ENGLISH READING COURSE

for Speed and Comprehension

BOOK THREE

英语阅读教程

第三册

吴景惠 编写 高云翔审校



吉林大

英语阅读教程

ENGLISH READING COURSE

for Speed anb Comprehensiom

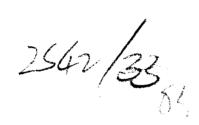
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吉林大学出版社



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高云翔 审校

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前言

阅读 (Reading),包括快速阅读 (Fast Reading),阅读理解 (Reading Comprehension),在英美各地很早就受到重视,不仅中学和高等院校开设阅读课程,还设有专门机构对阅读技巧和阅读教材进行研究。我国教授英语虽有较长的历史,并积累了丰富的经验,但是对英语阅读能力,尤其是对快速阅读能力训练的重视还是在最近几年才开始的。

在这个知识激增的信息时代,每天都有大量新的科技文献、文史资料、报刊、书籍源源不断地出版。若想在知识的海洋中更多地获取所需要的信息,读者必须具有快速阅读能力和高度理解能力。为此,阅读课已经成为我国大专院校英语专业学生的基础课,也是非英语专业学生提高阅读速度,增强理解能力,扩大词汇量,增加文化背景知识的重要途径。

近几年来,我国选派了大批本科生、研究生及进修生赴某些讲英语的国家 留 学深造,他们大都必须通过某种形式的英语考试。在这些考试中,无论是 TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), GRE (Graduate Record Examination),还是EPT(English Proficiency Test),词汇和阅读理解试题都占有相当大的比例。目前,在国内各类英语考试中,如高等院校和研究生入学英语考试,阅读理解都是不可缺少的内容。

现代的阅读就是要求读者在精神高度集中的情况下,用有效的手段,以最快的速度,通读有关的文章,获取所需要的全部信息。考试时,要求考生在限定的时间内快速读完阅读试题,全面理解,并对供选择的答案作出正确判断。实质上,阅读理解是对读者的英语词汇,语法,文化背景知识及分析问题能力等进行的综合测试。

为适应大专院校英语教学和英语爱好者自学的需要,为培养读者对各种英语测试手 段的应试能力,我们编写了这套《英语阅读 教 程》 (English Reading Course)。本 书所选篇章均为英语原文材料,题材多样,内容广泛,语言地道生动,程度由浅入深, 颇具知识性、科学性、趣味性。

本书可作为大学英语专业泛读教材,也可以作为文、理、工、医、师、农等科学生的英语阅读教材,还可供各类中、高级英语培训班及有一定英语基础的人使用。本书曾在吉林大学外文系英语专业作为泛读教材,也曾先后在六期中、高级英语培训班中作为阅读理解教材使用,都收到良好效果。

本书共分四册。第一、二册每册分为三十六个单元。(已于一九八五年十月出版)第三、四册每册分为三十个单元。每个单元由课文(Passage for Comprehension),生词和习语(Words and Expressions),理解练习(Comprehension),词汇练习(Vocabulary),快速阅读练习(Fast Reading Practice)五部分组成。课文长度约为1,500一2,000个单词。生词量约为4%—5%(包括那些词性不同,意思不同,而词形相关的反复出现和个别生僻单词的重复出现)。为了方便读者,我们对每个主词。

国际音标,同时用英文和中文注释。每篇课文配有理解练习十个,词汇练习十个,练习均为多种选择题。快速阅读练习的短文长度约300—500个单词,生词量不超过3%,并配有多种选择练习。

对书中各项练习均提供答案, 供读者参考。

本书第三册由吴景惠同志编写,高云翔同志审校。另外,戴荣、刘卫红同志在第三 册编写的过程中做了大量的工作,在此一并表示感谢。

由于我们水平有限,加之时间仓促,书中难免有不当和错漏之处,望各位读者批评指正。

编者 一九八七年二月

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Unit 7

PASSAGE FOR COMPREHENSION

Unsolved Mystery—THE SEA

by Peter Freuchen

Starting Time: Minutes _____ Seconds_____

I really began to learn about the seven seas in Greenland, although I was born and raised in a little port, Nykobing Falster, in Denmark. I had known ships and sailors and stories about famous voyages all my life, but when I sat through the long, dark nights of the arctic winters at Thule for years, for many years indeed, I discovered the wondrows ocean in my imagination.

