

Technology 技术

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序言

英语学习,除了在课堂内下工夫外,课外的阅读也很重要。课外除了读文学类的文章,也要读一些非文学类的文章。这套"小书"就是非文学类的文章,涉及文学以外的许多领域和学科。每本书都由一两个相关的主题构成,图文并茂,融知识性和可读性于一体。这些"小书"谈到的很多东西都和我们的日常生活息息相关;更重要的是"小书"体现了人类要与自然和谐发展的思想,这与我们社会和时代的发展是吻合的。读一些这方面的书不仅有利于学生提高英语水平,拓宽自己的视野,也符合当今大学生要全面发展的要求。在"复合型"人才越来越受重视的今天,我很乐意向大学生朋友推荐这套"小书"。

利和孝(**村東)

《新视野大学英语》总主编首届"国家级教学名师奖"获得者

Introduction

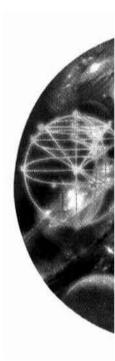
The impact of human technologies on the natural environment began long before the industrial revolution and the refining of fossil fuels. Human uses of fire, all sorts of primitive tools, the invention of watermills and windmills, and the harnessing of animals for work each mark significant steps in human technological advancement with consequences for the environment.

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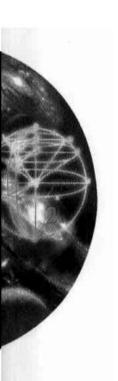
Technology 技术

Humans developed tools and technology to enable them to survive in a natural environment that was not always beneficent. While technology enabled humans to survive—and sometimes to control—the natural environment, the overuse or misuse of technology, especially as industrialization takes place, has sometimes had adverse or



unanticipated effects on the natural environment. This has led some people to blame technology for many of the ills that today beset the total environment, posing a threat to humankind's future. However, there is no reason to believe that technology, if properly used, cannot undo its previous (and oftentimes unforeseen) damages and, in the process, restore the natural environment and also create a better world for the future of humanity.

人类之所以发展技术和工具, 就是为了使自己能够在并非 总是有利的自然环境中生存 下去。技术虽然能帮助人类在 自然环境中得以生存,有时甚 至可以控制自然环境,但如果



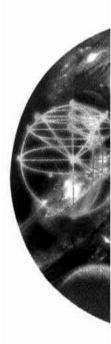
技术被过度使用或滥用,特 别是在工业化时代,有时就 会对自然环境产生不利的或 是预料不到的影响。于是,一 些人就把今天有损整个环境、 威胁人类未来发展的种种弊 端归咎于技术本身。但是,如 果技术被运用得当的话,就 没有理由认为它不能消除此 前(经常是不可预见的)对人 类和环境造成的损害,并在 应用过程中恢复自然环境, 为人类的未来创造一个更加 美好的世界。

Most anthropologists believe that technology, that is, the use of tools, enabled our ancestors to adjust to and survive great changes in the natural environment, such as floods, earthquakes, volcanic explosions, and climatic changes. Humans, they point out, are too weak to cope with nature with only their hands and teeth, but tools serve as extensions of human hands and multipliers of human muscle power.

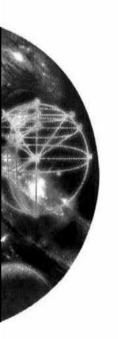
大多数人类学家都认为,技术,也就是运用工具,使我们的祖先适应了诸如洪水、地震、火山爆发和气候变迁等自然环境的巨变,并得以生存下来。他们指出,人类仅凭着自己的双手和牙齿是无力与自然作斗争的。但工具的运

用则延长了人类的双手,使人类的肌肉力量成倍增长。

As a result of their use of hand and mind to cope with nature and to shape it when necessary so that they could survive, humans and the natural world form part of a dynamic ecological system. According to its Greek root, ecology is the study of "houses." While some ecologists limit their scientific research to the natural environment, the fact is that ecology, in accordance with its original meaning, must also include the social environment, the "household of humankind." Humans, with the aid of technology, have created their own



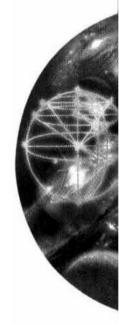
physical and social environment, which has thus become part of the larger ecological system.

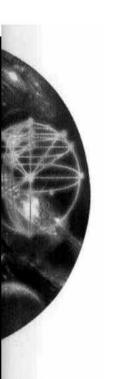


在应对自然并在必要时改造 自然的过程中,人类为了生 存,手脑并用,与自然界形 成了一个充满活力的生态系 统。追溯其希腊语的词根含 义可以发现,所谓生态学就 是对"房屋"的研究。一些 生态学家将他们的科学研究 限定在自然环境方面,但事 实上,按照它最初的意思, 生态学的研究对象必须还包 括社会环境,即"人类的家 庭"。人类借助技术的力量, 创造了自己的物质环境和社会

环境,这两者则成为更广阔的 生态系统的组成部分。

How did the use of technology enable Homo sapiens to survive and then to develop complex civilizations? One of humanity's first great steps in controlling the natural environment was the conquest of fire. At first, food was cooked by holding it over the fire or putting it in the fire. The range of cooking and nutritional possibilities was enormously increased when suitable containers—pots and pans could be made, making it possible to boil, stew, fry, and bake foods.

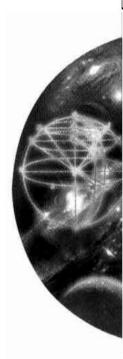




技术的应用是如何使"智人" (现代人的学名)得以生存,并 发展出如此复杂多元的文明 的呢? 在控制自然界的过程 中,人类最初迈出的一大步就 是征服火。起先,人类手拿着 食物,把它放在火上烤或放在 火里烧。后来,人类制造出了 合适的容器(炊具)后,可以 通过煮、炖、煎、烤等多种方 式烹制食物,由此扩大了食物 范围,食物的营养价值也得到 了极大的提升。

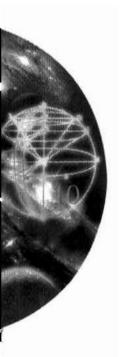
Agriculture 次业

As humankind advanced from the Stone Age into the Bronze Age, fire also made possible the use of metals for tools, weapons, and ornamentation. Long before using metals, however, humans had already initiated a whole new technology that changed their lifestyles and gave birth to civilized existence: agriculture.



Agriculture allowed humans to cooperate with nature to obtain food—and that required new and special tools, such as hoes to till the soil, sickles to reap grain, flails to thresh it, and querns to grind it.

随着人类从石器时代进入青铜器时代,火也使得利用金属打造工具、武器和装饰品成为可能。然而,在使用金属之前的很长一段时间里,人类早已发明了一种全新的技术,改变了他们原有的生活方式,开始了文明的生活,这就是农业。农业使人类与自然进行合作,从而获得食物,而这又需要新的特殊工具,如耕地用的锄头、收特殊工具,如耕地用的锄头、收



割谷物用的镰刀、打谷用的连枷和碾米用的手推磨等。

Since people had to remain in one place to plant seeds and tend the crops, they could begin to accumulate goods and to build permanent shelters. At the same time, any surplus of foodstuffs could be exchanged for other goods. The Bronze and Iron Ages could not have occurred without the surplus of food grown by the agriculturists, because the metal deposits were found in uplands, not in the fertile valleys where food could be grown. So there was an exchange of ` foodstuffs for metal tools, and then for textiles, which became necessary

