



大学生英语阅读文库

② 文化之旅

a quick guide to
customs & etiquette

通文化 知礼节 品风土

文化之旅
Culture Smart!

美国
USA

Gina Teague (英) 著 张荣婕 注



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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北京 BEIJING

京权图字：01-2006-1029

First published in Great Britain, 2004 by Kuperard, an imprint of Bravo Ltd
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Culture Smart! USA
by Gina Teague

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美国：英文 / (英) 蒂格 (Teague, G.) 著；张荣婕注 .—北京：外语教学与研究出版社，2009.3

(大学生英语阅读文库. 文化之旅)
ISBN 978-7-5600-5342-4

I. 美… II. ①蒂… ②张… III. ①英语—语言读物 ②美国—概况 IV. H319.4: K
中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2009) 第034383号

出 版 人：于春迟

选题策划：段长城

责任编辑：张 衡 谢 芸

美术编辑：张苏梅 张 衡 谢 芸

封面设计：牛茜茜 袁 璐

版式设计：孙莉明 张苏梅

出版发行：外语教学与研究出版社

社 址：北京市西三环北路19号 (100089)

网 址：<http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷：北京方嘉彩色印刷有限责任公司

开 本：680×1040 1 / 16

印 张：11.75

版 次：2009年3月第1版 2009年3月第1次印刷

书 号：ISBN 978-7-5600-5342-4

定 价：27.90元

* * *

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物料号：153420001

写给读者的话

阅读，是心灵的滋养，是人生版图的拓展；用母语之外的文字阅读，更是体悟异族文化、知识、智慧的最直接方式，往往可以避免隔靴搔痒的尴尬。亲爱的读者，这里我向你们推荐外语教学与研究出版社最新推出的“大学生英语阅读文库”。该文库以原版引进图书为主，涵盖人物传记、西方文化、职业技能等，首批出版“传记人生”和“文化之旅”两个系列。

“传记人生”系列由从国外经典传记系列中精选的人物传记组成，书中的主人公们在政治、经济、科技、教育、体育、艺术等各个领域深具影响力，他们的成长经历、职业生涯、个性魅力、成功与失败的故事在作者生动、浅显、风趣的语言中娓娓道来。“文化之旅”系列则在薄薄书册中浓缩了英国、法国、德国、意大利、美国、澳大利亚等国家的风土人情，对各国地理、历史、政治、国民性格、商业文化、日常生活、跨文化交际等领域的重要事实或所独具的特色进行了详略得当的介绍，文风清新，端庄中不乏善意的调侃，令人会心一笑。这两个系列作为“大学生英语阅读文库”的先行军，很好地融合了知识性、趣味性、启发性与可读性，既能拓宽视野、滋养心灵，又是语言学习的好素材，特别适合成长中的大学生阅读。

大学阶段是人生中最宝贵的学习时光。历经了艰苦的高考、成功进入大学校园的莘莘学子在努力学习各学科知识之余，也将目光投向了更广阔的世界。如何在学习的同时做到启蒙思想、扩展心灵、磨砺人格？聪明的学子选择多读书，读好书。在菁菁校园里，我们忘却了世事的纷扰，品一杯香茗，读一本可心的英文读物，于无声处或漫步于异国街头，或游走于伟人之间。在静谧的阅读中，我们学外语，品人生，看社会，在方寸之间触摸大千世界。

毋庸赘言，课外阅读是外语学习的重要环节。课程学习虽然重要，但课程教材的内容窄、信息量少，语言输入极为有限，而语言学习需要重复，语言素材需要在不同的语境中复现，并在复现中得以强化。大量的课外阅读能够扩大词汇量，使学生在潜移默化中吸收新的语言形式，加强语感，获取相关的文化背景知识，提高对文化差异的敏感度与宽容度。然而，当今社会已经进入一个

泛阅读的时代，人们面对浩如烟海的信息心生焦躁。浅尝辄止的阅读往往徒然浪费时间，深度阅读又对时间和精力要求很高。阅读也需要适当的方法。这里谨就英文课外阅读提供两条原则：控制速度原则；处理难点原则。

