

生英语
第2辑

In the Beginning

原始時代



EASY ENGLISH READERS
STAGE 2

中学生必读书

In the Beginning 原始时代

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内 容 简 介

本书是用故事形式描写原始时代人的生活
和斗争情况。一个以狩猎为生的部落，猎取了另
一个以养殖为业的部落的乳牛，双方发生了战
争。战争期间，一对各属一方的青年男女，发生
了爱情。最后逃出原来的部落，建立了新的家庭。

本书选自英国出版的英语简易读物，文字浅
易流畅，句子结构简单，生词少而重复率高。适
合初中三年级学生和具有同等程度的读者阅读。

In the Beginning

This was a very long time ago — perhaps a million years ago.

Two tribes lived in a very big country.¹ One tribe lived in the north, and one tribe lived in the south. These tribes never met. The land between them was jungle² and swamps³. The men of the two tribes never went into the dark jungle, and they never went over the deep swamps.⁴

The people of the south found fruit⁵ and nuts⁶ on the trees. They took seeds⁷ of grass and ground⁸ them. They ground them between two stones and made flour⁹. They made bread from the flour. They took eggs from hens and

1. Two tribes lived ... country. 在一个非常广阔的地域里，居住着两个部落。 tribe *n.* 部落。 country *n.* 地域，地带。

2. jungle ['dʒʌŋɡl] *n.* 丛林，密林。 3. swamp ['swʌmp] *n.* 沼泽。

4. The men of the two tribes ... the deep swamps. 两个部落的人都从未走进过这片阴郁的密林，也从未越过那些深深的沼泽。 go over 走到另一边去。 5. fruit [fru:t] *n.* 水果。

6. nut *n.* 坚果(如胡桃、栗子)。 7. seed *n.* 种子。 8. grind [graɪnd] (ground [graʊnd], ground) *vt.* 碾(碎)，磨(碎)。

9. flour ['flaʊə] *n.* 面粉。

milk from cows. They kept the hens and cows with them, so they got eggs and milk easily.

They kept some seeds and put them in the ground. Grass grew from the seeds. This grass had big seeds. They called it corn¹. They built huts² near their corn fields and made a village. They planted³ trees near the huts, and they got fruit and nuts easily from them.



This was the home of the people of the south.

This was their home. At night they told stories and sang songs.

1. corn [kɔ:n] *n.* 谷物。
[plɑ:nt] *vt.* 栽种, 播种。

2. hut *n.* 小屋。

3. plant

The people of the north did not have corn. They did not have bread or eggs or milk. They killed animals. They were good hunters¹.

They followed the deer² and ran very fast. Some deer did not run very fast. The hunters killed those. Then they ate them.



The people of the north did not have homes.

These people did not have homes. They made nests³, like birds, but the nests were not in the trees. They were on the ground, in the long grass. They slept in these nests at night. They did not tell stories. They did not sing songs.

1. hunter ['hʌntə] *n.* 猎人。
相同)鹿。

2. deer [diə] *n.* (单、复数

3. nest *n.* 巢, 窝。

The tribes lived like this for a very long time—for thousands of years. Day followed night. Summer followed winter. Year followed year.¹ The people of the south and the people of the north learned new things.

The people in the south made tools from stones.² They made knives and hammers out of stone.³ They made stone wheels, and they ground corn into flour with the wheels.⁴ They made pots⁵. They baked⁶ the pots in fires, and then the pots were strong and held water. They made ovens⁷ and baked bread.

The people in the north did not have any tools. They killed the deer with their hands. They ate them and left the bones. One day a man looked at the leg bone of a deer. He hit

1. Day followed night. Summer followed winter. Year followed year. 日夜交替。冬去夏来。年复一年。 2. The people ... made tools from stones. 南方的人用石头制造工具。 make ... from 由……制造……，用……为原料制取……。 tool *n.* 工具，器具。 3. They made ... out of stone. 他们用石头制造刀和锤子。 hammer ['hæmə] *n.* 锤 make ... out of 用……制造出……。 4. ... they ground corn into ... the wheels. ...他们用(石制的)磨盘把谷物磨成粉。 grind ... into 把……磨成……。 5. pot *n.* 罐，壶。 6. bake *vt.* 烤，焙。 7. oven ['ʌvn] *n.* 炉，灶。

things with it. He thought: "This bone makes my arm strong." He went with the hunters and he took the bone with him. He hit a deer on the head and the deer fell. The hunters of the tribe took bones. They hit deer with them, and the deer fell. The hunters called them killing clubs¹.

The world changed. Summers grew cold, and winters grew very cold. There was ice on the rivers, and there were mountains of ice in the sea. Cold winds came from these ice mountains.² Some animals died. Some moved to the south. They looked for warm weather and food.

The jungles died. The swamps changed. The people of the north followed the animals to the south. They took their killing clubs with them.

A boy called Dom lived in the northern tribe.³ He was tall and strong. He ran very fast in the hunt⁴. He ran like the men. He

1. killing club 猎棍。club *n.* 棍, 棒。 2. Cold winds came from these ice mountains. 寒风从冰山吹来。

3. A boy called Dom ... tribe. 北方部落中有个叫当姆的男孩。Dom 当姆(人名)。

4. hunt *n. & vt.* 打猎。

had a long killing club. He rubbed¹ it with sand. He rubbed it for a long time and made it white. It was bright in the sunlight². Dom used it in the hunt and killed a deer with it.

In the south the corn did not grow well. The people worked and worked, but they were cold. The cold winds cut them. They made clothes and put them on their bodies. They built huts with thick walls.

