发生的。这样便容易被误导。”

古人对太阳的威力充满敬畏，便相信有太阳神存在，所以许多古文明都有不同形式的太阳神。埃及神殿天花板上的



埃及庙宇天花板上的红点
显示太阳在空中运行的轨迹

红点表示太阳在空中运行的轨迹。他们辛辛苦苦精心制作了供品，是为了感谢太阳带来的昼夜变化。埃及人以Nut女神解释太阳周期，她拱形的身体覆盖着整个大地，每天晚上她吞

入太阳，太阳经过她体内，直到隔天清晨才重现。太阳也是大自然的基本时钟，早期人类便发现了时间与日影有关，历史上有记录的第一个日晷便是在古埃及诞生的。

By 1724, the Maharaja Jaisingh in India, had created the world's largest sundial, accurate to within twenty seconds.

Sundials were used till nearly a hundred years ago when

heavenly-based time pieces were replaced by the clocks and watches of the modern world. In fact, the human body seems attuned to the same rhythms as the sun's daily cycle. Our natural daily schedule begins when the sun is first rising in the sky, with or without any reference to clocks or calendars.

"Time really runs us. We maintain schedules by the, ah, little, ah, device that's wrapped around our wrists. And, I'm not gonna try to promote... a new way of thinking either way that we either should or shouldn't be doing it, but I think that the mechanization of our culture is, is what is so unique to the keeping of time and very different from all the other cultures of the world."

Just recently, we have come full circle. Once again, the heavens regulate our daily cycle. The most accurate modern clocks are regulated by the steady rhythms of pulsars, dead suns, way out in the galaxy, invisible to the naked eye.

But trying to make sense of the heavens gave us more than the natural cycle of day and night. Ancient man also noticed how the five planets visible to the naked eye, twinkled in the night sky. With the sun and the moon, that made seven imposing celestial bodies that would serve as the inspiration for the next basic division of the natural order, the seven-day week. Even today, the influence of the heavens on the days of the week is unmistakable.



1724年,印度吉辛大君制造了世上最大的日晷,其误差不到20秒。

日晷一直沿用到差不多100年前,之后便被现代钟表取代。事实上,人体的生理规律也受日光周期调节:清晨太阳升起,人体也随之苏醒,即使不用钟表日历,也是如此。



“时间掌控了我们的生活,我们每天的行程都仰赖腕上这个小小的机械装置——手表。我不想改变人们现有的做事方式,只是我们越来越仰赖机械计时,这点与世上其他文明非常不一样。”

现在我们又回到了从前,又让天文现象掌控昼夜周期。目前最精准的钟表依靠运转规律恒定的脉冲星来对时,这种死亡的恒星存在于遥远的星系,我们无法用肉眼观察到它们。



我们对天体的了解不仅限于日夜周期,古人也通过肉眼观察到五大行星在星空闪烁,再加上太阳、月亮,便构成了七大天体,这种现象激发了古人的灵感,发明了一周七日的基本自然结构。直到今天,我们依然用天体象征一周的七天。