



环球英语直通车·学生英语阅读世界丛书



仓兰菊\编著

阅读 美国



广东教育出版社



环球英语直通车·学生英语阅读世界丛书

Reading
the USA

9634.41

85

仓兰菊\编著

阅读 美国



广东教育出版社

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

阅读美国 / 仓兰菊编著. —广州: 广东教育出版社, 2004. 1

(环球英语直通车: 学生英语阅读世界丛书)

ISBN 7-5406-5266-7

I. 阅… II. 仓… III. 英语-语言读物
IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2003) 第 070099 号

广东教育出版社出版发行

(广州市环市东路 472 号 12-15 楼)

邮政编码: 510075

广东新华发行集团股份有限公司经销

中山市新华印刷厂有限公司印刷

(中山市火炬开发区逸仙大道)

850毫米×1168毫米 32 开本 7.875 印张 157 000 字

2004 年 1 月第 1 版 2004 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

印数 1-5 000 册

ISBN 7-5406-5266-7/H·93

定价: 12.00 元

质量监督电话: 020-87613102 购书咨询电话: 020-83796440

Contents

Part I

Geography and History.....1

Part II

Politics and Religion.....25

Part III

Economy and Travelling.....42

Part IV

Education and Media.....64

Part V

Entertainment and Literature... 91

Part VI

Culture.....112

Part VII

Society and Daily Life.....134

Part VIII

Popular Science.....160

Part IX

Sports.....185

Part X

Mini-Stories.....210

Key.....246



The United States is said by some people to be the greatest success story of the modern world. This is a nation made up of a quite different population. They have little in common except for a dream to search for their paths to wealth or heaven. They are brought together by the ideals (理想) of the Constitution (宪法) and the Declaration of Independence (独立宣言) to make the richest and most powerful country on earth.



Some people criticize the US for its destruction (破坏) of native American cultures, racism (种族歧视) and hegemony policy (霸权政策), and some others remain in love with America. Anyway, this is a country that introduced the world to electric lights, airplanes, space shuttles (航天飞机), computers, movies etc.

However, since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon (五角大楼) in Washington DC, followed with anthrax-laced (带炭疽病毒的) mails that exposed government workers and mail carriers to the deadly



disease, the entire US has become a nervous country.

1. The desire to choose their paths to wealth or heaven is the ____ point of the US population.
A. different B. greatest
C. common D. most powerful
2. According to some people, ____ are some of the wrongdoings of the US.
A. capitalism (资本主义)
B. the destruction of native cultures
C. racism and hegemony policy
D. both B and C
3. The US introduced the world to all of the following except ____ .
A. computers B. pianos
C. electric lights D. space shuttles
4. Of the following, ____ is (are) the cause(s) that make(s) the US a nervous country.
A. the attack on the World Trade Center
B. the anthrax-laced mails
C. the attack on the Pentagon
D. All of the above.
5. This passage is mainly a brief ____ the US.
A. criticism of B. comment on
C. introduction to D. praise of

2

The US is located in North America, bordering (和……接界) both the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Pacific Ocean, between Canada and Mexico. Its full country name is the United States of America.

With an area of about 9.37 million square kilometers, the US is the world's fourth largest country by size (after Russia, Canada and China) . It has a coastline of about 20 thousand km.

According to the census (人口普查) data in 2003, the US has got a population of over 290,000,000, which is the world's third largest (after China and India). Among all the people, over 80% are Caucasian (白种人) , while African Americans account for (占) about 12%, Asian 3% and Native American 0.8%.

There is no state religion (国教) in the US, but over half of the Americans are Protestant (新教徒) with a percentage of about 56%. Others are Catholic (天主教徒) with a percentage of 28%, Jew (犹太教徒) 2% and Muslim (伊斯兰教徒) 1%.

English is spoken most in the country, plus many secondary languages, mainly Spanish.

The capital city of the US is Washington DC (the District of Columbia) .



1. The US has a population of over ____ in 2003.
A. 9,000,000 B. 500,000
C. 290,000,000 D. 190,000,000
2. The US is the fourth largest country by _____.
A. population B. size
C. industries D. both A and B
3. Of the whole population, there are _____ per cent Asian people.
A. 12 B. 3 C. 0.9 D. 2
4. Of the following, _____ is the chiefly used secondary language.
A. English B. Spanish C. Italian D. French
5. There are about _____ per cent Catholic in the USA.
A. 28 B. 56 C. 2 D. 1

3

The US stretches (延伸) across North America “from sea to shining sea”. It borders Canada to the north and Mexico to the south. Alaska (阿拉斯加州) extends outward from northwestern Canada; Hawaii lies 2,500 miles (4,000km) off the country’s western coast, in the middle of the Pacific.

There are three major mountain ranges: the Appalachians (阿巴拉契亚山脉) in the east, the huge Rocky Mountains (洛矶山脉) in the west and the Sierra Nevada (内华达山脉) along the border of

Nevada and California. The country has rich natural resources such as coal, natural gas and wood.

The Atlantic Coast is the most heavily populated (人口最密集的) area and keeps its European customs. This is where the oldest American cities are located, and where most of the major events in early American history took place. The central northeast is marked by the huge Great Lakes (北美五大湖).

The central area along the rivers is the grain basket of the country. Farther west, on the Great Plains, are the country's main grazing areas (牧区). There is mainly desert in the southwest, where few people live because of the climate and bad soils. Cross the Sierra Nevada is the West Coast. It was settled by Americans only 150 years ago but has been on a rapid rush into the future ever since.

1. Of the following, __ __ is 4, 000km off the country's western coast.
A. Alaska B. Hawaii
C. Nevada D. California
2. The most heavily populated area is the __ __ .
A. Atlantic Coast B. Pacific Coast
C. central northeast D. Great Plains
3. There is mainly __ __ in the southwest.
A. the Great Plains B. grazing area
C. desert area D. the grain basket
4. The US has rich natural resources such as all of the following except __ __ .



A. coal

B. wood

C. natural gas

D. oil

5. Of the following about the West Coast, ____ is true.

A. it was settled 150 years ago

B. it has made rapid progress

C. it is the most heavily populated area

D. both A and B

4

New York is also known as the Big Apple. No other city is proud enough to call itself Capital of the World. New York is a much heavily populated place — seven million people in 800 km² — and that's just Manhattan (曼哈顿区). It's the city's highly active rush that really draws people here.

Wherever you go in New York, you'll feel like you've been there before. Some of the most important places include the Statue of Liberty (自由女神像), the Empire State Building (帝国大厦), Central Park or Times Square (时代广场). The Metropolitan Museum of Art (大都会博物馆) is one of the world's top museums, and the Museum of Modern Art isn't far behind. It doesn't really matter what you do or where you go in New York. The city itself is an exciting experience.

Tell whether the following statements are true or false by writing T or F in the brackets:

1. New York is also called the Big Apple and the Capital of the World. ()
2. New York is a heavily populated city with a population of seven million people. ()
3. Manhattan has got 800 km². ()
4. People don't like the highly active rush in the city. ()
5. The Metropolitan Museum of Art is one of the world's top museums. ()

5

The City of Washington in the District of Columbia is a far more attractive town than most government cities. It has met many challenges, from near-abandonment (放弃) by Congress (议会) after the War of 1812 to the world's highest murder rate in the 1980s. It is now one of the USA's top tourist attractions. The Capitol (国会大厦), Supreme Court (最高法院), White House and Washington Monument (纪念碑) are designed to impress visitors. The historical structures as the Lincoln Memorial (林肯纪念馆), Jefferson Memorial and FDR (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) Memorial remind



people of the past. The nation's capital also possesses one of the world's excellent research organizations, the Smithsonian Institution. All of its museums are free to the public. And when you're ready for the real Washington, the city behind the capital city, be sure to visit attractions of such neighborhoods as Georgetown, Adams-Morgan, and Dupont Circle.

Tell whether the following statements are true or false by writing T or F in the brackets:

1. Washington D.C. had the world's highest murder rate in the 1970s. ()
2. The city as the capital was nearly abandoned by Congress after World War I. ()
3. The city is now one of the USA's top tourist attractions. ()
4. Only some of the museums of the Smithsonian Institution are free to the public. ()
5. The real Washington refers to the city behind the government cite. ()

6

The United States of America is at the same time a very new nation and a very old nation. The first settlers reached North America about 30,000 years ago. However, it was not a country until 1776 with *the*

Declaration of Independence (《独立宣言》) .

