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新课标百科丛书 诺贝尔奖













SFLEP – Longman Secondary English Graded Readers 外教社 — 朗文中学英语分级阅读

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ALL ABOUT THE NOBEL PRIZE





上海外语教育出版社





图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

诺贝尔奖=All About The Nobel Prize / (南非) 赫伯恩 (Hepburn, E.) 著.

一上海:上海外语教育出版社,2006

(外教社一朗文中学英语分级阅读:新课标百科丛书)

ISBN 7-5446-0100-5

Ⅰ.诺… Ⅱ.赫… Ⅲ.英语—阅读教学—中学—课外读物

IV. G634.413

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2006)第051119号

图字: 09-2003-188号

作 者: Elizabeth Hepburn
出版人: 庄智象(外教社) 吴天祝(朗文)
策划编辑: 林心心 陈 骅(朗文)
责任编辑: 刘 芯(外教社) Laura Hepburn(朗文)
美术总监: 孔繁生(朗文)

出版发行:上海外语教育出版社 (上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083 话: 021-65425300 (总机), 35051812 (发行部) 申 电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn XX 北: http://www.sflep.com.cn http://www.sflep.com 责任编辑: 刘 芯 ED 刷:上海当纳利印刷有限公司 经 销:新华书店上海发行所 开 本: 889×1280 1/32 印张2 字数48千字 版 次: 2006年7月第1版 2006年7月第1次印刷 ED 数: 10 000 册

书 号: ISBN 7-5446-0100-5 / G • 0053

定价: 6.00元

本版图书如有印装质量问题,可向本社调换

新课标百科丛书 诺贝尔奖 ALL ABOUT THE NOBEL PRIZE



上海外语教育上版社 TION PRESS

HANGHAT FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS 地址: 上海市大连西路558号 网址: www.sflep.com.cn 电话: 021-65425300 E-mail: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn 传真: 021-65422956 (社办), 35051287 (编辑), 65424735 (发行) 邮编: 200083

SFLEP-Longman

Secondary English Graded Readers

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Acknowledgements

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上海外语教育出版社 中学英语分级阅读 Longman 朗文 新课标百科丛书《诺贝尔奖》 SFLEP–Longman Secondary English Graded Readers *All About The Nobel Prize*

Original English material of this SFLEP–Longman Secondary English Graded Readers All About The Nobel Prize © Pearson Education Asia Ltd. 2006

This edition of SFLEP–Longman Secondary English Graded Readers All About The Nobel Prize with the addition of simplified Chinese characters is published under the imprint of Longman, which is an imprint of Pearson Education Group, and by arrangement with Pearson Education Asia Limited, Hong Kong.

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This simplified Chinese characters edition first published in 2006 jointly by Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press and Pearson Education Asia Ltd.

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Do you know?

- Who started the Nobel Prize?
- What do dynamite and the Nobel Prize have in common?
- · How many patents did Alfred Nobel hold when he died?
- Why are the prizes awarded on 10 December every year?
- What do Nobel Prize winners win?
- How many Nobel Prize winners have there been between 1901 and 2005?
- Which Nobel Prize did Nelson Mandela win in 1993?

Read this book and find the answers to these and other questions. Learn about the Nobel Prize. You'll be amazed!



Introduction

The Nobel Prize is one of the greatest honours a person can receive today. As the name of the prize suggests, it has everything to do with a Swedish scientist, Alfred Nobel.



Alfred Nobel admired people who achieved great things and whose achievements helped the rest of the world. He decided that these people

should be rewarded for their talent and hard work. He believed that they should receive a prize that would be the greatest honour for achievement in the world — the Nobel Prize.

NOTES

honour / 'pnə^r / 荣誉 reward / rr'word / 报答, 奖赏

Early years

Alfred Nobel was born in Stockholm, Sweden on 21 October, 1833. That year, his father moved to St. Petersburg in Russia. In 1842, the whole family joined him.

In St. Petersburg, Alfred and his brothers did not go to school. They had their own private teachers. Alfred's interests lay in physics and chemistry. When Alfred was 17, he was sent abroad to study chemical engineering. By that time, he was fluent in five languages: Swedish, Russian, English, French and German!

Over the next two years Alfred travelled all over Europe, and even to America. His favourite city, however, was Paris.





A dangerous discovery

In Paris, Alfred met an Italian chemist who had invented nitroglycerine. This was an explosive liquid that was much more powerful than gunpowder. The problem was that it was too dangerous to be of any use. Small changes in temperature and pressure could cause it to explode at anytime.



For a long time, gunpowder was the only explosive used by man. Gunpowder was invented by the Chinese around the 9th century and it is still used today in fireworks.

NOTES

nitroglycerine / ,naɪtrəʊ'glɪsərm / 硝化甘油 (一种强力液体炸药) explosive / ɪk'spləʊsɪv / 爆炸性的 liquid / 'lɪkwɪd / 液体 gunpowder / 'gʌn,paʊdə^r / 火药 be of use 有用的

Alfred Nobel

Alfred became very interested in nitroglycerine and started experimenting on ways to use it in construction work. He knew it could be very useful for building tunnels and mines if it was safer to use.

Unfortunately, in a terrible accident in 1864, Alfred's brother was killed in a nitroglycerine explosion. The Swedish government banned Alfred from experimenting in the city of Stockholm, so Alfred had to continue his experiments on a boat on Lake Mälaren.



NOTES

explosion / ɪk'spləʊʒən / 爆炸 ban / bæn / 禁止

Alfred Nobel

Success

In 1863, Alfred moved back to Sweden and a year later, he finally solved the problem. He mixed silica and nitroglycerine and formed an explosive paste. This was much more stable to use. He called his invention *dynamite* and patented it in 1867.



Alfred's laboratory

In the years that followed, Alfred set up laboratories and factories in about 90 places in 20 different countries. He was an excellent businessman and became very rich. However, Alfred did not stop working. He worked harder than ever before. When he died, he held 355 patents! His discoveries were mainly to do with explosives but he also invented synthetic rubber leather and silk.

NOTES

silica / 'sɪlɪkə / 二氧化硅 dynamite / 'daməmaɪt / 炸药 patent / 'peɪtnt / 取得……的 专利 synthetic / sm'θetɪk / 合成的



synthetic leather



synthetic silk

Last years

At the age of 54, Alfred was forced to leave Paris. The French accused him of being a spy because he sold a powerful new explosive to Italy. This was unfair because he had offered to sell it to France first and they didn't want it. The problem was that this explosive could be used as a weapon and Italy and France did not have a good relationship at that time. Alfred was not a spy; he was simply a businessman.

> Jfred moved to San Remo, Italy, where he continued working. In 1896, he was planning to move back to Sweden, but on 10 December he died of a stroke.

Home is where I work and I work everywhere.

Nobel's home in San Remo

NOTES

accuse / ə'kjuːz / 控告, 谴责 stroke / strəʊk / 中风