1. 控制速度原则

人们的阅读速度往往会根据阅读的目的和时机做出调整。一般说来，控制速度的原则有三条：先慢后快、新慢旧快、主慢次快。

1) 先慢后快。阅读一本新书，开头的章节要慢读。这是全书的开场白，如果没看懂，情节理不出头绪，人物分不清主次，或者是对书的主要内容没有概念，阅读的积极性就会受到影响。

2) 新慢旧快。语言上没有明显的障碍时，就尽量读得快一点。碰到新单词新句型时，就要慢一点，一是要花时间从上下文中猜测其意义，二是要让新的语言知识在脑子里留下印象。

3) 主慢次快。阅读主要人物及情节或者有关主旨的主线时要慢一点，那些烘托气氛的描写通常可以看得快一些，只要有总体的感受就可以了。

2. 处理难点原则

课外阅读有别于课内的精读，在基本读懂的前提下，所追求的是速度，是阅读量。如果像处理教科书中的难点要点一样，一字一句寻根问底，速度上不去，阅读量就成空谈。如果一味地求快求多，难点疑点一概不理睬，稀里糊涂，走马观花，也达不到阅读的目的。这里有三条恰当处理阅读中难点的原则，它们之间有内在的逻辑关系，需依下列次序运用：分清难点与重点；回避“鱼头”，“粗刺”、“细刺”区别对待；猜测和查字典要有机结合。

1) 分清难点与重点

碰到难点时，不要先急于解决，难点不一定是重点。只有当难点是重点或直接阻碍正常阅读的进行时，才需要着力去解决。

2) 回避“鱼头”，“粗刺”、“细刺”区别对待

读书如同吃鱼，鱼头无肉，吃起来且费时间。鱼刺又分粗刺和细刺。粗刺要剔除不能强吃，否则要出问题，而细刺如混在鱼肉里咀嚼吃下去，虽不舒服，却无大碍。遇到像鱼头一样难读且无关大局的地方可以且放一旁；遇到类似“粗刺”的难点要认真解决；遇到类似“细刺”的难点只需稍加处理就放行。

3) 猜测和查字典有机结合

有人读书不离字典。有人读书不用字典，这两种倾向都不好。阅读过程好

比猜谜，人们通过语言符号，由表及里，层层深入，逐步“猜出”作者所要表达的意思。遇到生词时不急于查字典，先根据上下文猜测一下词义，这是一种阅读技能。我们读书碰到生字时，可用铅笔划一下，不查先猜，如果这个词很重要，它会在上下文中反复出现，或是自然而然地明朗化。稍后再把所有碰到的生词捋一遍，确定需要查词典的生词，并将猜测的意思和词典作比对。这种先猜后查的方法既节省了时间又强化了记忆。

