

Miscellaneous Life

Education Corner

Gloomy Shades

Natural Wonders

Animal Anecdotes

Shocking Events

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英语趣味诵读

An Amusing English Reader

◎程勇 主编

中国科学技术大学出版社



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前 言

在西方传说中,世界上本来有一种共通的语言,使地球上的人们交流无碍。只因人类团结一心,要建造一座通天塔,这使上帝感到了恐惧,于是上帝施威,让人类因语言的不同而无法交流、四分五裂,通天塔也就建不起来了。

在国际性交流与合作日益广泛、深入的今天,我和您都置身于多彩的文化环境中。在学好母语的同时,也学好外语,以与外国朋友进行友好交流,互结友谊,为民族和社会的发展作出应有的贡献,是每一位有素养的地球人应该做到的。而在当今世界上,英语无疑最大范围地被使用着,它有条件成为建造全球文化交流“通天塔”的世界性语言。

为了帮助您提高学习英语的兴趣,在轻松愉快的诵读中增强英语读解能力,同时增长见闻,以便更好地用英语与外国人交流,我们编写了这本书。

本书选文的原则是简短有趣。文章内容以报道和故事为主,每篇文章下设有“Words and expressions(单词注释)”、“Analysis(解析)”、“Comprehension questions(思考题)”、“Translation(译文)”。

(1)文章内容涉及的领域广泛,既有英语的经典表达方式,也有很多新兴的、专业的词汇,呈现出当代英语发展的面貌,以期激发您的阅读兴趣。

(2)本书在“Analysis”中对文章的中心内容、用词、句型等适当进行了分析、讲解和提示。

(3)译文部分可以使您更好地理解文章内容,领会中、英两种语言在意思上是如何转换的。

(4)“Comprehension questions”供您在读完每篇文章后回过头来对文章的内涵做些思考。

《论语·子张篇》中有“博学而笃志,切问而近思,仁在其中矣”,在此衷心希望您能够借此书加强对英语语言和国外的自然、社会与文化的了解,丰富英语知识,以增强国际间的语言文化交际能力。

作 者

2008年5月

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Natural Wonders

自然奇观

1. The Longest and the Muddiest Rivers

The world's longest river is the Nile. It flows from central Africa 6,670 km north to the Mediterranean Sea. If all the bends were straightened out, it would reach about one third of the distance from the North Pole to the South Pole.

The longest river in the United Kingdom is the River Severn. At only 354 km long, it is a mere stream compared with the world's greatest rivers.

The muddiest river in the world is the Huanghe River in China. It carries so much silt that you could build a vast wall 40 m high and 6 m wide all around the world.

Words and expressions

Nile[nail] *n.* 尼罗河

Africa[ˈæfrikə] *n.* 非洲

Mediterranean [ˌmedɪˈteɪrɪnjən] Sea 地中海

bend [bend] *v.* 弯曲

North Pole 北极

South Pole 南极

River Severn 赛温河

compare... with *v.* 与...相比

muddy [ˈmʌdi] *adj.* 泥沙多的

silt [silt] *n.* 泥沙, 淤泥

vast [vast] *adj.* 巨大的

Analysis

在文章首段“If all the bends were straightened out, it would reach about one third of the distance from the North Pole to the South Pole”中,虚拟语气的使用,强调了尼罗河的绵长壮丽。而文末的“It carries so much silt that you could build a vast wall 40 m high and 6 m wide all around the world”中,so...that结构在这里引导程度状语从句,对黄河淤积泥沙之多做了突出表达。

Comprehension questions

- The world's longest river flows from central Africa 6,670 km north to _____.
A. the South Pole C. the North Pole
B. the Mediterranean Sea D. Europe
- In which country, the longest river is the River Severn?
A. The United Kingdom. C. China.
B. The United States. D. Egypt.

Translation

河流之最

世界上最长的河是尼罗河。它从非洲中部向北流入地中海,全长 6,670 公里。如果把它所有弯曲的河段全弄直的话,它的长度大约是从北极到南极长度的 $\frac{1}{3}$ 。

英国最长的河流是赛温河。它的长度为 354 公里,同世界上的大河相比它只是一条小溪。

世界上泥沙最多的河流是中国的黄河。它带走的泥沙多得可以用来建造一座围绕地球一周的高 40 米、宽 6 米的高墙。

2. The Enchanting Lakes

Whenever residents in the northwest part of China's Yunnan Province need rain, they simply yell for it, according to the *Shanghai Liberation Daily*. This phenomenon occurs high in the Goligong Mountains, where there is a group of pools nicknamed "the enchanting lakes". "When someone speaks in a loud voice at the side of the lakes, heavy rain often follows immediately", the newspaper explains. "The louder the speaker, the heavier the rain, and the longer the person speaks, the longer the rain."

Local experts theorize that the air around the lakes is so humid that the slightest vibration, such as a high pitched voice, can precipitate showers.

Words and expressions

resident ['rezɪdənt] *n.* 居民

yell [jel] *v.* 喊叫

nickname ['nikneɪm] *n.* 绰号

theorize ['θiəraɪz] *v.* 阐述, 推理

humid ['hjuːmɪd] *adj.* 潮湿的, 湿润的

vibration [vaɪ'breɪʃən] *n.* 振动

pitch [pɪtʃ] *n.* 音调

precipitate [prɪ'sɪpɪteɪt] *v.* 凝结, 沉淀

shower ['ʃaʊə] *n.* 阵雨

Analysis

新闻报道通常言简意赅,文字表达生动。文章首段出现了nickname这个词,其原意为“绰号”,在这里用作动词,表示“起绰号”,传神地表达了魔法湖名称的由来。此外,在第一段尾句“The louder the speaker, the heavier the rain, and the longer the person speaks, the longer the rain.”中使用了“the more... the more...”结构,句意清楚明了。最后一句自成一段,其中插入语“such as a high pitched voice”的使用,既丰富、补充了语句的含义,又保证了句型结构简洁不拖沓,值得初学英文写作的读者借鉴。

Comprehension questions

1. According to the essay, the strange phenomenon occurs in _____.
 A. China
 B. Yunnan Province
 C. Shanghai
 D. The Goligong Mountains
2. _____ result(s) in the rain around the enchanting lakes.
 A. Humid air
 B. Slight vibration
 C. Magic power
 D. Both A and B

Translation

魔法湖

上海《解放日报》报道,每当中国云南省西北地区的人们需要雨水时,他们就大声喊来降雨。这种现象在果里贡山区很常见,那里有一些湖被称为“施了魔法的湖”。“当有人在湖边大