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泰德教育

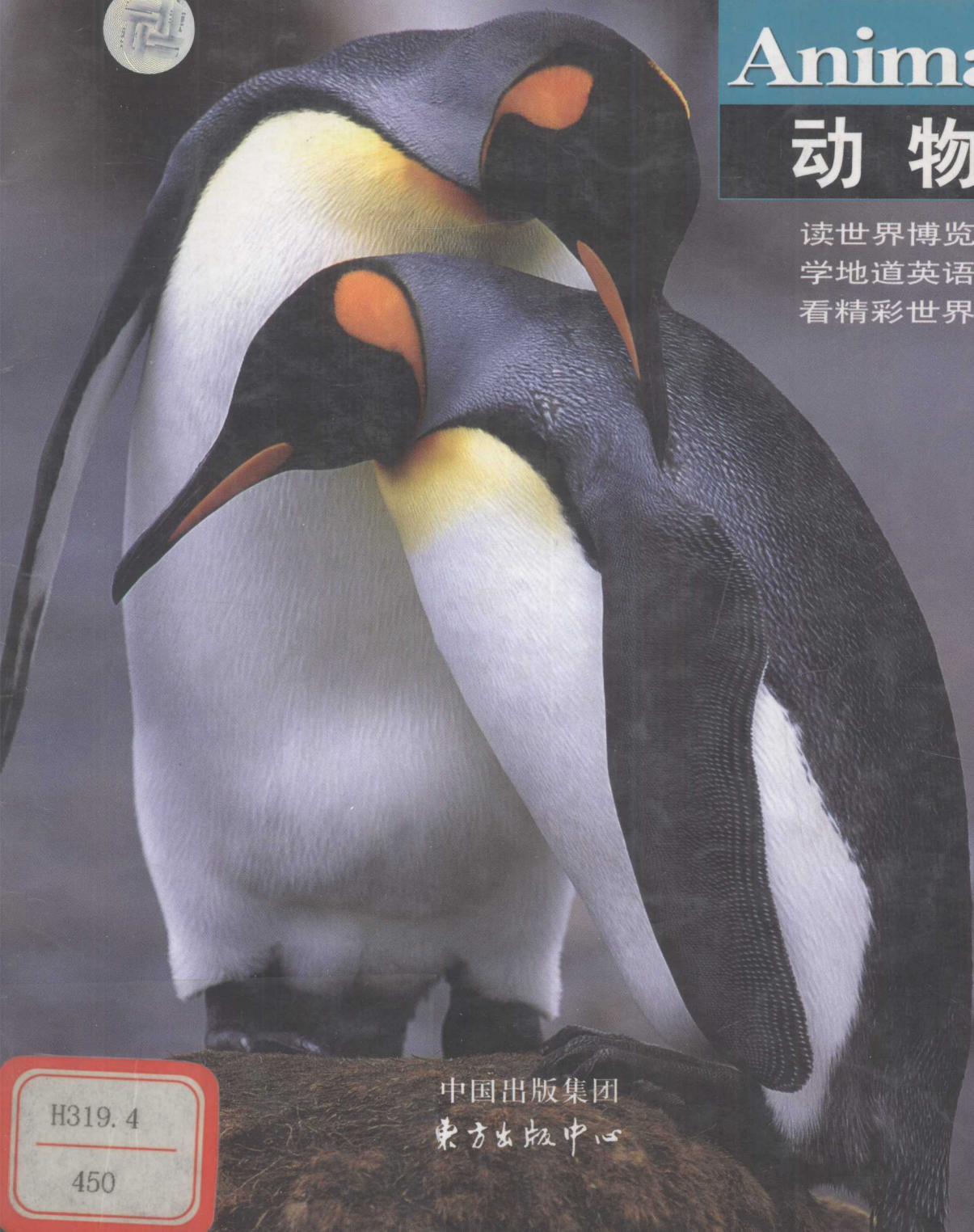


WONDERFUL WORLD
空中美语世界博览系列丛书

Animal

动物

读世界博览
学地道英语
看精彩世界



中国出版集团
东方出版中心

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前 言

如果你希望读到地道的英语,在享受英语阅读乐趣的同时又能增长知识、开拓视野,这套“空中美语世界博览系列丛书”正是你的选择。

“空中美语世界博览系列丛书”共有7个分册,它们分别是《动物》、《旅游》、《健康》、《体育》、《科学》、《建筑》和《人物》。该套丛书的内容是从风靡台湾二十余载的《空中美语》杂志中精选而来,秉承杂志图文并茂的特色,书中配有大量精美的图片,文字通俗易懂,深入浅出,将科学性和趣味性完美结合,称得上是一套精致的小百科。而且本系列丛书的版式设计不同于以往的书籍,绝对让你一饱眼福——贯穿全书的精美图片、别具一格的栏目设置,加上精良的印刷技术,定会让你感叹:原来读书也能如此惬意!

