

"DO YOU KNOW?"

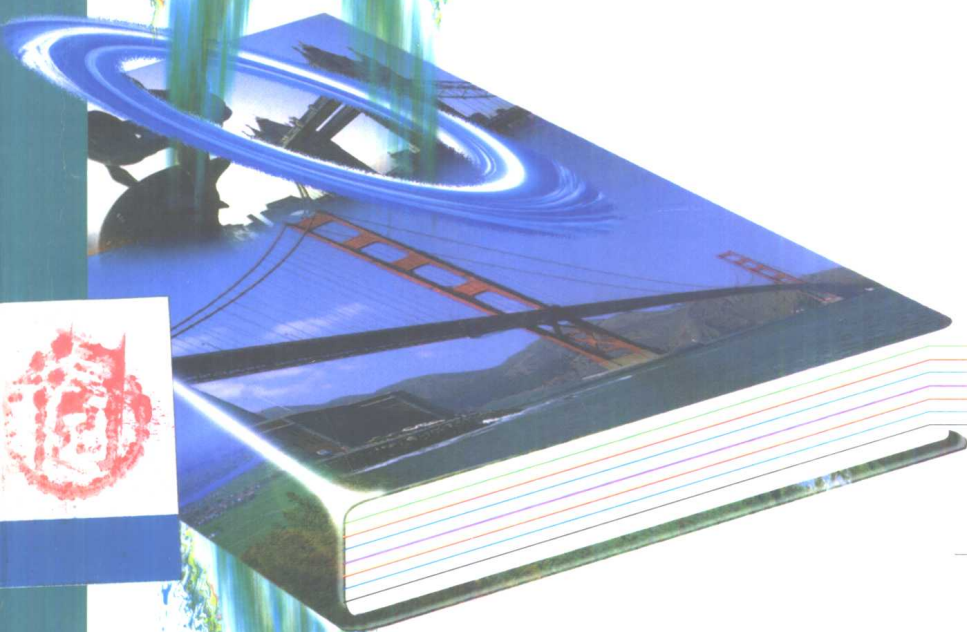
系列读物之二

Knowing about Britain and America

步入英美

潘能主编

常虹 潘能 编



西安交通大学出版社

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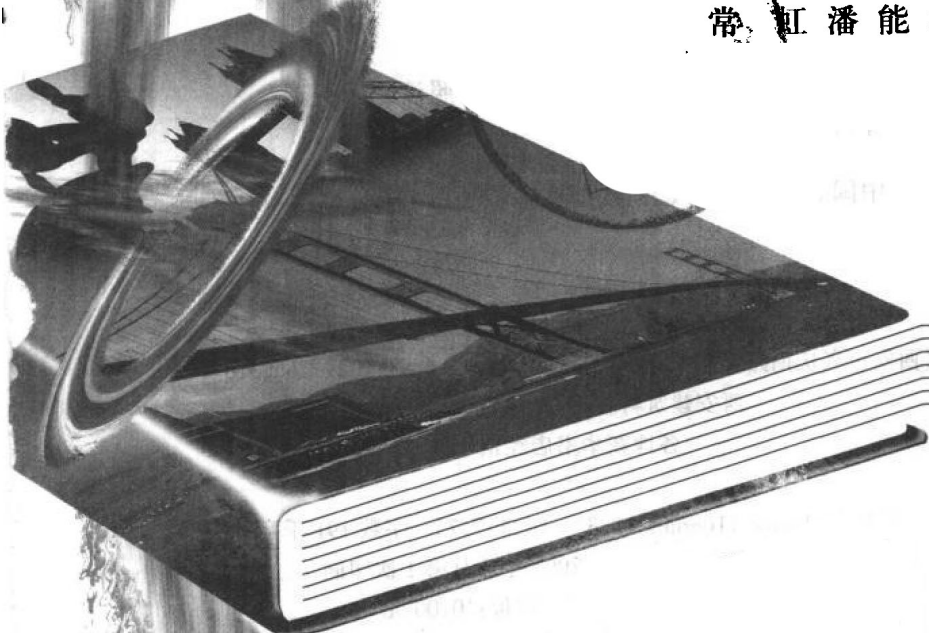
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内容提要

本书为“DO YOU KNOW?”系列读物之二。全书共 90 篇,均选自英美原文,内容包括英国和美国的大小文化概况,文章短小精悍,语言简单易读,知识性强,对了解英美很有帮助。本书可供高中生(特别是高三学生)以及大学低年级学生课外阅读之用,也可供教师选用作泛读教材。本书系列之一“World Miscellanies”已经出版,之三“Believe It or Not?”,之四“A Free Talk about Western World”亦将陆续出版。