There was little enough of it that we could see, for all winter long the ice stretched out for interminable miles and miles in front of us, firm and solid. As soon as the sun showed over the horizon in spring, we had a wide outlook; but it took months for the ice to break up, and during that time it was tantalizing to look out from the shore at huge icebergs drifting south in endless procession. When a fellow is sitting alone for months as I was, he lets his imagination fly freely. In my mind I followed those big fragments of icecap as they floated eternally to their doom. I thought of them sailing so majestically south untill they were off Newfoundland; I knew they would turn east there and meet the warm waters of the Gulf Stream where they would die, swiftly and inevitably, for the Gulf Stream can finish off even a large berg in twenty-four hours.

Well, I wondered, where does the Gulf Stream originate, and why and how does it happen to be exactly where it is? On the sails of my imagination still, I followed this mighty current to where it is born in the Caribbean. That took me to the waters of other currents, and to studying the winds and tides that play such an important part in the mysterious movements of the sea. Why, I asked myself, do the winds blow so steadily in one place and so capriciously in snother, and not at all somewhere else, why should the tide rise as high as a house on one coast and hardly at all on another? Why twice a day in most of

world, but in some places only once? And where, after all, does all that water come from in the first place?

Little by little it dawned upon me that there is a logical connection between all the things that happen in that immense connected body of salted water that covers 71 per cent of the surface of the earth. The amazing fact is that the ripples from a pebble thrown by a child could actually be traced all over the seven seas if only we had scientific instruments delicate enough to record them. There is, indeed, a grand pattern in the wonderful phenomena of the ocean. This pattern regulates the ocean's storms and calms, deeps and shallows, the animals and plants that inhabit it, the birds flying over it, its myriad islands, volcanoes, and caves, and even the men and ships moving about on its surface.

Since those long, dark, lonely winters in Thule, I never have stopped wondering and learning about the seven seas. Why seven? This was one of the first questions I asked myself, since I could easily name seven times seven that are called seas on the maps. For every answer I found, there were two new questions, because the majesty and the mystery of the sea are inexhaustible, and much lies beyond the comprehension of man. Immense in their extent, irresistible in their power, inconquerable in their precision, the seas have inspired men through all ages with feelings of awe and mysticism and fear. Man feels himself weak and impotent when he faces their might, for no one can halt the tides or fight the currents or control the waves. But everywhere men feel a compulsion to pit their strength against the sea, to explore it and wander about on it, to use it for their own ends and wrest its wealth from it.

Primitive people worshiped the sea out of fear of what it might do to them, and in gratitude for the treasures which it washed up for them on its beaches. Even in the days of Columbus, the sailors were deathly afraid of "monsters" in the sea that might rise at any moment from the mysterious depths and devour them. The Romans believed the sea to be a dark kingdom ruled by a god whom they called Neptune. Today we know a great deal more than was known in ancient times, yet we still stand on the shore, humble in our insignificance as we face the waves rolling in from a turbulent ocean.

When gales whip the trees and rattle our windows, or snow piles up outside so that no one wants to go for a walk, landlubbers snug and safe in warm rooms are likely to tell each other how sorry they feel for all the poor sailors on a night like this. But, underneath the sympathetic talk, they actually feel a little wistful envy of the men who brave the elements—winds, rain, snow, cold, and storms—upon the restless water. Then on a fine day the sight of foreign seamen, or of tall ships from far away, or of an exotic bit of merchandise from way round the world, or even an oddly shaped scrap of driftwood cast up

on the beach gives any of us a pang of jealousy of the men who move about over the sea viewing the wonders of the deep. And it must be confessed that these incredible wonders lose nothing in the seamen's telling them, for their words seem to set fire to the imagination and give shore-bound people a sense of excitement that they can never find on land.

The fascinating stories these fellows bring us are the stuff our dreams are made of. Perhaps we may not believe the salty tales for a minute, but in our secret minds we live them, and we are all great heroes in these dreams. We experience countless exciting adventures, and we drift endlessly in hot, dead calms while all on board except us are in despair. We baffle the most violent storms, conquer the bravest fighters, foil the most blood thirsty pirates, bring home the richest cargoes from the most amazing voyages, wrestle with monsters, dive for sunken gold, see the strangest sights. Then, in the end, science takes over from imagination—and behold, there are even greater wonders than we dreamed.

