

Daily Comprehension

November

听读 美国小故事

Jack Kabakoff

第 **11** 册



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出版前言

学习语言，不能离开语境，不能脱离文化和历史。上海外语教育出版社引进出版的适合高中学生的《听读美国小故事》全套12册，每月一册，记录美国历史上的今天，重温重大事件、历史人物、重要地点，从历史的角度给读者带来身临其境般的阅读体验。

为了让读者更好地了解背景知识，部分篇目后增设了“文化角”，提供了精炼的补充信息。注释部分对重点或难点词汇给出了解释，以帮助读者排除阅读障碍。每个故事后配有练习，有回答问题、填词游戏、填空等题型，用以检验读者的理解程度；也有需运用网络、百科全书等工具进行主题讨论的探究性练习，有助于读者发挥学习的主动性，增加学习的兴趣。另外，每篇文章都配有MP3录音，以方便诵读。

《听读美国小故事》让读者徜徉在历史长河中，了解历史、接触人物、增长知识、知事明理，是中学生增进历史知识、提高文化修养的好伙伴。

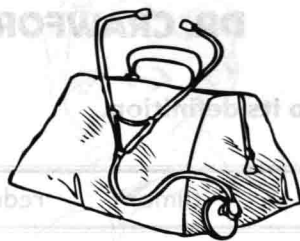
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DR. CRAWFORD LONG (1815-1878)



NOVEMBER 1

On November 1, 1815, Crawford Long was born in Danielsville, Georgia (佐治亚州). He was a doctor who performed the first operation using ether (乙醚) to stop pain caused by surgery¹.

Dr. Long discovered that ether gas could put a patient to sleep during surgery. Before this, patients were given large amounts of alcohol or drugs to reduce the pain they felt during an operation. Until ether was used, operations had to be short because of the great pain suffered² by the patient.

On March 30, 1842, Dr. Long performed the first operation on a man who was given ether. While he was in a sleep-like state, the doctor removed³ a tumor (肿瘤) from the man's neck. The patient did not feel any pain at all during the surgery.

Dr. Long continued to use ether during surgery, but did not make his discovery known until 1848.

Meanwhile, Dr. William Morton, a dentist, was using nitrous oxide (一氧化二氮), or laughing gas (笑气), as a way to reduce pain when removing teeth. Dr. Morton first performed his surgery in 1846, four years after Dr. Long's surgery.

When Dr. Morton and others each claimed⁴ to be the first to use ether in an operation, Dr. Long challenged⁵ their claims.

After many years of debate, Dr. Long became known as the first person to use ether in surgery. Dr. Morton became the first person to perform an operation using ether in a public demonstration⁶.

Dr. Morton went broke⁷ trying to prove he was the first to use ether in surgery, while Dr. Long continued as a successful surgeon⁸.

Notes

1. surgery /'sɜ:dʒəri/ n. 外科手术
2. suffer /'sʌfə/ v. 遭受, 忍受
3. remove /rɪ'mu:v/ v. 移走, 去掉
4. claim /kleɪm/ v. 声称, 断言
5. challenge /'tʃælɪndʒ/ v. 挑战, 质疑
6. demonstration /,demən'streɪʃən/ n. 演示; 展示
7. go broke 破产; 身无分文
8. surgeon /'sɜ:dʒən/ n. 外科医生

DR. CRAWFORD LONG

Write each word next to its definition.

surgery	patient	tumor	reduce	challenge	debate
---------	---------	-------	--------	-----------	--------

- _____ to question the truth of a statement
- _____ a person under the care of a doctor
- _____ cutting open a body to repair damaged parts
- _____ to make or become less in amount or size
- _____ to discuss arguments for and against something
- _____ a swelling or growth in the body that is not normal

Write the words or dates next to the statements describing them.

William Morton	1848	debate	Crawford Long	1846	1842
----------------	------	--------	---------------	------	------

- _____ doctor who performed first surgery using ether
- _____ year in which ether was first used in an operation
- _____ name of dentist who first used nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, to reduce pain of teeth removal
- _____ year in which gas was first used to reduce pain when removing teeth
- _____ year Dr. Long first told about using ether for surgery
- _____ what went on for many years to decide which doctor first used ether to reduce pain

Research: Look up the word *ether* in an encyclopedia. Why must people be very careful when using it?