以上所说的阅读方法是一家之言，却也在实践中得到了很好的反响，希望能对读者有所裨益。言之不尽，还是让我们尽快展开令人心驰神往的“大学生英语阅读文库”阅读之旅吧。

文秋芳

中国外语教育研究中心主任 教授

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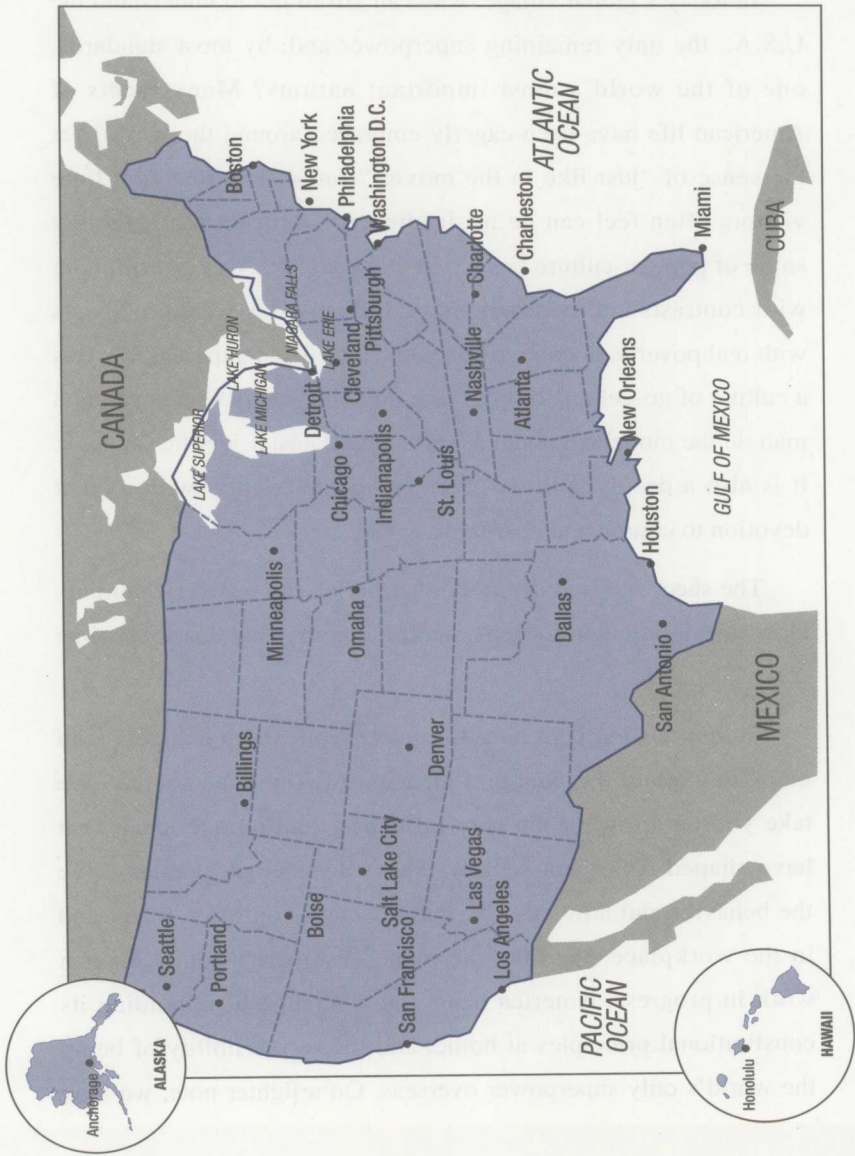
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Map of the U.S.A.



审图号: GS (2006) 820号

introduction

In today's global village, who can afford not to understand the U.S.A., the only remaining superpower and, by most standards, one of the world's most important nations? Many facets of American life have been eagerly embraced around the world. Yet the sense of "just like in the movies" familiarity that first-time visitors often feel can be misleading. Underneath the gleaming smile of popular culture lies a rich and complex society, brimming with contrasts and contradictions. Ostentatious wealth coexists with real poverty, bucolic towns with cities that scrape the sky. It is a culture of go-getters, of high tech, high achievers who have put a man on the moon and count Mars as their latest scientific sandbox. It is also a deeply spiritual, compassionate country with a quiet devotion to church and charitable works.

The sheer size and diversity of America can be overwhelming. How does one begin to understand a country that spans six time zones?

Culture Smart! USA aims to provide you with a cultural "road map" to explain the *human* dimension of American society. We take you on a tour of the core influences and unique ideals that have shaped American society. These deeply held values drive the behavior and attitudes you will encounter on Main Street and in the workplace. We take the pulse of America today. Ever a work in progress, America bears the challenge of upholding its constitutional principles at home, and the responsibility of being the world's only superpower overseas. On a lighter note, we look

at the Americans at work, at home, and at play.

