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An [redacted] Class

美国中学课堂

英语拓展阅读

Timed Readings Plus in Science



吉林出版集团有限责任公司

自然科学
Science



American Class

美国中学课堂

英语拓展阅读

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■ 前言 | Forword

你会常常好奇美国中学课堂究竟是什么样子吗？本套图书就将为你揭开美国中学课堂的神秘面纱，向你展示美国中学教育的真实画面，让你身临其境地领略美国中学课堂的灵动乐章。

这是一套向学生传授科普知识的优秀读本。本套图书共为两本，分为《社会科学》和《自然科学》。每本图书分别精选了美国中学课堂社会科学与自然科学60余篇精品文章。让你在感受美国元素、沉浸于美国丰富的文化同时，不知不觉喜欢上英语，在故事中、在情境中学习和体验英文的魅力。

通过学习，你会了解到山姆大叔、布鲁斯音乐、纽约的手指湖等一系列美国课堂中的经典范文。通过一篇篇短小精悍的文章，让你在欣赏这些优美文字的同时，拓宽视野。仿佛置身于美国课堂，在知识的海洋中自由翱翔。

本套图书适用于学生自学，同时适用于教师课堂使用。详细的使用说明请参见封面、封底勒口处“致学生”“致老师”。另外充分考虑到学生课外阅读的方便，在每篇文章后都备注了中文翻译。超出核心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中，并标注释义。同时配备了经典习题，加深学生对文章的深入理解，也极大地提高学生的英语阅读水平，对英语学习大有裨益，是一套适合于国内中学生的优秀双语课外读物。

鉴于编者水平有限，凡不周之处，谬误之处，皆欢迎批评教正。我们真心地希望本套图书承载的文化知识和英语阅读的策略对提高学生的英语著作欣赏水平和英语运用能力有所裨益。

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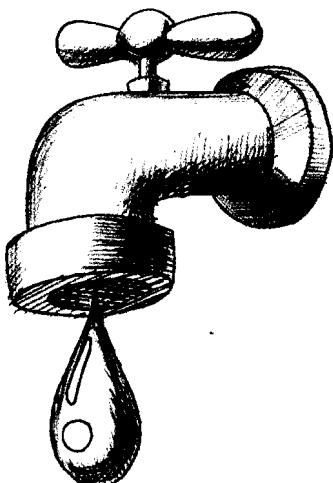
01 Water Is Needed for Life

What would happen to a *houseplant* if nobody ever watered it? It would *wilt* and die. Animals and people need water too. In fact, all living things need water to survive.

Why is water so important? It makes up most of the weight of living things. An animal's blood and the *sap* of plants are mostly water. Blood and sap move food and get rid of waste. In the cells, chemical reactions take place. These are needed for survival, and they can't occur without water.

Our bodies lose water in many ways. We lose it through our skin when we *sweat*. We lose tiny drops of it in the air that we *exhale*. We lose it in the form of *urine*. We lose between 2 and 3 *liters* (2.1 to 3.2 quarts) of water a day. In order to keep enough water in our bodies for our cells to function, we need to take in enough water to make up for what is lost. We get some water from food, but we get most of it by drinking. This is why people need to drink a glass of water several times a day. On hot days, we sweat more, so we need to drink more. When the amount of water in the body falls below a certain level, we feel thirsty. Thirst is the body's way of making sure we drink what we need.

Think about the many other ways we use water each day. We use it to help us brush our teeth. We might use water to make soup for lunch. We add water to cake mixes. We give water to pets. We water the grass and



the flowers in the yard. If there isn't enough rain, farmers may need to water their crops. We take a bath or shower to get clean. We use water to wash our clothes, wash the car, and *mop* the floor. We use water to put out fires.

Pure water does not have any taste or odor. But

chemicals, *pesticides*, and wastes from factories have polluted our water. Water pollution can cause health problems in people and can poison *wildlife*. The water that we get from *faucets* and water *fountains* is specially cleaned to make it safe to drink. Laws have been passed to stop pollution. We need to do more to make sure that there will always be clean water for all of Earth's living things.

New Words

houseplant *n.* 室内盆栽植物

wilt *v.* (使)枯萎; 调谢

sap *n.* (植物体内运送养分的)液; 汁

sweat *v.* 出汗; 流汗

exhale *v.* 呼出; 呼气

urine *n.* 尿; 小便

liter *n.* 公升

mop *v.* 用拖把擦

pesticide *n.* 杀虫剂; 除害药物

wildlife *n.* 野生动物; 野生生物

faucet *n.* 龙头; 旋塞

fountain *n.* 喷泉

Recalling Facts

1. Water makes up of _____ the weight of living things.

- a. a small part
- b. almost all
- c. most

2. We lose between _____ of water a day.

- a. 2 and 3 pints
- b. 2 and 3 liters
- c. 4 and 5 liters

3. When the amount of water in our bodies falls below a certain level, we

- a. feel thirsty.
- b. sweat more.
- c. take a bath or shower.

4. Blood and sap

- a. move food and get rid of waste.
- b. make up 90 percent of the weight of living things.
- c. contain very little water.

5. Water pollution can be caused by

- a. steam.
- b. pesticides.
- c. faucets.

Understanding Ideas

6. If there were no water on Earth, there would be no

- a. mice.
- b. rocks.
- c. deserts.

7. You would probably be thirstiest after

- a. reading a book at the library.

- b. watching TV.
- c. playing basketball outside on a hot day.

8. During dry weather, a farmer would think it is most important to

- a. water the vegetable crops.
- b. wash the tractor.
- c. use a hose to clean the sides of the barn.

9. You might think water is polluted if it

- a. smells bad.
- b. has no odor.
- c. has no taste.

10. Without water,

- a. most animals could survive.
- b. most plants could survive.
- c. no living things could survive.

水是生命之源

一盆室内的植物如果从来没有人浇水会怎么样？它会枯萎然后死掉。动物和人同样也需要水。事实上，所有有生命的东西都需要水来生存。

水为什么这么重要？它组成了生命体的大部分。动物的血液和树的汁液大部分都是水。血液和汁液运送食物并且把废物运送出去。在细胞中会发生化学反应。这些是生存所必需的，没有水，这些都不可能进行。

我们的身体会以很多种方式流失水分。当我们的皮肤出汗时会流失水分。我们呼气时会失去少量的水。水会以尿的形式流失。我们每天会流失2到3升(2.1到3.2夸脱)的水。为了使我们的身体里有足够的水保证细胞的正常工作，我们应该补充足够的水分弥补流失的那些水分。我们可以从食物中获得水，但是大部分是通过喝水获得。这就是为什么人在一天中每隔一段时间就要喝一杯水。在炎热的天气中，我们出的汗多，所以我们要喝更多的水。当我们身体中的水分含量下降到一定程度时，我们就会感觉口渴。口渴是确定我们身体需要水的一种方式。

想想我们每天用水的其他方式。我们用它来刷牙。我们也可以用它做午餐的汤。我们通过加水来调配制作蛋糕。我们给宠物喂水。我们浇园子中的花草。如果没有充足的雨水，农民需要用水来浇灌庄稼。我们用水洗澡来保持干净。我们用水洗衣服、擦车和拖地。我们用水来灭火。

纯净的水没有任何的气味。但是化学药品、杀虫剂、工厂排出的废水污染了水。水污染能引起人的健康问题并且使野生动物中毒。我们从水龙头和喷泉中得到的水是经过特殊净化的，可以安全地饮用。人们已经颁布了法律阻止污染。我们需要做更多事确保我们地球上的生物能一直使用到纯净的水。

02 Using Energy to Ride a Bike

How do the *cereal*, milk, and orange juice you had for breakfast help you ride your bike? The food that you eat is *fuel* for your body. Your body turns this fuel into energy. Your body is always making and using energy.

Just as your body is able to *transfer* energy from your stomach to your muscles, a bike is able to transfer energy from its *pedals* to its wheels. The pedals are attached to a *cogwheel*, which is a wheel with metal teeth. A chain connects this cogwheel with a smaller cogwheel that is attached to the *rear* wheel. As the larger cogwheel turns, the chain makes the rear cogwheel turn the rear wheel. As the rear wheel begins to turn, the front wheel begins to turn too.

Once you get the bike started, the wheels allow it to roll easily. When one surface rolls over another, the movement causes *friction*, or resistance, which slows you down. Bike tires are narrow. There is little friction when the small surface of a bike tire rolls across the ground.



Bicycle wheels are lightweight. This is because it takes less energy to turn a light wheel than it does to turn a heavy one. Lightweight wheels still have to be strong enough to support the weight of the bicycle and the rider. This is the reason wheels have spokes—to add strength.

Why do you have to pedal harder when going up a hill? You need more energy to overcome the force of gravity. The force of gravity increases as you go up a hill.

When you want to stop your bike, you pull the brake *levers*. These levers pull *cables* that move *pads* against the *rim* of the wheel. These pads create friction on the rim and slow the wheel down until the bike stops.

Remember to wear a helmet when you ride your bike. If you fall off your bike, you may hit your head. This can cause serious damage to your brain. Most helmets have a hard shell with a layer of stiff foam. The foam can absorb most of the energy of your head's hitting the pavement. Be sure your helmet has a strong strap that will keep it on your head. When you fall off a bike, you may hit your head more than once.

So eat your breakfast, buckle on your helmet, and have a good ride!

New Words

cereal *n.* 谷类食物

transfer *v.* 转移

cogwheel *n.* 齿轮

friction *n.* 摩擦；摩擦力

cable *n.* 缆绳；钢索

rim *n.* 边沿；轮缘

fuel *n.* 燃料

pedal *n.* 脚蹬子；踏板

rear *adj.* 后面的；后部的

lever *n.* 操纵杆；控制杆

pad *n.* 垫状物；软材料

Recalling Facts

1. Food is fuel that your body turns into

a. muscle.

b. friction.