DANIEL BOONE

(1734-1820)



NOVEMBER 2

On November 2, 1734, in a log cabin (小木屋) located near the present-day city of Reading, Pennsylvania, Daniel Boone was born. He became known as one of the most famous pioneers¹ in American history.

It was Boone who explored² the unknown lands of Kentucky, and he led many settlers³ into that state. It was his leadership and knowledge of the wilderness⁴ and of Indians that made him so important.

Boone was hired by Richard Henderson, who had bought land from the Indians. It was Boone's job to clear a road so settlers could reach those lands in Kentucky. This road became known as the Wilderness Road. It passed through the Cumberland Mountains. At the end of this road, Boone built a settlement he called Boonesborough. The fort (城堡) he built was located near the present-day city of Lexington.

Boone was captured⁵ by Native Americans several times. One time while he was held prisoner, Boone heard that the Native Americans were planning to attack Boonesborough. He escaped and traveled for days in order to warn the settlement of the attack.

Twice, Daniel Boone lost land that he thought was his. In Kentucky, he tried to sell land to which he did not have a legal title. In Missouri, the United States government

purchased⁶ land that the Spanish had given to him.

In 1814, the United States government, knowing that Boone was without land, gave back some of the land he had owned in Missouri.

Daniel Boone died in 1820, at the age of 86. He is buried with his wife, Rebecca, in Frankfort, Kentucky.

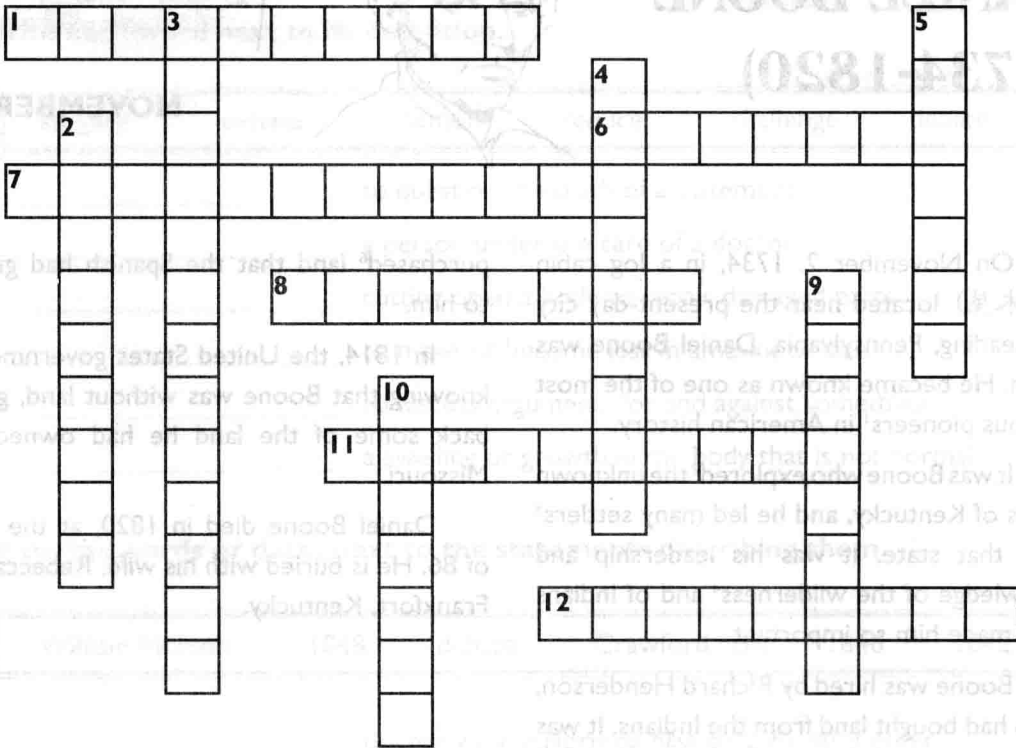
Notes

1. pioneer /ˈpiəɪəˈniə/ *n.* 拓荒者, 开发者
2. explore /ɪkˈsplɔː/ *v.* 探险, 探索
3. settler /ˈsetlə/ *n.* 移民者; 殖民者
4. wilderness /ˈwɪldənɪs/ *n.* 荒野, 未开垦的荒地
5. capture /ˈkæptʃə/ *v.* 捕获, 俘虏
6. purchase /ˈpɜːtʃəs/ *v.* 购买