本丛书内容兼顾知识性与趣味性,因此,可作为广大英语学习爱好者的精读或泛读材料。为了帮助读者培养英文思维能力,本丛书的文章全部不设中文翻译,但是为难词和重点词汇做了详尽的注解。此外,编者在每篇文章的最后还精心准备了一个资讯加油站,里面是对文章的背景知识介绍或补充知识点,体贴的设计能让读者从阅读中获取更多的知识。

总之,一套“空中美语世界博览系列丛书”在手,世界万象尽收眼底。本套丛书是适合大学以上英语水平读者以及英语爱好者的知识读物。

由于编写时间有限,难免出现漏洞,有不足之处敬请各位读者指正。

编者

2004年9月

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What's Happening to Asian Elephants?

亲爱的，亚洲象怎么啦？

Asian elephants, once found throughout the forests of **southern**¹ Asia, now number less than 50,000. Today, there are ten times as many African elephants as Asian elephants. The main reason for this drop is the **loss**² of the animals' **habitat**³. As trees are cut down to make land free for **farming**⁴ and houses, the elephants are being **pushed**⁵ into smaller areas of forest.

The World Wildlife Fund says there are only about ten groups of Asian elephants with populations of more than a thousand. A smaller population means less **variety**⁶ in the elephants' **genes**⁷ making them less able to fight **sickness**⁸. Their only hope for **survival**⁹ is for us to share the land so we can live together in **harmony**¹⁰.

Vocabulary

1. southern	[ˈsʌðən]	adj. 南部的, 属于南部的
2. loss	[lɒs]	n. 丢失, 丧失
3. habitat	[ˈhæbitæt]	n. (动植物的)生存环境, 栖息地
4. farming	[ˈfɑ:miŋ]	n. 农事, 耕作
5. push	[puʃ]	v. 推动, 逼迫
6. variety	[vəˈraɪəti]	n. 种类, 多样性
7. gene	[dʒi:n]	n. 因子, 基因
8. sickness	[ˈsɪknɪs]	n. 患病, 疾病
9. survival	[səˈvaɪvəl]	n. 生存, 幸存
10. harmony	[ˈhɑ:məni]	n. 和谐, 融洽

资讯加油站

亚洲象简介

亚洲象是亚洲大陆现存最大的动物, 别名印度象。通常身高约3.2米, 重达5吨。现分布于我国云南西双版纳及南亚、东南亚部分地区。亚洲象是濒危动物之一, 也是一级野生保护动物。

亚洲象生活在潮湿的热带、亚热带森林和草原, 但是它常常在密林里穿行。亚洲象的食量很大, 每天要吃掉约300公斤的新鲜饲料。因此, 象经常通过集群搬家来获得食物来源。为了生存, 象群每天要奔走18至20个小时, 却只睡2至4小时。

在我国西双版纳保护区的三岔河热带森林公园内的野象谷中, 还生活着300多头大象。这也要归功于近年来人们保护野生动物意识的增强, 才能使这些珍稀动物得以生存。



Seahorses

海 马



Despite their **resemblance**¹ to tiny horses and their misleading name, seahorses are not a type of horse that lives in the sea. They are, in fact, a type of **tropical**² or subtropical fish.

Seahorses are unusual in that, aside from their unique shape, and they have very long tails. They use their tails to **anchor**³ themselves to **coral**⁴ branches and sea grasses.

Another unusual **feature**⁵ of seahorses is that the male has an **incubation**⁶ pouch, a bag for carrying babies, on the front of his body. In the mating process, a male grabs onto a female by the tail and invites her to put eggs into his pouch. He then releases **sperm**⁷ into his pouch to **fertilize**⁸ the eggs. The **embryos**⁹ develop in the male's pouch and, after a few weeks, baby seahorses swim out. Talk about **altering**¹⁰ the traditional roles of parenting!