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主编例言

众所周知,英语学习成功的要素之一就是阅读。读得多,词汇量就丰;读得广,知识面就宽;读得快,阅读量就大;读得勤,理解力就强。

英语教学是一个系统工程,因此,中学英语和大学英语应该紧密相连。但是,教学实践证明,这两个阶段之间的衔接不够和谐,中学毕业生步入大学后往往不能很快适应大学英语学习,因素固然是多方面的,但比较突出的一个问题就是阅读量不足,阅读能力差,阅读速度慢。为补救这一缺陷,加强中学和大学的衔接,我们编写了这套读物,共分四册,难度和长度逐册递增。第一册“World Miscellanies”已由西安交通大学出版社出版。本书为第二册“Knowing about Britain and America”。其余两册亦将相继出版。读物的风格是文章短小精悍,语言浅显易懂,题材生动活泼,融知识性、趣味性于一炉,会可读性、实践性于一书。每篇短文后均编有较详尽的词汇和难点注释,并配有多种形式的阅读理解题(书后附答案)。

由于内容使然,本册中专用名词,主要是地名较多,但均已详细注出,对阅读应不致造成困难。

本书的主要对象是高中生(特别是高三学生)和大学低年级学生。当然凡是对本书感兴趣的读者都是本书的对象。

主编

2000年6月



• 系列读物之二 •

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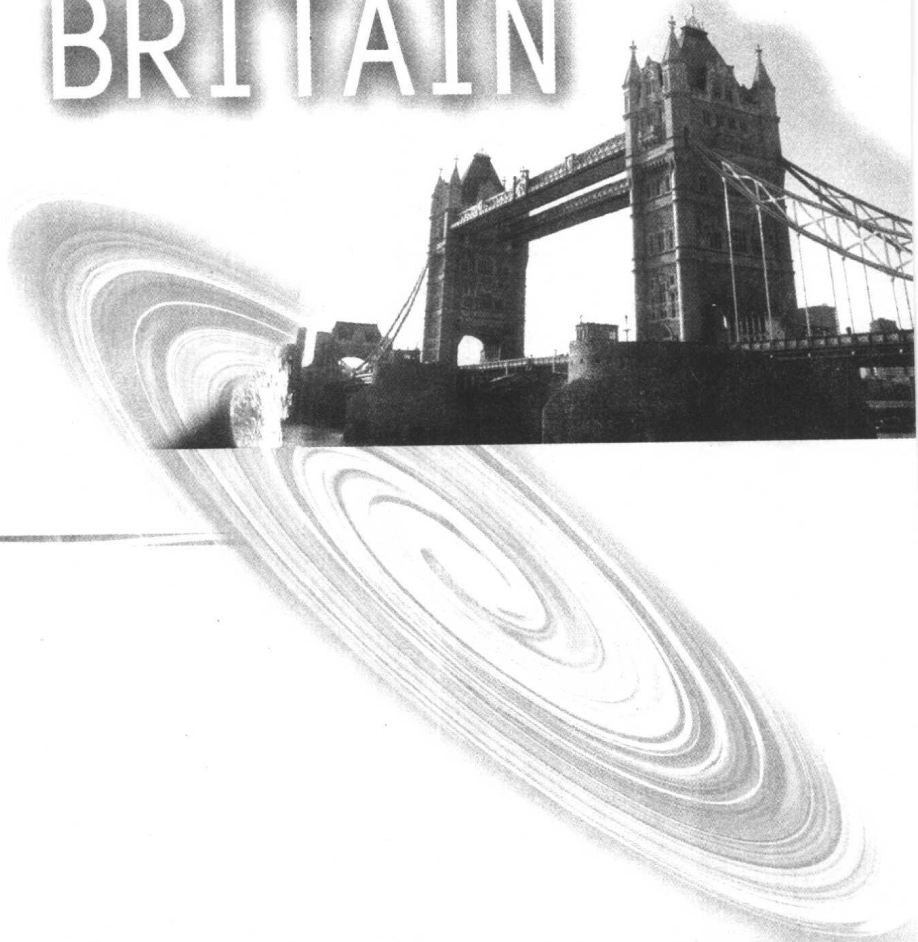
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BRITAIN



原书空白页

1 Britain

英 国

Britain lies off the north-west coast of mainland Europe. Its full name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Great Britain comprising England, Scotland and Wales. Although Britain is a unitary state, the constituent countries have separate national identities, variations in culture and tradition, and different physical characteristics.