Finishing Ti	me. Minu	.tesS	Seconds
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WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- 1. Greenland ['gri:nlond] n. the world's largest island 格陵兰岛 (属丹麦)
- 2. Denmark ['denma:k] n a N. European country 丹麦
- 3. Thule ['θju:li] n.the north end of the world 极北地区; 世界尽头
- 4. wondrous ['wandres] adj. (arch.or liter.) wonderful (古, 文) 奇妙的; 令人 惊服的
- 5. little enough of thr. hardly anything 少得很
- 6. interminable [in'tə:minəbl] adj. endless, tedious because too long 冗长的, 无尽头的
- 7. outlook ['autluk] n. view on which one looks out 景色
- 9. iceberg ['aisbeg] n. mass of ice moving in the sea 冰山
- 10. fragment ['frægmənt] n. part broken off 断片; 碎片
- 11. icecap ['aiskæp] n. permanent covering of ice sloping down on all sides from a high centre 冰帽,永久冰峰
- 12. eternally [i'tə:nlli] adv. throughout all time; for ever 永恒地; 不停地
- 13. doom [du:m] n. ruin ; death 毁灭; 死亡; 劫数
- 14. majestically [mə/ʤestikəli] adv. with or showing majesty 高贵地; 庄严地
- 15. Newfoudland ['nju:fondlænd] n. an island off E. Canada 纽芬兰岛 (加拿

- 16. steadily ['stedili] adv. in a steady manner 稳定地; 不变地
- 17. capriciously [kə'pri∫əsli] adv. ofeen changing; irregularly 多变地; 反复无常 地
- O 18. dawn upon sb. that phr. become gradually clear to sb. that 某人渐渐领悟到
- ⑤ 19. logical ['lockikəl] adj. in accordance with the rules of logic 合逻辑的
 - 20. ripple ['ripl] n. small movement on the surface of water 微波, 涟漪
 - 21. pebble ['pebl] n. small stone made smooth and round by being rolled in water (in a stream, etc.) 小卵石
 - 22. trace [treis] v. follow or discover by observing marks, bits of evidence, etc. 追踪, 探索
 - 23 myriad ['miriəd] n. very great number (of) 极大数量
- 24. inexhaustible [inig'zo:stəbl] adj. that can not be exhausted 取之不竭的, 无穷无尽的
 - 25. comprehension [kompri/hen]n the mind's act or power of understanding 领会, 理解力
 - 26. irresistible [iri'zistəbl] adj. too strong, convincing etc, to be resisted 不可抵抗的 压制不住的
 - 27. mysticism ['mistisizəm] n. beliefs, experiences, of a mystic 神秘主义
- ○28. impotent ['impətənt] adj. lacking sufficient strength, unable to act 无力 行动的,无能为力的
- ○29. might [mait] n. great power, strength 权力, 力气
- O³⁰. compulsion [kəm'pʌlʃən] n compelling or being compelled or forced 被迫, 强迫
 - 31. monster ['monsto] n.abnormally misshaped animal, person or thing of extraordinary size, shape 畸形的动物,怪物
- ⊙32. devour [di'vauə] v.eat hungrily or greedily 吞吃
- 33. insignificance [insig'nifikəns] n. valuelessness, unimportance 无足轻重, 无价值
- 34. turbulent ['tə:bjulənt] adj. violent; disorderly; uncontrolled 在烈的,混乱
 [♥] 的,汹涌的
 - 35. rattle ['rætl] v. (cause to) make short, sharp sounds quickly (使) 发出 急促,尖锐声,呼啪声
 - 36. landlubber ['lændlabə] n. (used by sailors to describe a) person, not accustomed to the sea and ships (船员用语) 不习惯海上生活的人, 新水手
 - 37. snug [snAg] adj. sheltered from wind and cold, warm and comfortable 不受 风寒侵袭的,温暖并舒适的
 - 38. brave [breiv] v. face, go into, meet, without showing fear 勇敢地面对,
 对付

