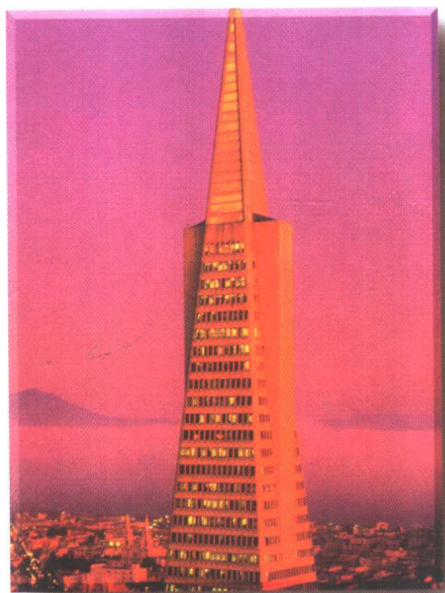




新编英语快速阅读教程

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中航出版社

内 容 简 介

本书由具有丰富的大学英语教学和指导中高级考试经验的教师编写。

本书以国家教委颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学四六级考试大纲》为依据,精选阅读文章 66 篇。围绕每篇文章安排了导读、阅读理解、词汇练习、完型填空、词语注释及时间速度转换表等,内容丰富多彩,趣味性强;阅读由浅入深,循序渐进。本书利用计算机对全书 66 篇文章进行了科学的可读性分析,可作为阅读辅导教材,也可作为教师参考书。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新编英语快速阅读教程/杨阳等主编. -北京:宇航出版社,1999. 1

ISBN 7-80144-225-3

I. 新… II. 杨… III. 英语-阅读教学-教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(98)第 39802 号

宇航出版社出版发行

北京市和平里滨河路 1 号(100080)

发行部地址:北京阜成路 8 号(100013)

零售书店(北京宇航文苑)地址:北京海淀大街 31 号(100080)

北京印刷一厂印刷

新华书店经销

1999 年 1 月第 1 版 1999 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

开本:787×1092 1/16 印张:17.625 字数:430 千字

印数:1~8000 册 定价:19.80 元

前 言

提高英语阅读速度至少有三个条件:

第一,阅读时,不断检查阅读的速度。要有时间的压力,在短时间内快速、准确地获取信息,逐渐地使自己适应快速阅读。本书每篇文章后附有一个时间速度转换表(Time rate conversion chart)。读者在开始阅读前记录下时间,读后再确定完成阅读所用的时间。在时间速度转换表里,读者能够立即知道自己阅读该文章的速度,速度以每分钟的字数计算(WPM=word per minute)。

第二,阅读要由浅入深,循序渐进。一脚深一脚浅地阅读不利于阅读能力的提高。本书利用计算机对全书 66 篇文章进行了可读性分析(根据弗莱舍可读性分析量表)。然后,按照系数从易到难排序(见附录,系数高的较系数低的更容易读)。因此,使用较为科学的方法解决了由浅入深的问题。

第三,阅读内容要引人入胜,给人以知识,给人以启迪。没有兴趣,阅读能力的提高便无从谈起。本书所选文章内容丰富多彩,百科性的知识配以简要的导读提示使读者爱不释手。浏览一下目录,读者便会发现许多感兴趣的题目和关注的问题:泰坦尼克号、克隆技术、爱情、安乐死、中东和谈进程、欧元、幸福、数字化未来,包括了多种学科,如:艺术、科学、环保、历史、政治、外交、社会、商业、医学、伦理、心理学等等。

以上三个条件正是本书提供给读者的。希望读者在浩瀚的知识海洋中由浅入深地向前探索,记录下自己前进的历程。全书各篇体例统一,包括以下部分:导读、文章、阅读理解、词汇练习、完型填空、词语注释及时间速度转换表。

书中不妥之处敬请读者不吝指正。

编 者

1998 年 11 月

5-17-7

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1 A French Boy's Adventure in Canada

导 读

打猎是一项令年青人兴奋、心旷神怡的活动。然而，一旦遇到了危险，甚至牺牲了生命那就成为可怕和恐怖的事情。文章中的法国男孩正是经历了这一切。他无意之中落入了印第安土著人手中。按理说，他的命也应跟其他的俘虏一样，但结果却是令人放心的。究竟这个法国男孩是如何被捕的？印第安人的习俗又如何？是谁救了这个法国男孩，印第安人是否真的那么可怕？在你阅读之后一切都会明白的。

Early one morning in the spring of 1652, three young men decided to go hunting. They left the little fort of Three Rivers, on the Saint Lawrence River, for the marches of Lake St. Peter. On one side of the lake were the forest-covered hills. On the other side was the broad St. Lawrence, with miles of marches. Wild ducks, geese, and other birds migrated there every year.