海马简介

海马是海龙的同类，是一种奇异的小型海栖鱼类，身长5公分至30公分。因头部弯曲与体型近似直角而扬名。海马的种类并不多，大约有32种，在中国有8种。分别产于北纬30度与南纬30度之间的热带和亚热带沿岸浅水海域。

海马具有不同于一般鱼类的外形，尾鳍完全退化，脊椎则演化到如猴子尾巴一样，可卷曲用以钩住任何突出物体来固定身体位置。小而几乎透明的鱼鳍，可使海马任意上下左右移动，但速度缓慢。通常海马凭借身上体色的伪装及硬化成皮状的皮肤以逃避掠食者。海马特殊的繁衍方式亦引人注目，是由母鱼将卵产在雄鱼腹中之育儿囊，经2至3周的怀卵期，再由公鱼孵出小海马。

目前海马正面临极大的危机，每年有数以百万计的海马被捕捞以制成传统中药。另外，人类为了经济发展，大量破坏海藻区、红树林及珊瑚礁等海马的天然栖息地的做法也深深影响到海马的生存。

Vocabulary

1. resemblance	[ri'zembləns]	n.	相似，类似
2. tropical	['trɒpɪkl]	adj.	热带的
3. anchor	['æŋkə]	v.	紧固，紧紧扣牢
4. coral	['kɔrəl]	n.	珊瑚
5. feature	['fi:tʃə]	n.	特征，特色
6. incubation	['ɪŋkjʊ'beɪʃən]	n.	孵化
7. sperm	[spɜ:m]	n.	精子
8. fertilize	['fɜ:tilaɪz]	v.	受精
9. embryo	['embriəʊ]	n.	胚胎
10. alter	['ɔ:lteɪ]	v.	改变

mate v.n. 配偶
et



Stingers

of the Sea

海中“刺”客——水母

Given impressive-sounding names like “Portuguese man-of-war,” jellyfish are certainly respected and feared by humans. Not exactly a fish and lacking a **spine**¹ this creature has a single body **cavity**² or mouth. Any food consumed passes through this opening and so do undigested remains being **expelled**³.

A jellyfish’s **tentacles**⁴ which can exceed 30 meters in length, drag through the sea and capture any **prey**⁵ that may be in their path. Special cells that line the tentacles then fire small “arrows” into the victim, **paralyzing**⁶ it with a poison toxic enough to freeze even a human. The unfortunate prey is then drawn into the jellyfish’s mouth.

Possessing⁷ neither blood nor brain, jellyfish are primarily filled with a jelly-like **substance**⁸ loaded with nerve cells that help them **navigate**⁹ the seas. These cells detect light and touch, and then pass this information on to muscle cells.

In all its **simplicity**¹⁰ the jellyfish has existed for more than 600 million years with little change. Perhaps the jellyfish is indeed nature’s perfect beast.

Vocabulary

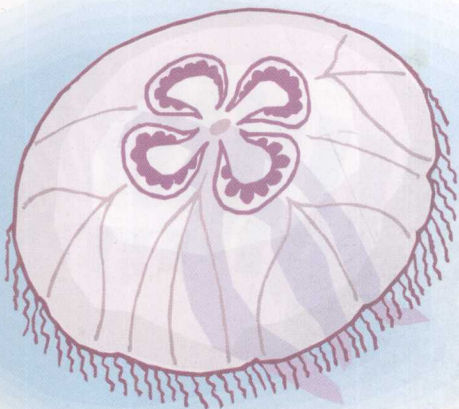
1. spine	[spain]	n. 脊骨, 脊柱
2. cavity	['kæviti]	n. 腔
3. expel	[iks'pel]	v. 排出, 射出
4. tentacle	['tentəkl]	n. 触器(手, 须, 角)
5. prey	[prei]	n. 被捕食的动物
6. paralyze	['pærəlaiz]	v. 使麻痹, 使瘫痪
7. possess	[pə'zes]	v. 拥有, 占有
8. substance	['sʌbstəns]	n. 物质
9. navigate	['nævigeit]	v. 航行, 航海
10. simplicity	[sɪm'plisiti]	n. 简单, 轻便