- 59. exotic [ig'zotik] adj. of foreign country; of strange from or characteristics 外国风味的; 奇特的
- 40. merchandise ['mə:tfəndaiz] n. trade goods 商品,货物
- 41. scrap [skræp] n. small piece (usu. unwanted) 小片,碎屑(通常为无用者)
- 42. pang [pæn] n. sharp, sudden feeling of pain 突然的一阵剧痛
- 43. incredible [in/kredəbl] adj. that connot be believed; surprising 难以置信 的;可惊的
- 45. foil [foil] v. baffle, defeat 挫败, 制服
- A6. pirate ['paiərit] n. sea-robber 海盗
- 47. cargo ['ka:gou] n. goods carried in a ship 船上所载的货物

COMPREHENSION

Here are ten questions or unfinished statements about the passage, each with four suggested ways of answering or finishing it. You are to choose the one you consider the most suitable without looking back at the passage. Give one answer only to each question.

- 1. This selection was probably taken from the beginning of a
 - a. reference book about weather. . sailor's handbook.
 - c. study of the seas. d. patient's diary.
- 2. The author's main purpose was to
 - a. supply factual information.
 - b, trace the route of the icebergs in an imaginative way.
 - c. pass on to the reader his own feeling about the sea.
 - d. provide information for tourists.
- 3. The author has
 - a. great love and respect for the sea. b. a dislike for the sea.
 - c. serious misunderstanding of the sea. d. drunk a lot of sea water.
- 4. The author is a
 - a. sailor by profession.
 - b. land dweller who has never been to sea.
 - c. pirate. IweM
 - d man born in Denmark and interested in the sea.
- 5. The main point of this article is that the seas are
 - a, contrary to the pattern of nature, b. wondrous
 - c. unconquerable. d. terrible.
- 6. The statement "all on board except us are in despair" is intended to show

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- a. how exaggerated sailors' tales can be.
- b. what life on the open seas is like.
- c. how sailors' stories fire the imagination.
- d. in what weather the author wrote this article.
- 7. The author knows
 - a. many of the salty tales of the sea and tells them well.
 - b. none of such salty tales.
- c. such salty tales are true.

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- d. there are no wonders in the seas.
- 8. The author believes
 - a. that the mysterious fascination of the sea is being destroyed by scientific investigation.
 - b. that scientific investigation will help to discover more wonders.
 - c. that there is no logical connection between the things happened in the sea.
- d. that the more you know about the sea the more you will be afraid of it.
- 9. According to the text, the sailors in the days of Columbus were afraid of
 - a. Russian submarines.

b. pirates.

c. monsters in the sea.

- d. the Roman people.
- 10. According to the text, the primitive people worshiped the sea because
 - a. they believed there was sunken gold in the sea.
 - b. they believed they could trace all the ripples.
 - c. of the great power of the sea upon people.
 - d. the pirates made them to do so.

VOCABULARY

In each of the following sentences, one word or phrase is underlined. You are to select the best meaning or synonym for the word or phrase among the choices given.

- 1. As soon as the sun showed over the horizon in spring, we had wide outlook.
 - a. attitude

b. probable outcome

c. view

- d, visit
- 2. It was tantalizing to look at huge icebergs drifting south in endless procession.
 - a. production
- b. prohibition

c. line

- d. possession
- 3. Why do the winds blow so steadily in one place?
 - a. constantly
- b. irregularly
- c, on and off
- d. violently

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- 4. The ripples could be traced all over the seven seas.
 - a. found the source of
- b. outlined

c. followed

- d. matched
- 5. If only we had scientific instruments delicate enough to record them.
 - a. weak

b. sensitive

c. dainty

- d. slim and pretty
- 6. There is a grand pattern in the wonderful phenomena of the ocean.
 - a. flower

b. design

c. natural law

- d. form
- 7. Man feels impotent when he faces the might of the sea.
 - a, power

b. possibility

c. mysticism

- d, awe
- 8. The landlubbers will envy the men who brave the elements.
 - a. natural environment
- b. natural forces

c. components

- d. spare parts
- 9. Perhaps we may not believe the salty tales for a moment.
 - a. stories

b. gossip

c. lies

- d. lectures
- 10. Even an oddly shaped scrap of driftwood cast up on the beach will give us a pang of jealousy.
 - a, like a round number
- b. casually

c. strangely

d. with a long history

FAST READING PRACTICE

You are given four minutes to finish reading the following passage and making your choices according to the information given in the passage.

John and Sebastian Cabot sailed back across the North Atlantic with bad news for their patron, King Henry VII of England. Instead of a short sea route to Japan and India, they had found only rocky, icy coasts.

It was as a mere afterthought that they mentioned that they had visited a place near what they called New Found Isle. The codfish were so plentiful there that the sailors had lowered baskets into the water and hoisted them

up, they were full of squirming, silvery fish.

Although the merchants and the nobles at court did not care about this discovery, the fishermen of Europe became very interested. Before long, many fishermen were sailing across the Atlantic to Newfoundland in their little fishing boats and bringing back great numbers of dried fish for the kitchens of Europe.

In time, the right to fish the Grand

Banks came to be considered far more valuable than all the treasure of the fabled East. The Grand Banks were, and still are, the richest fishing ground in the world.

- 1. The Cabots made their voyage for
 - a. some Eudopean fishermen.
 - b. a group of merchants.
 - c. the king of England.
 - d. European fishermen.
- 2. The Cabots hoped to find
 - a. America.
 - b. a route to Japen and India
 - c, the Grand Banks
 - d. both a and b
- 3. The Grand Banks are located
 - a. near England.
 - b. off Newfoundland.
 - c. off the European coast.
 - d. near Japan.
- 4. The discovery of the Grand Banks was interesting to the
 - a. Cabots.
 - b merchants.
 - c nobles at court.
 - d. fishermen.

- 5 The fish carried to Europe from the Grand Banks were
 - a. cooked.
 - b. frozen.
 - c. dried
 - d, fresh,
- 6. Implied but not stated:
 - a. New Found Isle was what is now known as Newfoundland.
 - b. The Grand Banks are still a very rich fishing ground.
 - c. The Cabots would have found greater treasure if they had found a short sea route to Japan,
 - d. The Cabots' patron punished them for failing to find the route to Japan.
- 7. The best title for this selection is
 - King Henry's Discovery.
 - b. A Voyage to Newfoundland.
 - c. Fishing round the World.
 - d. The Treasure of the Grand Banks.

Unit 2

PASSAGE FOR COMPREHENSION

Winter Comes to the Animal World

by Marstor Bates

Starting	Time:	Minutes	Seconds	

Often a season's acorn and hickory crop fails because a late spring frost kills the flowers before the nuts are formed. This creates a problem for the local squirrels, since they are unable to lay in adequate stores for the winter. The squirrels probably get along all right scrounging from the local citizens—people are useful sometimes—but it makes one wonder about the winter problems of animals out in the woods.

Most birds, of course, manage nicely by the simple process of flying to some region with a more sensible climate. Apparently this is not so much a matter of temperature as of food. After all, quite a few kinds of birds do live all year round even in the far north: grouse, for instance, by eating things like spruce buds, owls by continuing to harry the local mice and other rodents, crossbills by their expert dissection of pine cones. But the birds that live on seeds, berries, and insects face not only vanishing supplies but also a shortage of day-light hours in which to hunt the food that might still be around. So they leave.

Migration is out for any animal that cannot fly. To be sure, caribou move from the tundra into the forests, and mountain sheep move to lower slopes. They may cover quite a bit of territory in such travels, but this is far different from moving from New York to Florida, let alone the West Indies or South America. The pedestrian majority of the animal kingdom has to find some way of getting through the winter without moving from home. Quite a few mammals have chosen the squirrel's solution-stashing away winter food supplies. Squirrels, incidentally, often act as though they knew what they were doing. However, there is disagreement among the experts whether squirrels remember where they have hidden food or whether they locate their caches again with their keen noses. If they depend on memory, either they often forget or they store more food

than they need, because the nuts and acorns they fail to retrieve are numerous enough to be an important factor in the seeding of forests.

Animals such as rabbits and deer continue to be active all winter, finding food wherever they can. Summer's dried vegetation makes a sort of natural hay. Trouble comes when this is buried in snow—but then the deer take to eating branches and twigs, and the rabbits to stripping bark from small trees. The latter is a source of great irritation to both farmers and foresters, since trees may be girdled and killed.