The three young men did not really know the dangers involved in leaving the fort at that time. Everyone else knew that the Iroquois Indians around the settlement had been lying in ambush for a long time. Every week some settler who worked his lands outside the protecting fence of the fort was set upon and killed.

However, the boys, unaware, went happily along, boasting about how they would fight if the Indians attacked them. One boy stayed close to the forest, watching for Indians; the other two stayed by the river, looking for wild animals and birds to shoot. About a mile from the fort they met a herdsman. He warned them not to go too close to the hills because he had seen many Indians there.

When they had traveled some distance and shot a number of ducks, one boy said he had had enough. He decided he would go back to the fort. The second boy said that he would join him. However, the third boy, Pierre, laughed at the other two and continued hunting alone.

When Pierre had gone about nine miles from the fort, he came to a stream that was too deep to walk across, and he realized that he already had more birds than he could carry. He hid some of the birds in hollow trees and started back to the fort with a string of geese and ducks over his shoulder.

Finally, Pierre saw the roofs of the settlement above the river, gleaming in the last rays of sunlight. A great flock of ducks was swimming on the river and the sight of them reassured Pierre. He reasoned that if any people were nearby the ducks would have flown away. Pierre decided not to miss this wonderful chance to shoot one or two more ducks. He moved quietly through the tall ducks. He moved quietly through the tall grass toward the water. Suddenly he stumbled over the bodies of his two friends. They had been stripped of their clothing and scalped.

Pierre tried to hide in the tall grass. He heard gun shots from the forest behind him, and fired back, but the Indians were too much and fired back, but the Indians were too much for him. When he came to his senses, Pierre found himself being dragged back to the woods where the Iroquois showed him the scalps of his dead friends.

The Indians stripped Pierre of his clothes and tied him to a tree. Then they gathered around the fire for their evening meal. Suddenly an alarm was sounded; the French were coming. The Indians put the fire out immediately, and a number of Indians set out to see where their enemies were. The Indians soon returned with news which was evidently reassuring. A second fire was lit, and the meal continued.

Then Pierre's clothes were returned to him. When the young warriors offered Pierre some of their food, they saw that their rancid meat made him ill. Then they boiled some fresh meat in clean water and gave Pierre corn meal browned on burning sand with the meat. Since Pierre did not struggle or try to escape, he was untied. That night he slept between two Indians under a common blanket. In the morning they all set out for the Indian village.

The Indians shaved Pierre's head and decorated it with an Iroquois head-dress. They also taught him how to hold an oar and throw spears. Pierre reasoned that, since he had not been killed and scalped as his two friends had been, it might be because the Indians were impressed by the facts that he had gone on alone when his friends had turned back, and that he never seemed to be frightened of the Indians.

After several days of traveling, they arrived at a lake. The Iroquois went to a pool of water on the bank of the lake and threw hot stones into the pool until the water was steaming. Then each Iroquois took a bath, to clean himself before meeting his family.

The return of the Indians to their village was, as usual, a great occasion. The wives came to meet them. Then all the people of the village armed themselves with clubs and whips to torture the captives. The Indians formed two lines, through which the captives were forced to run. When it was Pierre's turn to run between the two lines of whippers, he was told quietly to run very fast so that he could not be hurt.

After Pierre had run through the line, a captive Huron woman, who had lived in the village for some time, took Pierre to her cabin. She gave him fresh clothes and food. Then he was taken to the Council Lodge of the Iroquois for judgment.

The wise men of the tribe sat around a fire, silently smoking their pipes. The old Huron woman came in and begged them to spare Pierre's life. The men listened and made signs of approval. Finally, the old woman was given permission to adopt Pierre as her son.

Pierre's new family dressed him in colored blankets and strings of wampum, which is made of shells and stones that are very highly polished. This wampum was used as money by the Indians.