With an area of some 242,000 sq. km (93,000 sq. mil.), Britain is just under 1,000 km (about 600 miles) from the south coast to the extreme north of Scotland and just under 500 km (300 miles) across in the widest part.

England is predominantly a lowland country, with upland regions in the north (such as the Pennine Chain, the Cumbrian mountains and the Yorkshire moorlands) and the downs in central southern England, which are low chalk hill ranges. Wales is a country of hills and mountains, the highest being Snowdon at 1,085m (3,560 ft). Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis (1,343 m, 4,406 ft), is in the central highlands of Scotland, which contains large areas of wild, unspoilt landscape. Northern Ireland is at its nearest point only 21 km (13 miles) from Scotland. It has a 488 km (303 mile) border in the south and west with the Irish Republic. At its centre

lies Lough Neagh, Britain's largest freshwater lake (396 sq. km 153 sq. miles).

Britain has frequent weather changes through the seasonal cycle of winter, spring, summer and autumn, although temperatures rarely exceed 32°C or fall below -10°C. Rainfall is fairly well distributed throughout the year.

Notes

1. unitary state: 一元化的/一体的国家
2. constituent countries: 组成国
3. national identity: 国籍(身份)
4. predominantly: adv. 显著地, 典型地
5. lowland: a. 低地的
6. upland: a. 高地的, 山地的
7. the Pennine Chain: 本宁山系(在英格兰北部)
8. the Cumbrian mountains: 康布立安山(在英格兰西北部 Cumbria 郡)
9. The Yorkshire moorlands: 约克郡沼地(在英格兰东北部)
10. the downs: 指低地
11. chalk-hill ranges: 白垩小山脉
12. Snowdon: 斯诺登山(在威尔士西北部, 为英国第二高峰)
13. Ben Nevis: 朋尼维山(在苏格兰西境, 为英国第一高峰)
14. freshwater lake: 淡水湖(Lough Neagh 为英国最大淡水湖)

Comprehension Exercise

Complete the following.

1. Britain is located _____.
2. The full name of Britain is _____.
3. The geographic feature of Britain is _____.
4. The weather in Britain is changeable _____.

2 Where Do They Come from?

最早的英国人

People in the four lands of Britain derive from a host of ancestral sources, notably:

- the prehistoric cultures which produced such impressive monuments as the stone circles of Avebury and Stonehenge;
- the ancient Celtic peoples who inhabited western and central Europe;
- the Romans who occupied Britain for over 300 years from the invasion in AD 43;
- the Angles, Saxons and Jutes — Germanic peoples who began raiding and settling in Britain from the third century;
- Scots from Ireland, who began to settle in what became known as Scotland in the sixth century (merging with the indigenous Picts to form one kingdom under Kenneth Macalpin in the ninth century);
- the Vikings from Scandinavia, who pillaged and settled areas of Britain and Ireland from the end of the eighth century; and
- the Normans from France, who invaded England in 1066.

The last thousand years have witnessed the assimilation of all these strands — and many new ones besides, following on from global exploration, the expansion of trade and international rivalry, and the growth of the Empire.

At the same time political, social, economic and religious trends, pressures and crises have all evolved to create the beliefs, lifestyle and expectaions that are prevalent among the people today.

Notes

1. derive from a host of ancestral sources: 来源于一群祖先
2. such impressive monuments as the stone circles of Avebury and stonehenge: 这样的不朽的丰碑, 诸如作家爱扶贝利笔下的石头垒成的竞技场, 以及 Salisbury 平原上的史前巨石柱
3. Celtic: a. 凯尔特的
4. inhabit: v. 居住
5. the Angles, Saxons and Jutes: 盎格鲁人、撒克逊人和朱特人
6. Germanic peoples: 日尔曼民族
7. Scots: 苏格兰人
8. the indigenous Picts: 当地的匹克特人(昔日住在苏格兰东部及北部之民族)
9. Kenneth Macalpin: 肯奈·麦卡尔宾, 9 世纪时苏格兰国王
10. Vikings: 北欧海盗
11. Scandinavia: 斯堪的纳维亚
12. pillage: v. 掠夺
13. Normans: 诺曼人
14. the assimilation of all these strands: 所有这些民族的融合
15. gobal exploration: 环球探险
16. rivalry: n. 竞争
17. prevalent: a. 盛行的, 普遍的

Comprehension Exercise

Complete the following.

The ancestral sources of people in Britain include: