

Roam Around the World Roam Around the World
世 界 漫 游 小 丛 书

漫 游 英 国

Roam Around England

刘榜离 吴 真



大象出版社

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“我们何不编一套英汉对照世界漫游丛书呢？”大象出版社编辑贺凡、董涛二位女士建议道。“一则可以扩大青年人的视野，二则可以帮助他们学习英语。两全其美，何乐而不为呢？”

116 524
此言不谬。于是,经领导批准,她们便委托我组织编写。这可是个苦差使,因为她们的要求十分苛刻:丛书内容要广泛,语言要浅显,既有趣味性,又有资料性,情趣盎然,图文并茂,每个分册 10 万字左右,三个月交稿。

领了将令,我不敢怠慢,立即组织一批编写人员。其中有教授,副教授,讲师,还有在校硕士研究生。在统一了格式之后,两人一分册,分头编写。具体分工如下:

美国分册:刘云波,虎松菊

英国分册:刘榜离,吴 真

法国分册:靳 锐,王大智

德国分册:王 东,陈异慧

加拿大分册:王云英,葛丙辰

意大利分册:黄 燕,陈保蓉

新西兰分册:索成秀

澳大利亚分册:叶定国,康建明

经过几个月紧锣密鼓的工作,第一批八个分册终于完成。其间编写人员查资料,找图片,编写及翻译的辛苦自不待言。尽管如此,由于时间仓促,资料匮乏,加之编写者文风各异,书中难免有诸多不尽人意之处。令人宽慰的是,精美的印刷与装帧将给这套丛书增色不少。究竟内容如何?还是请我们的青年朋友读读看吧。

刘云波

1997 年 12 月 1 日于郑州大学

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A SURVEY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom is an island country that lies in the Atlantic Ocean just off the mainland of Europe, which the British commonly refer to as the Continent. It comprises Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland. The official name of the country is THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND. The country covers an area of about 242, 500 square kilometres, including 508 square kilometres of inland water, but excluding the Isle of Man, 588 square kilometres in area, and the Channel Islands, 194 square kilometres in area, and has a population of some 57. 41 million. More than 80 percent of the people are the English, the rest are the Scottish, the Welsh, the Irish, the Jews and others. London is the capital of the country. Other chief

cities are Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Edinburgh, Belfast, Bristol, and Cardiff.

The country is just under 1,000 kilometres from south to north and just under 500 km across from east to west in the widest part. Its coast line runs about 8,000 km. No place in the country is more than 120 km from the sea.

Great Britain has six distinct natural regions. The face of the land differs from one region to another. The Highlands in Northern Scotland is a barren, bleak region of mountain ranges, plateaus, deep valleys, and lakes. The region is too rugged for anything but grazing sheep. The Scottish Lowlands lies in the valleys of the Clyde, Forth, and Tay rivers. Scotland's major cities lie in this area. The Pennine Chain, a region rich in iron and coal, extends from the Scottish Lowlands. The Midlands is a lowland region between the southern end of the Pennine Chain and the Cambrian Mountains of Wales. Deposits of coal and other valuable minerals are mined in this region. Many of the largest manufacturing and shipping industries lie in the Midlands. The Southeastern Plains include the entire area south and east of the Pennines and the Midlands. This region includes rolling, treeless plains, low plains and marshy areas, and the river basin around London and Southampton. These plains were the first part of the island to be settled. Northern Ireland is a lowland region including Lough Neagh, the largest lake in the United Kingdom, which has 396 square kilometres. The low grasslands and mild climate of Northern Ireland provide excellent grazing for livestock.

Great Britain has many rivers, but the country is not large enough to have long rivers. The longest river is the Severn River which is in England and runs 355 kilometres and empties into the Bristol Strait. The second longest is the Thames flowing through the capital city of London to the North Sea with a length of 332 kilometres. In northwestern England the River Mersey enters the Irish Sea at Liverpool. On the eastern coast the River Trent and several other streams empty into the River Humber. In the northeast the River Tyne flows past Newcastle to the North Sea.

Among the principal rivers of Scotland are the River Clyde, the River Tay, and the River Forth. The Clyde flows westward past Glasgow and empties into the North Channel through the Firth of Clyde. The Tay flows to the North Sea. The Forth also flows to the North Sea, through the broad Firth of Forth, which is linked by canal with the Firth of Clyde by way of the River Clyde.

In Northern Ireland the principal rivers are the River Lagan, the River Bann, and the River Foyle. The Lagan flows to the North Channel Belfast Lough, and the Bann flows northward from the Mourne Mountains to the northern coast. The Foyle forms part of the boundary between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Most of the large lakes in Great Britain lie in the upland areas in Scotland and northern England. Loch Lomond, on the southwestern edge of the Highlands, is the largest lake in Scotland. It is 37 kilometres long and ranges from 1.6 to 8 kilometres wide. Lake Windermere is the largest of the 15 lakes in England's famous Lake District and the largest lake in England. It is more than 16

kilometres long and about 1.6 kilometres wide. However, the largest lake in the country is Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland. It covers 396 square kilometres.

Great Britain has a mild climate. It is free from extreme heat or cold. Southwestern England has mild winters and almost no snow. Wales and central and eastern England are a little colder. Light snow often falls in the Pennine Chain of England and on Snowdon, the highest peak in Wales. Scotland has cold winters. Northern Ireland has damp weather throughout the year. The temperature averages 3°C to 4°C in winter, and rises to about 17°C in summer. It is rarely above 32°C or below - 10°C. Great Britain has much rain throughout the year. The average annual rainfall is more than 1,600 mm in the mountainous areas of the west and north but less than 800 mm over central and eastern parts. London has only about 610 mm of rainfall a year, and Glasgow has about 940 mm. Rain is fairly well distributed throughout the year, but, on average, March to June are the driest months and September to January the wettest.

The daily weather in Great Britain is extremely changeable. Throughout much of the year brief periods of bright sunshine generally alternate, sometimes even hourly, with periods of fog, mist, or rain.

Great Britain's once extensive forests and woodlands now cover less than the country's land area. The oak is the characteristic forest tree of England. Natural grassland is the most widespread type of vegetation in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, but only a small portion of Scotland is covered by grasses.

The most important natural resources are coal and iron ore. These minerals have helped to make the country a great manufacturing nation. However, most of the raw materials used in its industries are imported since it has barely enough natural resources. Much of the soil is good, but the country cannot produce enough food for its people. About half the food the British consume is imported. The best farm lands lie in the Midlands and along the east coast. Chief agricultural products are barley, flax, fruits, oats, potatoes, sugar beets and wheat. To pay for their imports, they export manufactured goods and perform a wide variety of international commercial services. Manufactured products are chemicals, earthenware, clothing, electrical goods, glassware, machinery, metal goods, processed foods, ships, textiles and wood products.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the British economy was based mainly on the production of coal, iron and steel, and textiles, and on related industries such as shipbuilding and the production of railroad equipment. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's there was considerable development and expansion of new industry in the London area and in parts of the Midlands. However, industrial productivity either declined or failed to increase in a number of areas, primarily those dependent on older industries, such as cotton textile manufacturing, coal mining, and also shipbuilding.

About 25 million people make up the country's total labour force. Approximately two-fifths of the total labour force are employed in manufacturing, about half of whom are in the metals, machinery,

and allied industries; one-fifth are in mining, construction, transportation, and power; and one – fifth are in service industries. About one person in 40 works in agriculture.

Great Britain is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. The population density is about 237 people per square kilometres. The population is not evenly distributed. Nearly 80 percent live in towns and cities in the region around London, in the Midlands, in the Lowlands of Scotland, and around Belfast in Northern Ireland. Most of the rural population lives in small scattered communities. The only very sparsely populated areas are remote sections of Scotland and Wales.

Great Britain became a world power only about 290 years ago when Scotland was united with England and Wales in 1707, but the British people have many traditions that go back thousands of years. Today the type of government of the country is constitutional monarchy. Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state. She is an important symbol of national unity. In law, the Queen is the commander-in-chief of all the armed forces of the Crown. But the head of government is Prime Minister appointed by the Crown from the majority party in the House of Commons. The country is governed by Her Majesty's Government in the name of the Queen. The Queen acts on the advice of her ministers.

In Great Britain religious freedom is guaranteed by law. Each person is at liberty to adhere to any faith and to change his religion at will. At the same time, however, there are two established churches in Britain, that is, churches legally recognized as official

churches of the State; in England the Church of England, and in Scotland, the Church of Scotland. About two-thirds of the English population are baptized members of the Church of England. Members of the Church of Scotland number about 1,280,000. Other religions are also represented in Britain, e.g., the Roman Catholic, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, and Muslim.

Education in Britain is compulsory for all children between 5 and 16 years of age. Most primary and secondary schools are free, and scholarships are available for many of those that charge fees. The administration and maintenance of the schools of the public educational system are carried out by local government authorities. Some 9 million children attend Britain's 34,800 state and private schools. About 93 per cent of the pupils receive free education financed from public funds, while the others attend independent schools financed from fees paid by parents. There are 79 universities, including the Open University. The universities of Oxford and Cambridge are the oldest and most famous ones which date from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Most universities in Great Britain were founded in the 19th and 20th centuries. The 1960s saw considerable expansion in the number of universities and students. There are about 350,000 full-time home and overseas university students and just under 30,000 full-time university teachers. The ratio of staff to full-time students is about 1 to 11. Competition for university admission is keen, and standards of admission are high. Except at the Open University, courses of first degree, i.e., Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc),

are mainly full time and usually last three years. However, there are some four-year courses, and medical and veterinary courses normally require five years.

In Great Britain there are about 130 daily and Sunday newspapers, over 2,000 weekly paid-for and free newspapers (including business, sporting and religious newspapers), and 7,000 periodical publications. On an average day two out of three people over the age of 15 read a national morning newspaper; about three out of four read a Sunday newspaper. The principal news agencies in Britain are Reuters. Television viewing is by far Britain's most popular leisure pastime: 95 per cent of the households have a colour television set and 68 per cent have a video recorder. Average viewing time for each person is around 24 hours a week.

Political divisions of Great Britain are as follows: it has 49 counties, Greater London and Greater Manchester in England and Wales, 33 regions and 3 island areas in Scotland, 6 counties and two county boroughs in Northern Ireland. The currency unit of the United Kingdom is Pound and one pound equals to 100 new pence. The national anthem is "God Save the Queen". The national flag of the United Kingdom is called "Union Jack". It is composed of three crosses: the red cross of St. George who is the patron saint of England, the diagonal white cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, and the diagonal red cross of St. Patrick who is the patron saint of Ireland. The Union Jack is the most important of all British flags and is also part of the flags of such Commonwealth nations as Australia and New Zealand.