水母简介

水母又名海蜇, 是一种低等的多细胞动物, 隶属腔肠动物门。水母的身体柔软, 没有坚硬的骨骼。整个身体分为上下两部分, 上部是圆形的伞部, 下部垂挂着许多须状物, 即触手。水母的身体呈中心对称, 有口无肛。水母体内富含水分, 身体大多柔软、透明, 体积大, 重量轻, 很能适应浮游生活。

在海水中, 水母像是一团团半透明的胶状体, 似成形又未成形, 时起时落, 随波荡漾。大型水母伞部直径可达1米。有些水母靠充气的伞部漂浮在海面上, 四处游荡。水母伞部下长短不一的触手或腕是它的捕食工具, 也是它自卫和进攻的武器。小鱼虾一旦碰到触手, 触手上的刺细胞就会将致命的毒刺刺入猎物身体, 将毒液注入猎物体内, 使它中毒而死。然后, 触手卷曲起来, 将猎物送进水母的口中。

水母的身体柔软而且脆弱, 禁不起风浪的打击。但是水母有特殊的耳朵, 它可以听到强风和巨浪摩擦产生的8到13赫兹的次声波。所以, 它们能在风浪来临之前就下沉到海中去躲避灾难。





Slippery When Wet

滑溜溜的鳗鱼

Many people enjoy eating fried eel, but few stop to think about the life of this unique fish. There are hundreds of different **species**¹ of eel, all of which can be roughly **divided**² into two groups according to their habitat salt water and freshwater.

Despite living in different waters, all eels **spawn**³ in the sea. This means some freshwater eels **migrate**⁴ great distances to reach their saltwater **destinations**⁵. Biologists have **discovered**⁶ freshwater eels from North American and European rivers and lakes **gathering**⁷ as far as the middle of the Atlantic Ocean during late summer. Once the eels



arrive, the females lay their eggs and the males fertilize them. The adult eels then die there.

The next spring a new generation is born in the ocean. Those European and North American young then return to their **respective**⁸ coasts to begin the unusual life cycle of the eel anew.

Vocabulary

1. species	[ˈspiːʃɪz]	v. (植物或动物的)种
2. divide	[dɪˈvaɪd]	v. 划分, 分开
3. spawn	[spɔːn]	v. (鱼、蛙等)产卵
4. migrate	[maɪˈɡreɪt, ˈmaɪɡreɪt]	v. 迁徙, 移动
5. destination	[ˌdestɪˈneɪʃən]	n. 目的地
6. discover	[dɪsˈkʌvə]	v. 发现, 发觉
7. gather	[ˈɡæðə]	v. 聚集, 集合
8. respective	[rɪsˈpektɪv]	adj. 分别的, 各自的

资讯加油站

鳗鱼简介

平时在淡水中生长, 长大后则背井离乡到遥远的大洋中去产卵繁殖, 这一类鱼被称为洄游鱼类。

鳗鱼就是典型的洄游鱼类, 其特殊的生活习性和非同一般的生态系统给人一种神秘感。每当秋天到来, 大雁南飞的时候, 江河中膘肥体壮的成熟的鳗鱼, 形态和生理会发生巨大的变化: 眼睛变大, 吻端变尖, 背部体色变深, 腹部由黄色变成银白色, 同时气鳔缩小, 血液渗透压增高, 随后它们就成群结队地向大海进发了。在漫长的旅途中它们不停歇、不摄食, 到达目的地后就产卵, 然后因体力衰竭而死。刚孵出的小鳗鱼只有3毫米长, 身体扁平。它们出生后不久即返回江河湖泊中。在江河中生长3至5年, 等到性成熟后, 它们便开始自己漫长悲壮的生殖洄游。如此循环往复, 繁衍不息。



Octopuses: The

八爪章鱼鬼灵精



Octopuses are **fascinating**¹ animals. Commonly weighing more than 20 kilograms, and with arms over a meter long, octopuses are fast swimmers and strong fighters. They have eight arms, and the ability to grow back any arm they happen to lose. Octopuses can also change their skin color, turning from inky-black to bright red or green in a single second.

Being **incredibly**² **flexible**³ octopuses can fit through spaces that are the same size as their eyeballs. Many a person who has had a pet octopus may have, at one time or another, thought that their pet had escaped, only to be surprised at finding it hiding somewhere in the fish tank.