文化角

Native American: 北美土著居民(印第安人), 欧洲人到来之前就一直居住在此。当时人们错误地认为哥伦布到达了东印度而不是北美大陆, 所以把他们称作“印第安人”(Indians)。

DANIEL BOONE



Across:

1. The Wilderness Road passed through the _____ Mountains.
6. Boone's wife was named _____.
7. Boone was born in the state of _____.
8. Boone explored the unknown lands of _____.
11. The _____ Road was built by Boone.
12. Boone was hired by a man named Richard _____ to explore Kentucky.

Down:

2. Boonesborough was near the present-day city of _____.
3. Boone built the settlement he called _____.
4. The city in which Daniel and Rebecca are buried is _____.
5. The U.S. government purchased land that the _____ had given to Boone.
9. Boone owned land in Kentucky and _____.
10. Boone was a famous _____.

Research: Find the word *pioneer* in a dictionary. Write its definition in English.

ANNIE OAKLEY

(1860-1926)



NOVEMBER 3

On November 3, 1926, a woman known throughout the United States as “Little Sure Shot” died in Greenville, Ohio. Her real name was Phoebe Ann Mosee (or Moses), but everyone knew her as Annie Oakley. Annie Oakley was known as one of the best sharpshooters¹ in the United States.

She took the stage name (艺名) of Oakley from the name of a town near Cincinnati, Ohio. This is where she met her husband, Frank Butler. They were both entered in a shooting contest². It was said that Frank hit 24 out of 25 targets, but Annie missed³ none. She hit every one of her 25 targets. Frank and Annie fell in love, and they were married less than a year later.

After traveling around the country with circuses and other shows, both Frank and Annie joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show (水牛比尔牛仔戏).

Frank helped his wife in her acts by letting her shoot a dime (十美分) out of his hand or a cigarette out of his mouth. After a while, he became Annie's business manager.

Annie Oakley wasn't only a great sharpshooter, she was a great person as well. Before she died, Annie had the medals⁴ she had won melted⁵ down, and she sold the gold and silver. She gave the money to a children's hospital.

Annie Oakley had a saying that went like this: “Aim at a high mark and you will hit it. No, not the first time, nor the second, and maybe not the third. But keep on aiming and keep on shooting, for only practice will make you perfect. Finally, you'll hit the Bull's Eye⁶ of Success.”

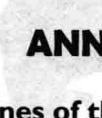
There is a musical which was based on her life. The musical is called *Annie Get Your Gun*.

Notes

1. sharpshooter /'ʃɑ:pʃu:tə/ *n.* 神枪手
2. contest /'kɒntest/ *n.* 比赛; 竞赛
3. miss /mɪs/ *v.* 未击中
4. medal /'medl/ *n.* 奖章, 奖牌
5. melt /melt/ *v.* 融化
6. hit the bull's eye 命中靶心, 取得成功

文化角

(the) wild west show: 西部牛仔戏, 美国早期西部牛仔和印第安人的表演, 如枪法、射箭、骑术等。最早及最著名的即为水牛比尔牛仔戏(1883—1913)。



ANNIE OAKLEY

the lines of the pyramid

1. Annie Oakley died on November _____.
2. Annie Oakley died in the year 19____.
3. The musical based on Annie's life is called *Annie Get Your* _____.
4. Annie was called "Little Sure _____."
5. Annie Oakley's real last name was _____.
6. Annie married Frank _____.
7. Annie joined _____ Bill's Wild West Show.
8. Annie Oakley died in the month of _____.
9. Annie shot a _____ out of the mouth of her husband.
10. Annie Oakley died in _____, Ohio.

Research: Look up *Buffalo Bill* in an encyclopedia. What was his real name?

WILL ROGERS

(1879-1935)



NOVEMBER 4

On November 4, 1879, Will Rogers was born on a ranch¹ in what is now the state of Oklahoma.

Will is considered an American folk² hero. Will did many things during his lifetime. He began as a cowboy, but became famous as a trick roper (套绳表演者), comedian³, movie star, writer, and public speaker.