So it was that Pierre came to live with the Iroquois Indians. They gave him a gun and he went hunting with them every day.

Although he was grateful for all these attentions, and happy to have made new friends, Pierre still hoped to return one day to his family at Three Rivers. He was finally allowed to return and, later in life, he became a fur-trader. His knowledge of the Indian customs and language helped him considerably in his explorations and commercial dealings. However, he was not always a successful man, because he was too independent to bow and scrape to governors and kings.

Comprehension exercises

1. Recalling the facts
 - 1) When the Indians heard that the French were coming, what did they do?
 - 2) When Pierre could not eat the meat, what did the Indians cook for him?
 - 3) Before the Iroquois met their families, why did they throw hot stones into a pool?
2. Understanding the text
 - 1) Why was wampum different from plain shells and stones?
 - 2) What does this story show?
3. True or false
 - 1) The two boys safely went back home, but Pierre was caught by the Indians.
 - 2) In Indians' camp Pierre shaved his head and decorated it with an Iroquois head-dress.
 - 3) Finally, the old woman was given permission to adopt Pierre as her son.
 - 4) Pierre was finally allowed to return his own home and became a successful man because of his knowledge of the Indian customs and language.

Vocabulary exercise

- 1) **migrated**

"Wild ducks, geese, and other birds migrated there every year."

A. to settle down B. to go from one region to another
C. to travel constantly D. to rove about
- 2) **reassured**

"A great flock of ducks were swimming on the river and the sight of them reassured Pierre."

A. to make confident again B. to excite C. to confuse D. to cause wonder
- 3) **evidently**

"The Indians soon returned with news which was evidently reassuring."

A. to suggest doubt B. to sense insecurity
C. to present proof D. to tend toward clearness
- 4) **rancid**

"When the young warriors offered Pierre some of their food, they saw that their rancid meat made him ill."

A. unusual tasting B. foul smelling C. badly prepared D. quite rare
- 5) **reasoned**

"Pierre reasoned that, since he had not been killed and scalped as his two friends had been..."

A. make a statement B. to be intelligent C. to have hope D. to decide by clear thinking
- 6) **approval**

"The men listened and made signs of approval."

A. showing concern B. giving permission
C. showing authority D. demanding discipline

Cloze

Finally, Pierre saw the roofs of the settlement above the river, gleaming in the last rays of sunlight. A great flock of ducks was swimming _____ the river and the sight of them _____ Pierre. He reasoned that if any people _____ nearby the ducks would have become frightened _____ would have flown away. Pierre decided not _____ miss this

wonderful chance to shoot one _____ two more ducks. He moved quietly through _____ tall grass toward the water. Suddenly he _____ over the bodies of his two friends. They had been stripped of their clothing and scalped.

词语注释

1. to go hunting 去打猎
2. fort (= strongly made building used for defence at some important place) 要塞
3. Saint Lawrence River 圣劳伦斯河
4. Lake St. Peter 圣彼得湖
5. to migrate (= to move from one place to another) 移居
6. Iroquois Indian 易洛魁印第安人(北美印第安人)
7. to ambush (= to attack from a place of hiding) 埋伏
8. settlement 村落
9. to strip (= to remove the covering of) 剥光
10. scalp 剥取头皮
11. warrior (= a soldier or an experienced fighting man) 斗士
12. rancid (= not fresh, not pleasant) 恶臭的
13. to whip 鞭笞
14. captive (= a person who has been taken as a prisoner) 俘虏
15. the Council Lodge of the Iroquois 易洛魁议会机构
16. wampum (北美印第安人过去作货币或装饰用的) 贝壳数珠
17. to bow and scrape 打躬作揖

Time rate conversion chart*

Min: Sec.	WPM	Min: Sec.	WPM	Min: Sec.	WPM
1:00	1063	4:30	236	8:00	133
1:30	708	5:00	213	8:30	125
2:00	532	5:30	193	9:00	118
2:30	425	6:00	177	9:30	112
3:00	354	6:30	164	10:00	106
3:30	303	7:00	152	10:30	101
4:00	266	7:30	142	11:00	97

* 这是一张时间速度转换表,以后每篇阅读文章后都有一张。表中左边一栏是读者阅读所用的时间(以分:秒计算)。右边一栏是读者读该篇文章时所用的字数。比如:这篇文章你用1分钟读完,你的阅读速度为1分钟1063个词。你如果用1分钟30秒读完这篇文章,速度为每分钟708个词;若用2分钟读完,速度为每分钟532个词,以此类推。你若用11分钟才能读完,则阅读速度仅为每分钟97个词。以下各章时间速度转换表用法相同。

2 The Whale

导 读

世界上最大的动物仍然存在,那就是鲸鱼。数百万年前,鲸鱼曾经生活在陆地上,它们像人一样靠脚行走。但是它们后为什么离开陆地,生活在海里呢?谁也不太清楚。尽管鲸鱼生活在海里,但它们仍属哺乳动物。它们的很多特点同人类一样。比如,它们爱子就如同我们的父母疼爱孩子一样。不幸的是,多少年来,鲸鱼一直是人们宰杀的对象。人们就它身上的有用部分制作各种日用品。这是极其可悲的。假如人类还是执迷不悟,人类的朋友——鲸鱼就要灭绝了。

The largest animal that ever lived on land or in water still exists. Not even the giant dinosaurs were as large as some whales. One sulphur-bottom whale caught in the Antarctic was 110 feet long, and weighed between 90 and 100 tons.

Whales can grow to such enormous size because their bodies are supported by the water. An animal that lives on land can only grow to a size that his legs can support, while a bird's size is limited by its wing size. A whale has none of these difficulties.

Millions of years ago, whales lives on land and walked on four legs. Today, whales still have small bones that are the remains of their hind legs, but these bones can only be seen on the inside of the whale. No one knows why whales lift the land to live in the water. However, scientists can surmise that when the whales changed their environment, their bodies underwent a change-taking on a more fish-like appearance. This new form offered less resistance to the water, enabling the whales to swim faster.

Despite their fish-like form, whales are not fish. a whale will drown, just as a man will, if it stays under water too long. When a whale is under water, it closes its nostrils tightly and holds its breath. The air in its lungs becomes very hot and full of water vapour. When the whale rises to the surface and exhales, its hot breath produces a column of water vapor that rises high in the air. A man produces the same effect when he exhales warm air on a cold morning.

Whales are classified as mammals because they bear their young, rather than laying eggs, and because the mother whales give the babies milk. Like other mammals, whales have warm blood. Their blood stays at the same temperature, even when they move from hot to cold water. They keep warm in cold water because they have a thick layer of fat just under their skins. This fat is called blubber, and it is thicker on whales that spend their lives in cold water. Almost all land mammals, except man, have hair on their bodies to keep them warm, but whales, which have very few hairs, are kept warm by their fat.

A baby whale's size at birth depends on the size of its mother. For example, a sulphur whale measuring 80 feet gave birth to a 25-foot baby that weighed 8 tons. Another whale, 60 feet long, gave birth to a 21-foot baby.

Whales do not bear young more often than every two years. The births are usually single births, but there have been instances of whale twins. Mother whales show a great deal of affection for their young. If the baby whale is killed, the mother will stay close to it for a long time. The young grow very rapidly during their first three or four years. And, although

no one is certain how long a whale lives, the normal life span is probably less than 100 years.

There are two main groups of whales: those with teeth and those without teeth. Whales that have no teeth have bristles in their mouths to strain their food. When a whale of this kind eats, he opens his mouth and swims into a mass of shrimp or small fish. As he closes his mouth, he pushes the water out with his tongue (which weighs almost a ton). The food stays on the bristles. These whales feed at or near the surface of the water.

The other group of whales have teeth to catch the slippery fish they eat. They have larger throats than the toothless whales, because they eat larger fish.

The huge sulphur-bottom whales, mentioned previously, are of the bristle or batten type. The biggest whales with teeth are the sperm whales, which grow to a length of 70 feet. The spermaceti they contain is a waxy substance that was once used for making candles. When a sperm whale is sick, it gives off ambergris, another waxy substance, that is sometimes found floating in the sea. Ambergris is used as a base for expensive perfumes.

At one time whale oil was used as lamp fuel, but this use declined with the introduction of kerosene as a lamp fuel. However, whale oil is still used in making soap, for oiling machinery, for treating leather, in making margarine, and in the manufacture of glycerin for explosives. Sperm oil, the highest quality whale oil, is often used for lubricating sewing machines and watches.

A century ago, whale bristles were used to make stiffening for ladies corsets and ribs for umbrellas. Today, they are used to make brushes, mattress suffering, and other useful items. Whale meat is eaten by cattle and poultry, as well as by people. To some people it has a taste similar to beef. Finally, the carcass of the whale is used to make fertilizer.

Whaling used to be hard and dangerous work. A ship went on a long voyage to find whales. When one was sighted, some of the men grabbed their harpoons and jumped into a small boat. They rowed the boat out to where the whale was and harpooned it. It usually took several hours of hard struggle before the whale was conquered and could be towed back to the ship. During this struggle the whale might easily overturn the small boat unless the men were careful to keep the boat out of the whale's way.

Today, a whaling ship is a sort of factory. Modern harpoons are shot from guns, and some are electrified to kill the whale instantly. Airplanes radio the location of a herd of whales to a ship. Fast motor boats are used to chase the whales. And steam winches are used to haul the whales aboard ship. In fact, modern whalers are so efficient that whales are in danger of becoming extinct.

Comprehension exercises

Recalling the facts

- 1) What is ambergris used to make?
- 2) When whales spout, what did they let out?
- 3) What length may whales reach?

Understanding the text

- 1) When a baby whale is killed, why did its mother usually stay in the same area?
- 2) Why would whales find living on land difficult now?

3. True or false

- 1) Whales can grow to 110 feet long, and weigh between 90 and 100 tons.
- 2) A baby whale's size at birth has nothing to do with its mother.
- 3) Whaling is hard and dangerous now.
- 4) Millions of years ago, whales lived on land and walked on four legs.

Vocabulary exercise

1) resistance

"This new form offered less resistance to the water, enabling the whales to swim faster."

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| A. making a stand | B. causing aggravation |
| C. minor distress | D. power of withstanding |

2) classified

"Whales are classified as mammals because they bear their young, rather than laying eggs, and because the mother whales give the babies milk."

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. to share cultural characteristics | B. to be listed secretly |
| C. to be divided | D. to be placed according to category |

3) lubricating

"Sperm oil, the highest quality whale oil, is often used for lubricating sewing machines and watches."

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. checking and repairing | B. placing in categories |
| C. preventing errors in | D. oiling for smooth running |

4) carcass

"Finally, the carcass of the whale is used to make fertilizer."

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. internal organs only | B. remains of an animal body |
| C. a specific part of the skin | D. the lower part of an animal |

5) conquered

"It usually took several hours of hard struggle before the whale was conquered."

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| A. to be subjugated | B. to be mistreated |
| C. to defeat or subdue | D. to be taken alive |

6) efficient

"In fact, modern whalers are so efficient that whales are in danger of becoming extinct."

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. having great capability | B. having uncontrolled power |
| C. very dangerous | D. overly mechanical |

Cloze

There are two main groups of whales: those with teeth and those without teeth. _____ that have no teeth have bristles in _____ mouths to strain their food. When a _____ of this kind eats, he opens his _____ and swims into a mass of shrimp _____ small fish. As he closes his mouth, _____ pushes the water out with his tongue (which weighs almost a ton). _____ food stays on the bristles. These whales feed at or near the surface of the water.

词语注释

1. enormous (= big, huge) 巨大的
2. resistance 抗拒
3. nostril 鼻孔
4. vapor (= gaslike form of a liquid, often caused by a sudden change of temperature) 蒸气

12. to exhale (= to breathe out) 呼出
13. mammals (= an animal of the type which is fed when young on milk from the mother's body) 哺乳动物
14. blubber 鲸脂
15. bristles (= short, stiff coarse hair) 短而硬的毛
16. sulfur-bottom whale (= blue whale) 蓝鲸
17. spermaceti (= a waxy material found in the head of the sperm whale and used in making skin creams, candles etc.) 鲸蜡
18. ambergris (= a waxy substance produced in part of the body of a large sea animal, used in the production of pleasant-smelling liquids) 龙涎香
19. kerosene 火油
20. margarine 人造黄油
21. glycerin 甘油
22. lubricating 润滑
23. corset (= a very tight-fitting undergarment worn, esp., by women, to give shape to the waist and hips) 妇女紧身胸衣
24. poultry 家禽
25. fertilizer (= chemical or natural substance that is put on the land to make crops grow better) 肥料
26. harpoon 鱼叉

Time rate conversion chart

Min: Sec.	WPM	Min: Sec.	WPM	Min: Sec.	WPM
1:00	993	4:30	220	8:00	124
1:30	662	5:00	199	8:30	117
2:00	497	5:30	181	9:00	110
2:30	397	6:00	166	9:30	104
3:00	331	6:30	153	10:00	99
3:30	281	7:00	142	10:30	95
4:00	243	7:30	132	11:00	90

3 Engineers of the woods

导 读

每当人们提起工程师,就会联想到那些维修机械的人们。事实上,除了人之外,海狸也是一个极好的工程师。它们所做的事情正如我们的工程师一样,所不同的是海狸是水中、森林中的工程师。为了保护家园,繁殖后代,和睦相处,海狸作出了极大的努力。那么海狸是什么样的动物呢?它们到底怎样生活,对人类又有什么好处呢?阅读本文之后,你就会得到这些问题的答案。

In the forests of North America, where the winters are often long and cold, small ponds can be found along the streams. Sometimes these ponds are natural; sometimes they are man-made; and sometimes they are the constructions of beavers. You can tell a beaver pond by its dam. To make the dams, they beavers lay sticks and branches on top of each other to form an effective barrier against the water of the stream. Near the dam the beavers lay sticks and branches. Usually this mound is similar to a small island surrounded by the water of the pond. This is the house where a beaver family spends the winter, protected from its enemies and from the cold. The beavers are able to keep dry in the center of the house, which is above water level.

The beavers work hard to make their house. They cut down trees, gather branches and twigs, and put them together with mud. Most of the summer is spent in this kind of work, but in winter the beavers' work proves worthwhile. Their house protects them even from bears.

During the American Revolution, when the armies made roads through the woods, they often tore down the beaver dams to drain swamps and make dry roads. However, the beavers returned again and again to their former dam-sites and rebuilt their dams. Thus, in a very short time, the roads were under water again.

The beaver is related to other rodents, or gnawing animals, such as rats, mice and squirrels. The beaver, however, is much bigger than its rodent cousins. An adult beaver may weigh more than 50 pounds, and his body may be about three feet long. His tail will add ten or twelve more inches to his length. His hind feet are webbed, which helps him swim rapidly. His front paws are similar to a pair of strong hand. With them he can carry logs and stones. His eyes, nose and ears are small, but he has two huge front teeth. These teeth are always growing, and he must keep them sharpened by constant use. The teeth of an adult beaver are yellow from the bark of trees that he gnaws.

The beaver's tail is particularly useful. It is broad and oval, in the shape of a paddle blade. He uses it as an oar or rudder when he is in the water, and to balance himself when he is sitting on the ground. He often uses his tail to strike the ground as a warning to other beavers that danger is near. He can remain under water for ten minutes, using his tail as a sort of propeller.

Men attach great value to the beaver because of his fur. The beaver has practically disappeared from Europe because fur hunters and trappers killed so many beavers for their pelts. The beaver might easily have become extinct in America, too, but laws were passed to protect the beavers before they were all killed.

The beaver likes family life, and lives with the same mate all of his life. Several young usually two or five - are born every year. The little beavers stay with their parents two years before mating and setting out on their own. The whole family lives in the same mound, or lodge. Generally there are several lodges in the same area, and the beaver families help each other in their community life. They share the work of building dams, constructing mounds, and raising the young (who require more space to live each year.)

When there are too many beavers in one place, some of them will start a new colony in another place. They usually choose a spot near some fairly deep lake or river, where there are birch, poplar or willow trees. The bark of the birch, poplar, or willow is eaten as food. Then the wood is used in building.

Sometimes the lodges are built on the bank of the water, but usually they are built on an island in the water. If there is no island already there, the beavers make one by piling sticks and mud on the bed of the river until the top is a few inches above the level of the water. The top is carpeted with small pieces of wood, leaves, or moss. A dome-shaped roof of sticks and lots of mud is then built over this "floor." Food for the winter is taken to the lodge before the weather gets too cold. Some of it - the larger pieces - is stored on the bottom of the lake or river, near the entrance to a tunnel leading up to the lodge. There are sometimes several such entrances, under the surface of the water. Wood that is kept under water may be stuck in the mud, or weighted down with stones.