Besides being favored as pets, octopuses are also popular because they are quite tasty. But before you dig in to that next juicy piece of octopus, consider this: In recent years, measures of their intelligence have **placed**⁴ the octopus among the laureate of the marine animal world.

It is now known that the octopus has an **amazing**⁵ ability to learn. Researchers have **demonstrated**⁶ that octopuses can remove lids from jars to get at food, and find their way through

Problem Solvers



complicated⁷ mazes.

Octopuses can learn by **observing**⁸. With a system **involving**⁹ reward and punishment, scientists in Italy trained a group of octopuses to attack red balls in an aquarium **containing**¹⁰ both red and white balls. The scientists let another group of octopuses watch. Later, when the observing group was shown red and white balls, they went for the red ones.

An octopus' ability to change color may be more than just an interesting trait. Scientists now think that these color changes might be a form of communication between the animals. Scientists are studying this behavior, and in the future, we may learn that octopuses can in fact "talk". What would an octopus likely say if it could speak to a human? Perhaps something like "put down the fork, please!"

Vocabulary

1. fascinate	['fæsineit]	v.	迷住, 使神魂颠倒, 吸引
2. incredibly	[in'kredəbli]	adv.	难以置信地, 可疑地
3. flexible	['fleksəbl]	adj.	易弯曲的, 伸缩自如的
4. place	[pleis]	v.	评定, 任命
5. amazing	[ə'meiziŋ]	adj.	令人惊异的
6. demonstrate	['demənstreit]	v.	证明, 表明
7. complicated	['kɒmplikeitid]	adj.	复杂的
8. observe	[əb'zə:v]	v.	观察
9. involve	[in'vɒlv]	v.	包括, 涉及
10. contain	[kən'tein]	v.	包含, 容纳



资讯加油站

章鱼小探秘

深邃的海洋，无奇不有。物种千奇百怪，各具神通。章鱼和人们熟悉的墨鱼一样，并不是鱼类，它们都属于软体动物。与众不同的，章鱼有八只像带子一样长的脚，弯弯曲曲地漂浮在水中，因此章鱼又被称为“八带鱼”。

章鱼的攻防本领令人惊讶，是名副其实的多面手。与小蜥蜴一样，它能凭借障眼法逃生。一旦触手被别的动物咬住，它便自断其手逃之夭夭。如同变色龙一样，章鱼也有着十分惊人的变色能力。它可以随时变换自己的肤色使之和周围的环境保持一致。另外，章鱼有喷墨逃生的本领。一旦有什么东西轻轻地触动了它，它就会立刻跳起来，同时把浓黑的墨汁喷射出来以掩藏自己，随时准备进攻或撤退。

外貌虽丑，功夫虽高，但章鱼绝不凶残。相反，它

们是极其温和友善而又胆小的动物。由于不喜欢平坦的海底，它们通常躲在岩石的空穴里。许多潜水者都证实，章鱼绝不主动攻击人。迫不得已时，它们宁可选择别的逃生方法，也不会采取先发制人的攻略。比如，它们会变色或喷出烟雾。

章鱼还是一种极友善和聪明的动物。水族馆里的章鱼，能很快和人亲近。它们像小狗、小猫一样，喜欢受到主人的注意。章鱼天性好奇、善学，还有很好的记忆力，对掌握的本领永不遗忘。在海洋动物中，海豚以体态优美、善解人意而深得人心；形状古怪的章鱼却有如此好的脑子，实在令人称奇。或许丑八怪章鱼的智力，更值得人类去开发！

Traveling Turtles

绿海龟流浪记



Many people say that life is a journey. And there is no better example of this than the life of green sea turtles. Shortly after the time they **hatch**¹ these **unique**² animals begin their travels.

Life for green sea turtles begins underground in eggs **buried**³ in sand. Once they hatch, the turtles make a quick dash for the ocean. And the quicker, the better: During the short trip, many are unlucky enough to be eaten by birds, crabs, and other animals.

For the lucky ones, the next 3 to 10 years are spent **floating**⁴ around in the open sea, where the currents carry them far and wide. Once they are grown, they move to adult feeding grounds. These are the places where the turtles will spend the rest of their