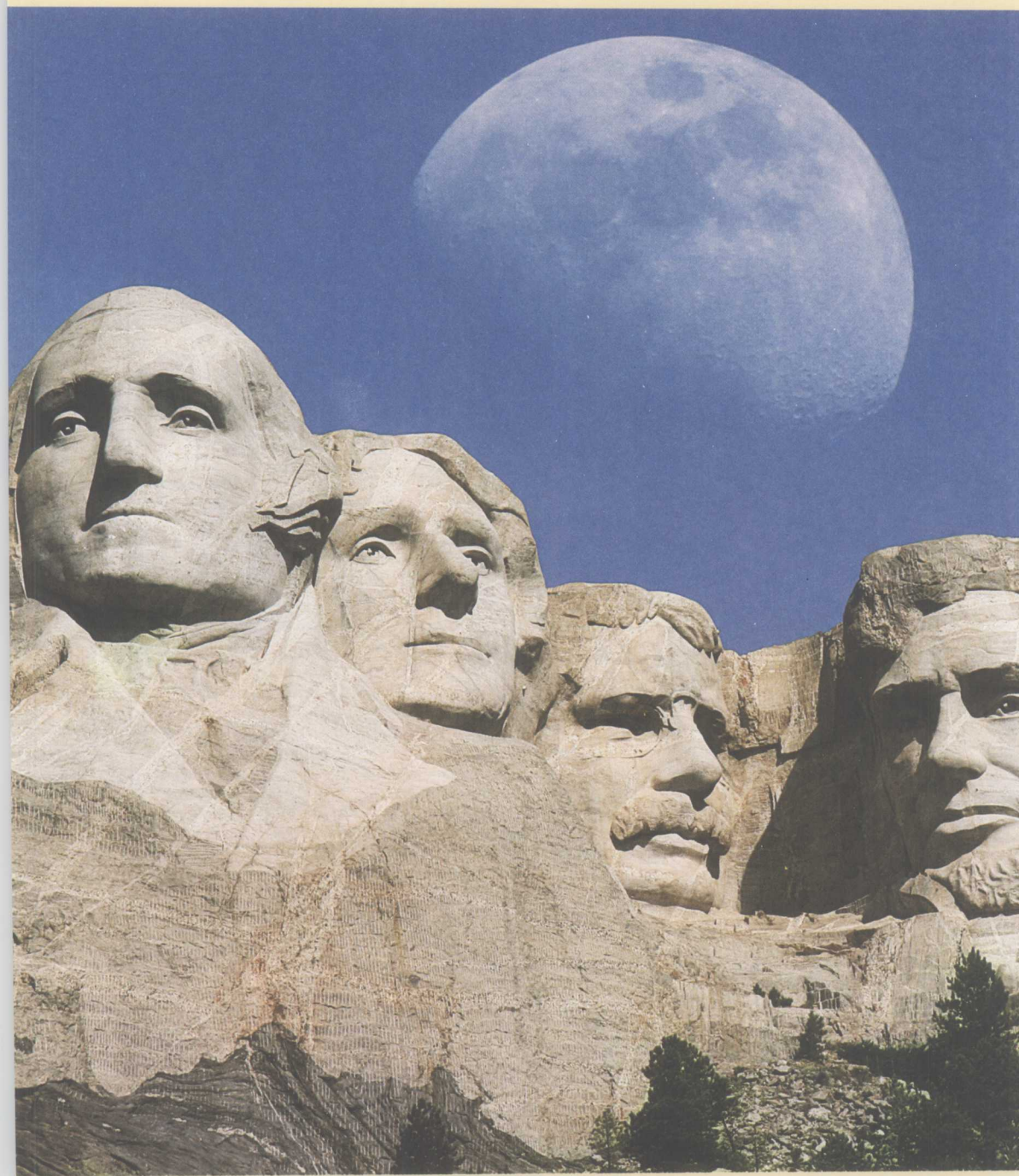
A nation of immigrants, America has an openness and generosity of spirit to newcomers. Visitors will find a dynamic, adventurous, warm people who will accept you on your own terms. There are few cultural *faux pas* that can get you into trouble in this relaxed and informal society. But don't be lulled into a false sense of security, either. Americans hold a firm conviction that theirs is the best country in the world. You'll endear yourself to your hosts by being mindful of this deep pride, and of their cherished ideals.

Finally, a disclaimer. In attempting to portray a nation of 290 million people, one can use only a very broad brush. Generalizations, with all their limitations, are unavoidable. The rule of thumb is: be informed about cultural norms, but be flexible in applying this knowledge. In other words, check your assumptions before entering into any cross-cultural encounter!

Key Facts

Official Name	United States of America	
Capital City	Washington, D.C.	
Major Cities by Population	New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia	
Area	3,675,031 sq. miles (9,518,330 sq. km) which includes the 48 contiguous states and the capital district, and the states of Hawaii and Alaska.	Also includes various territories and dependencies, including American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, part of Palau, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
Climate	Continental, with extremes of temperature and precipitation.	
Currency	Dollar	
Population	290 million	
Ethnic Makeup	White or mixed race 68.5%; African-American 13%; Hispanic 13%; Asian 4%; Native American and Alaskan Inuit 1.5%	
Language	English	Many government and commercial services are also provided in Spanish and Chinese.

Religion	Protestant (including Southern Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopal) 56%; Roman Catholic 27%; Jewish 2%; Muslim 2%; Other 13%.	
Government	Federal Government of 50 states and the District of Columbia. The seat of Government is Washington, D.C. The executive is headed by the President. The bicameral legislative body (Congress) is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives.	
Media	The main network television channels are ABC, CBS, NBC. The total number of local, cable, and satellite channels exceeds 1,600.	There are 10,000 plus FM and AM radio stations, and over 1,500 daily newspapers.
Electricity	110 volts (60-Hertz)	
Telephone	Country code: 1	To dial out: 011
TV/Video	NTSC system. Pal will only work on multisystem TVs and videos.	
Time Zones	There are four time zones across the American continent. Alaska and Hawaii cover two more. Eastern: GMT minus 5 hrs Central: GMT minus 6 hrs Mountain: GMT minus 7hrs Pacific: GMT minus 8 hrs Alaska: GMT minus 9 hrs Hawaii: GMT minus 10 hrs	





LAND AND PEOPLE

彼国彼民

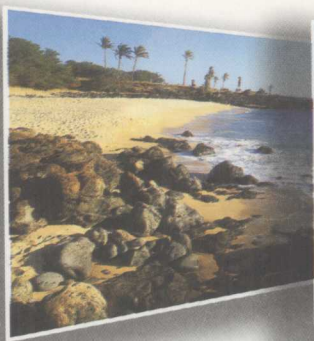
*In addition to "purple mountain majesties and
amber fields of grain," the landscape features
swampy wetlands, lush rain forests, shimmering
deserts, and glacial lakes.*

美国的地貌风情万千，除了“巍巍群山，金色麦田”，还有沼泽湿地、冰川湖泊、葱郁的雨林、发光的沙漠。



Stretching from “sea to shining sea”, the United States of America is bordered by Canada to the north and Mexico to the south. People generally think of it as the lower forty-eight states and the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) situated in the central portion of the North American continent. With a landmass of 3,675,031 square miles, America is the 4th largest country in the world. It has a coast-to-coast span of some 2,700 miles, and is as geographically diverse as it is vast. In addition to “purple mountain majesties and amber fields of grain,” the landscape features swampy wetlands, lush rainforests, shimmering (闪光的) deserts, and glacial lakes.

The other two stars on the Stars and Stripes® flag represent the states of Alaska (northwest of Canada) and Hawaii (situated in the Central Pacific, 2,500 miles to the west of California). Other territories and dependencies include American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, part of Palau, and Guam in the Pacific, and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean Sea.



◀ 夏威夷的旖旎风光

▲ 晨曦中的黄石湖

from sea to shining sea: 从此岸到彼岸，指从大西洋到太平洋。出自 Katherine Lee Bates (凯瑟琳·李·贝茨) 1913年发表的诗作 “American the Beautiful” (《美丽的美国》)，这首赞美诗中有一句名言：Let us crown thy Good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea. (让我们以同胞爱加冕汝之善行，从此岸到彼岸。) 下文 purple mountain majesties and amber fields of grain (巍巍群山，金色麦田) 也出自此诗。

the Stars and Stripes: “星条旗”，美国国旗