Beavers prefer to work at night. One beaver, in a single night, can ~~fall~~ a tree that is eight inches in diameter. After felling the tree, the beaver gnaws the trunk ~~into~~ pieces that can be carried. He uses these as the base for the dam. The dam is built in a straight line, or in a curve, with the outside of the curve facing upstream. A small dam may be enlarged after several years, in order to flood a larger surface and provide living space for more beavers. Under favorable conditions, a dam may last for a hundred years or more. Naturally, other animals use these dams as bridges, forcing the beavers to keep the dams in good repair. The dams must be strong enough to resist the pressure of ice in the spring; and sometime holes are made by the beavers, after heavy rains, to allow excess water to run off.

Another type of work beavers do is canal digging. When they have used the good trees near their home, they must bring more wood from farther away. To accomplish this, they may dig a canal to float the trees to the place where they are needed.

Beaver dams help people because they prevent floods and make irrigation easier. It is fortunate that these animals have not been allowed to disappear completely.

Comprehension exercises

1. Recalling the facts

- 1) Where are beaver dams are found mainly?
- 2) What do beavers use with in swimming?
- 3) Why do beavers build their dams?

2. Understanding the text

- 1) Why are beavers protected by law?
- 2) Judging from the text, what are men gradually learning?
- 3) True or false

3. True or false

- 1) The beaver is related to other rodents, or gnawing animals, such as rats, mice and squirrels.
- 2) The beaver does not live family life, and lives with several mates in his lifetime.
- 3) Beavers prefer to work at night.
- 4) Besides building dams, another type of work beavers do is canal digging.

Vocabulary exercise

1) effective

"To make dams, the beavers lay sticks and branches on top of each other to form an effective barrier against the water of the stream."

A. really outrageous B. very capable C. almost inconspicuous D. too elaborate

2) sites

"However, the beavers returned again and again to their former dam-sites and rebuilt their dams."

A. places or localities B. unsightly locations C. feeding ground D. destroyed structures

3) gnawing

"The beaver is related to other rodents, or gnawing animals, such as rats, mice and squirrels."

A. to wear away by constant biting B. to move swiftly
C. to be small D. to be a meat eater

4) extinct

"The Beaver might easily have become extinct in America, too, but laws were passed to protect the beavers before they were all killed."

A. very rare B. almost suppressed C. seriously hunted D. no longer living

5) felling

"After felling the tree, the beaver gnaws the trunk into pieces that can be carried."

A. to finish off B. to cut or knock down C. to climb up D. to lose balance

6) accomplish

"To accomplish this, they may dig a canal to float the trees to the place where they are needed."

A. to make an agreement B. to aid someone
C. to increase by growth D. to succeed in doing

Cloze

The beaver's tail is particularly useful. It is broad and oval, in the _____ of a paddle-blade. He uses it _____ an oar or rudder when he is _____ the water, and to balance himself when _____ is sitting on the ground. He often _____ his tail to strike the ground as _____ warning to other beavers that danger is _____. He can remain under water for ten minutes, using his tail as a sort of propeller.

词语注释

1. beaver (= a type of water and land animal of the rat family with a broad flat tail and valuable fur) 海狸
2. barrier (= something placed in the way in order to prevent) 屏障
3. twigs (= a small thin woody stem branching off from a branch on a tree) 细枝
4. swamps (= soft wet land) 沼泽地
5. rodents (= a member of the family of small plant-eating animals with strong sharp

teeth) 啮齿动物

6. squirrel 松鼠
7. to gnaw (= keep biting something until destroyed) 咬
8. paddle-blade 桨片
9. rudder 舵
10. pelt 毛皮
11. extinct (= no longer existing) 绝迹
12. birch 白桦
13. poplar 白杨
14. dome-shaped 拱顶型的
15. diameter (= a straight line going from side to side through the center of circle) 直径
16. irrigation 灌溉

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2:30	415	6:00	173	9:30	109
3:00	346	6:30	160	10:00	104
3:30	297	7:00	148	10:30	99
4:00	260	7:30	138	11:00	94