The first American immigrants (移民) were hunters and their families following animals from Asia to America. When Spain's Christopher Columbus "discovered" the New World in 1492, about 1.5 million Native Americans lived there. Mistaking the place where he landed — San Salvador in the Bahamas (巴哈马群岛) — for the Indies (印度群岛), Columbus called the Native Americans "Indians" . During the next 200 years, people from several European countries followed Columbus across the Atlantic Ocean. They explored (探险) America and set up trading places and colonies.

1. The USA became a country _ _ .
A. about 30,000 years ago B. in 1776
C. in the 16th century D. in 1492
2. The first American immigrants were hunters following animals from _ _ to America.
A. Africa B. Asia
C. Europe D. South America
3. Christopher Columbus mistook the place he landed for _ _ .
A. the Indies B. Asia
C. San Salvador D. the Bahamas
4. This passage is mainly about the _ _ of the USA.
A. discovery B. Native Americans
C. history D. first immigrants



7

Native Americans suffered greatly from the coming of Europeans. The latter took land from their hands through treaties (条约), wars, and coercion (高压政治). In the 19th century, the government solved the Indian “problem” by forcing tribes (部落) to live in some places called reservations (保留地). The reservation land was usually of poor quality. Some tribes fought to keep from giving up land they had traditionally used.

The wars along with diseases brought by the Europeans sent the Indians population down to a low of 350, 000 in 1920. Some tribes disappeared altogether. Other tribes lost their languages and most of their culture. Today there are about two million (0.8 percent of the total US population) Native Americans, one-third of them still live on reservations.

Many American place-names come from Indian words. Indians taught Europeans how to grow crops that are now main products throughout the world: corn, tomatoes, potatoes, tobacco etc. Canoes (独木舟), snowshoes, and moccasins (北美印第安人穿的鹿皮无后跟软皮鞋) are some of the Indians' many inventions.

1. The population of native Americans in 1920 was ____.
A. two million B. 350,000
C. 192,000 D. 0.8% of the whole population
2. As results of the decreasing Indian population, some tribes _____.
A. disappeared B. lost their languages
C. lost their culture D. All of the above.
3. This passage is mainly about the _____.
A. American Indians B. Indian reservations
C. Indian place-names D. Indian's inventions
4. The Europeans took land from the hands of Native Americans through _____.
A. coercion B. wars
C. treaties D. All of the above.
5. Of the following, _____ is (are) among the Indians' many inventions.
A. moccasins B. tomatoes
C. tobacco D. potatoes

8

Most early immigrants came from northwestern Europe. At the time of the first national census of the United States in 1790, more than two-thirds of the white population was of British origin, with Germans and Dutch next in importance.

Immigration (移民) to North America slowed



between 1760 and 1815. This was a time of war in Europe and North America, as well as on the Atlantic Ocean. Between about 1815 and the start of World War I in 1914, immigration seemed to increase with each passing decade (十年) .

For the first half of the 1815–1913 period, most immigrants continued to come from northwestern Europe. Because of the influence of the Industrial Revolution, the growth in the demand for labor in the cities did not match the increase in the labor force. Thus there were many willing immigrants from southern and eastern Europe in following decades.

Many Chinese immigrants were also attracted by the 1849 gold rush in California. They joined settlers of mainly British origin.

1. At the time of the first national census, more than two-thirds of the white population was of ____ origin.
A. German B. British
C. Dutch D. Italian
2. Most early immigrants came from ____ Europe.
A. southern B. northern
C. northwestern D. northeastern
3. In the 1800s, there were many immigrants from ____.
A. southern and eastern Europe
B. northwestern Europe
C. China
D. All of the above.

4. This passage is mainly about the _ _ _.

A. influence of Industrial Revolution

B. early immigrants

C. gold rush in California

D. national census

9

The failure of the German revolution of 1848–49 led many of its people to move. During the American Civil War (1861–65), the federal government expanded its troops by encouraging immigration from Europe, especially from the German states. In return for service in the Union army, immigrants were offered grants of land. By 1865, about one in five Union soldiers were a wartime immigrant. Today, 22 percent of Americans have German origin.

Jews came to the United States in large numbers beginning about 1880, a decade in which they suffered fierce pogroms (集体迫害, 尤指帝俄时代对犹太人的大屠杀) in eastern Europe. Over the next 45 years, 2 million Jews moved to the United States; the Jewish-American population is now more than 5 million.

The steady stream of people coming to America's shores has had a deep effect on the American character. It takes courage and flexibility (灵活性)