Will Rogers was part Cherokee (彻罗基族, 北美印第安人之一族) and was very proud of his ancestors⁴. He would say, "My ancestors didn't come to America on the Mayflower, but they met it."

Will traveled around the world as a cowboy and as a trick roper in a wild west show. During his shows, he would chew gum and do his rope tricks. He would talk about people, business, government, and current⁵ events.

People seemed to enjoy Will's sense of humor (幽默感). After a while, Will became so popular that he had his own radio program and his own newspaper column⁶.

Will remained down-to-earth⁷ even after he became one of the most famous men in America.

Will's jokes and stories were not only humorous, but made the American people think about important issues.

The whole world was saddened when they

heard that the great entertainer⁸ had died in a plane crash near Point Barrow, Alaska, on August 15, 1935.

A statue⁹ of Will Rogers stands in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. There is another statue in Claremore, Oklahoma, where he is buried. On this statue is one of his most famous sayings: *I never met a man I didn't like.*

Notes

1. ranch /rɑːntʃ/ *n.* 大农场, 大牧场
2. folk /fəʊk/ *a. & n.* 民间的; 人们
3. comedian /kə'miːdiən/ *n.* 喜剧演员
4. ancestor /'ænsesə/ *n.* 祖先
5. current /'kʌrənt/ *a.* 当前的, 现在的
6. column /'kɒləm/ *n.* 专栏 (文章)
7. down-to-earth /,daʊntə'z:θ/ *a.* 实在的, 脚踏实地的
8. entertainer /entə'teɪnə/ *n.* 表演者, 艺人
9. statue /'stætjuː/ *n.* 雕像

文化角

Mayflower: “五月花号”, 是英国移民驶往北美的第一艘船只。在布雷德福的带领下102名清教徒于1620年11月21日在北美登陆。

WILL ROGERS

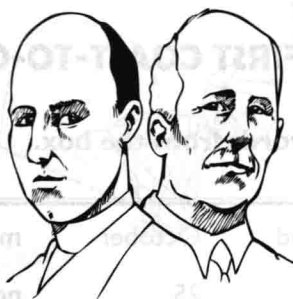
Write your answers on the lines. Then find the answers in the word search.

1. Will Rogers was born in the state of _____.
2. Will belonged to a Native American tribe called the _____.
3. People liked the way Will talked and enjoyed his sense of _____.
4. Will's first occupation was as a _____.
5. A _____ of Will stands in the U.S. Capitol.
6. Will died in a _____ crash.
7. Will is buried in _____, Oklahoma.
8. Will said his ancestors met the _____ when it arrived in America.
9. Will died in the state of _____.
10. Will was born on a _____.



Research: Read more about *Will Rogers* in an encyclopedia. What was the name of Will's pilot, who was also killed in the plane crash?

FIRST COAST-TO-COAST FLIGHT



The Wright Brothers



NOVEMBER 5

On November 5, 1911, Calbraith Rodgers landed his airplane in Pasadena, California, and became the first person to fly across the United States.

In 1911, the airplane was still a new invention. It had been invented only eight years before by the Wright brothers of Dayton, Ohio.

In October, 1910, William Randolph Hearst, a wealthy newspaper owner, offered \$50,000 to the first person to fly an airplane across the United States.

In order to get the \$50,000 award, Hearst stated that the trip had to be completed¹ within 30 days from the time the flight began. The flight had to be finished by October 11, 1911.

Calbraith Rodgers was determined to collect the \$50,000. He took flying lessons from the two people who knew more about the airplane than anyone else: Orville and Wilbur Wright.

On September 17, 1911, Calbraith began his journey from Sheepshead Bay, New York. This gave him only 25 days to complete the 3,000-mile trip. He began to have problems from the very beginning. He had a take-off² accident, bad weather, and mechanical³ problems.

It took Calbraith three weeks just to reach

Chicago. He knew then that he would never make the October 11th deadline⁴.

Calbraith could have given up, but he didn't. Forty-nine days from the day he began, he completed the first coast-to-coast (从大西洋岸到太平洋岸的) flight. The experts at that time said a coast-to-coast flight was impossible, but Calbraith Rodgers proved⁵ them wrong.