Squirrels are about the smallest mammals able to be active in cold weather, because small size makes it hard to maintain body temperature. The smaller the animal, the greater the surface area in relation to body mass. Since heat is lost through the surface, a mouse, for example, simply cannot keep up its body temperature in a very cold environment. Small mammals that remain active all winter retreat under the snow. It is said that in the north woods even the squirrels dig into the snow when air temperature drops to twenty—five degrees below zero Fahrenheit. Snow is an excellent insulator. Temperatures at the ground surface under a snow cover rarely drop below about twenty degrees Fathrenheit, even in Siberia or Alaska where air temperatures fall to fifty degrees below zero.

Many mammals live through the winter by closing shop-hibernating. There is a nice problem of definition here. Most experts now agree that a mammal can be said to hibernate only if its body temperature drops greatly and its whole metabolism—including respiration and heart rate—is much reduced. This is the case with animals like the woodchucks, hamsters, and hedgehogs, which hibernate in their burrows, and bats, which congregate in caves. Bears, however, are not classed as hibernators. They pass most of the winter sleeping, but their body temperature drops only a few degrees, and they can become active without going through a slow process of warming up. Bears, counting on fat reserves to keep them going, even produce their young during this period.

Mammals and birds are warm-blooded-that is, they have a means of keeping the temperature of their bodies quite constant despite the normal temperature fluctuations of the outside world. Cold-blooded animals—fish, reptiles, insects, amphibians-also have a certain amount of control over their body temperature. They can warm up, if they are too cold, by sunning themselves, or cool off by getting into the shade. But it is hard for cold-blooded animals to keep warm in the winter. For any animal to be active, its body temperature must be above freezing. This is because the chemistry of life depends on water in a liquid state. If the body actually freezes—if ice crystals from in the tissues—the whole system is disrupted, and the animal dies. So cold-blooded animals in the north must either find some place to spend the winter where temperatures do not reach

the freezing point, or develop a special resting stage in which the water content of the protoplasm is much reduced. This will make its freezing point much lower than usual. Thus animals about to hibernate often dig down into the soil. In winter, fish are able to keep active in water under the ice, for it is usually three or four degrees above the freezing point. Many amphibians pass the winter in the unfrozen mud at the bottom of ponds.

Insects have developed a wide variety of ways to pass the winter. Only the milkweed butterfly migrates south in great numbers. Adult mourning cloaks and tortoise-shell butterflies hibernate, immobile in the crevices of tree trunks. They are the first butterflies to be seen in the spring. A few butterflies hibernate in the caterpillar stage, and many other insects pass the winter as larvae, or eggs.

These creatures have developed a wide variety of ways to cope with winter conditions. Yet, when one looks at the animal kingdom as a whole, the vast majority of kinds live only in the tropics, where winter is no problem. Relatively few species have developed any of the adaptations that would enable them to survive a period of cold and food scarcity. But in January one wonders not why there are so few kinds of animals in the north, but how any of them manage to get along without benefit of central heating.

Finishing	Time.	Minutes	Seconds	

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- 1. acorn ['eiko:n] n. seed or fruit of the oak 橡子;
- 2. hickory ['hikəri] n. (seed of) N. American tree (北美产的) 胡桃树 (泉实)
- g. local [/laukal] adj. of, special to, a place or district 本地的; 当地的
- 4. adequate ['ædikwit] adj. enough; having the quantity needed 足够的
- 5. scrounge [skraunck] v. (colloq.) get what one wants by taking it without permission or by trickery (n) 偷; 骗取
- 6. temperature ['tempəritfə] n. degree of heat and cold 温度
- 7. grouse [graus] n. bird with feathered feet, shot for sport and food 松鸡
- 8. spruce [spru:s] n. kinds of fir-tree 云杉
- 9. bud [bʌd] n. leaf, flower, or branch, at the beginning of its growth (叶、花、枝初生时的) 芽; 苞; 蓓蕾
- 10. owl [aul] n. night-flying bird that lives on small birds and animals (e.g. mice) 猫头鹰
- 11. harry ['hæri] v. lay waste and plunder; attack frequently 蹂躏; 肘常侵袭
- 12. rodent ['roudont] n. animal which gnaws things with its strong teeth spe-