Notes

1. complete /kəm'pli:t/ v. 完成
2. take-off /'teɪkɒf/ n. 起飞
3. mechanical /mɪ'kæni:kəl/ a. 机械的
4. deadline /'dedlaɪn/ n. 期限
5. prove /pru:v/ v. 证明

文化角

Calbraith Rodgers: 卡尔佩斯·佩里·罗杰斯(Calbraith Perry Rogers), 1911年9月17日, 驾驶莱特EX型“Vin Fiz”飞机完成第一次美国东岸到西岸飞行, 历时49天。

FIRST COAST-TO-COAST FLIGHT

Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

30	continued	October	mechanical	\$50,000	inventors
New York	3,000	25	not	lessons	49
1911	across	Calbraith	California	Chicago	

On November 5, _____, Calbraith Rodgers became the first person to fly an airplane _____ the United States. He wanted to win a _____ prize offered by William Randolph Hearst.

In order to win the prize, the flight had to be completed within _____ days and the deadline was _____ 11, 1911.

Calbraith had taken flying _____ from Wilbur and Orville Wright, the _____ of the first self-propelled airplane. He believed he could make the trip easily.

Calbraith took off from Sheepshead Bay, _____, on September 17. He had _____ days to complete the trip, which was _____ miles long.

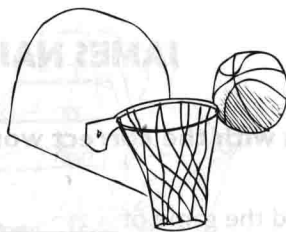
An accident, bad weather, and _____ problems caused delays for _____. It took him three weeks just to reach _____.

Calbraith knew then he would _____ reach _____ by the deadline. He _____ the flight, however, and became the first person to fly coast-to-coast. The trip took _____ days.

Research: Surf the Internet, and find some information about *Charles Lindbergh*. What is Lindbergh famous for?

JAMES NAISMITH

(1861-1939)



NOVEMBER 6

On November 6, 1861, the inventor of the most popular winter sport was born in Canada. His name was James Naismith, and the sport he invented was basketball.

Basketball is the only major sport that can be called truly American. It is the only major sport that was developed in the United States. Not even baseball¹ can be called truly American. Baseball was taken from an English sport called rounders (圆场球, 即板球).

Today, basketball is played throughout the world.

In 1891, the head of the International YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association 基督教青年会) Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, asked James Naismith, the gym² teacher, to invent a team sport. The head of the school wanted a sport that could be played indoors³ during the winter, after the football season had ended.

Naismith decided that a game in which players would have to throw a ball into a basket would be fun. A peach basket was nailed⁴ to each end of the gym, and basketball was invented.

In the beginning, when a basket was made, someone had to climb a ladder to get the ball out of the basket.

In December 1891, the first basketball game was played by Naismith's gym class. His

gym class had 18 men so there were 9 men on each team. Today, there are 5 players on a team.

From the very beginning, basketball was a popular sport. Before long, basketball teams were being formed everywhere.

When James Naismith invented basketball in 1891, he made a list of 13 rules. Rules and style of play have changed over the years, but the basic⁵ game of basketball remains⁶ the same.

Notes

1. baseball /'beɪsbɔ:l/ n. 棒球
2. gym /dʒɪm/ n. 健身房, 体育馆
3. indoors /,ɪn'dɔ:z/ ad. 在室内
4. nail /neɪl/ v. 钉住; 使固定
5. basic /'beɪsɪk/ a. 基本的, 基础的
6. remain /rɪ'meɪn/ v. 保留, 保持

JAMES NAISMITH

Complete the sentences with the correct words from the story.

1. James Naismith invented the game of _____.
2. Naismith was born in the country of _____.
3. Naismith was a gym teacher at the YMCA Training School in _____.
4. The head of the school wanted a sport that could be played _____ during the _____.
5. Naismith made up a game where players had to throw a ball into a _____.
6. He nailed a _____ to each end of the gym.
7. When a player made a basket, someone had to get the ball out of the basket by climbing a _____.
8. The first games were played with _____ men on each team.
9. Today, there are _____ players on a team.
10. Basketball was invented in the year _____.
11. From the very beginning, basketball was a _____ sport.
12. Basketball is the only major sport that is truly _____.

Research: Surf the Internet to find out which team won the NBA World Championship in 1965.