A girl called Va lived with the southern



A girl called Va lived with the southern tribe.

1. rub *vt.* 摩擦。

2. sunlight *n.* 阳光。

tribe.¹ She was small and beautiful. She made pots and painted² them. She made them well, and she painted bright pictures on them. She sang songs and her voice was sweet³.

The ice moved south, and the people of the north went in front of it.⁴ They went a very long way. They hunted animals. One day they found a large number of⁵ animals. These animals did not run like deer. The people of the north killed them easily. They made a feast⁶.

Men attacked⁷ them at the feast. It was the men of the south. Why did they attack? Because the animals were their cows.

The men of the south attacked, but they did not have killing clubs. The men of the north drove them back. They ran back to their village. The northern men followed them.

There were thick bushes⁸ round the village.

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1. A girl called Va ... tribe. 南方部落中有个叫娃的女孩。
Va 娃(人名) 2. paint [peint] *vt.* 画, 绘。 3. sweet *adj.*
悦耳的; 甜的。 4. The ice moved ... in front of it. 冰往南移,
北方的人走在冰前。 5. a large number of 很多, 大量。
6. feast *n.* 盛宴, 筵席。 7. attack [ə'tæk] *vt.* 攻击, 进攻。
8. bush [bʊʃ] *n.* 灌木, 矮树丛。

The southern men cut thorns¹ and put them with the bushes. This made a wall of thorns round the village. There was a spring² in the village. They got water from it. They kept food in the village, too.

The northern men attacked the village. The thorns kept them back.³ Three or four men got through⁴ the wall, but the southern



The thorns kept them back.

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1. thorn [θɔ:n] n. 荆棘。 2. spring n. 泉。 3. The thorns kept them back. 荆棘挡住了他们。 keep back 阻止。
4. get through 通过。

men killed them. The northern men went away.

They did not go far. They made a camp¹ not far from the village. They had the killing clubs, and they were strong. They did not need a wall.

They attacked again, and the southern men drove them back. Day followed day.² The northern men attacked the village again and again³. But the wall of thorns was strong. Again and again the southern men drove back the attackers⁴.

There was a wood⁵ near the village. It had big trees. It had a stream⁶ too. The stream fell from rocks into a pool. Trees leaned⁷ over the pool. Squirrels⁸ ran along the branches⁹ of the trees. Birds sat on the branches and sang.

Va loved the wood and the pool. She swam there on warm days. She sat on the rocks beside the pool, and she sang like the birds.

-
1. make a camp 扎营。 camp *n.* 野营, 帐篷。 2. Day followed day. 日复一日。 3. again and again 屡次地, 再三地。
4. attacker [ə'tækə] *n.* 攻击者。 5. wood *n.* 树林, 木材。
6. stream *n.* (小)河, 溪流。 7. lean (leaned, leant or leant [lent], leant) *vi.* 倾斜, 倾向。 8. squirrel [skwɪrəl] *n.* 松鼠。
9. branch [brɑ:ntʃ] *n.* 枝。

Va was in the village. She thought about the wood. She looked at the wall of thorns. In one place it was not very thick. She made a hole and crawled through it. She saw the camp of the northern people, and she did not go that way. She crawled through tall grass. She went slowly and quietly into the wood.

The stream ran over stones under the trees. Va walked beside the stream. There were bushes there with bright flowers. She took flowers and put them in her hair. The stream sang, and the birds sang in the branches. She was very happy.

She came to the place of rocks. The stream ran between the rocks and fell into the pool. The trees leaned over, but they did not hide the sky.¹ The sky was blue and the sun shone². It shone on the pool and made the water bright.

Va sat on a rock beside the pool. The sun did not shine on the water there. She looked

1. The trees leaned ... the sky. 树木斜伸着，但没有遮住天。

2. shine [ʃaɪn] (shone [ʃɒn], shone) *vi.* 发光，照耀。



Va sat on a rock beside the pool.

into¹ the water and saw her face and her hair and the flowers in her hair.

Squirrels ran along the branches of the trees. They never hid from Va.² One of them came down to the ground beside the pool. Va knew this squirrel. It came to her hand and she gave some nuts to it. She was happy. She touched³ the squirrel gently and spoke gently to it.

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1. look into 向……里面看去。 2. They never hid from Va. 松鼠一点也不躲避娃。(这里 never 是 not 的意思,但语气较强。)
3. touch [tʌtʃ] vt. 触摸,接触。

Va stayed beside the pool a long time. The birds sang, and she sang too. She looked at her face in the water of the pool.¹ The birds and the squirrels saw her, but people did not see her.

She left the pool and went through the wood. She crawled through the tall grass. She came to the wall of thorns and found the small hole. She crawled through it. She was back in her village.

Dom attacked the village with the men from the north. The thorns kept them out.² They were very angry. They said: "We shall get through the thorns. We shall kill the people in the village."

Dom was angry and said this too. The northern men swung³ their clubs and danced a war dance. Dom danced with the men.

They attacked again, and the thorns kept them out again. They said: "We shall wait. The people in the village will soon need food

1. She looked at ... the pool. 她看着 (映在) 池水中的自己的面孔。 2. The thorns kept them out. 荆棘把他们挡在外面。

3. swing [swɪŋ] (swung [swʌŋ], swung) *vt.* 挥舞, 摆动。

and water. They will come out and we shall kill them."

They killed the animals near the village. Soon there weren't any animals there. They hunted a long way from the village.¹

One day Dom fell on some stones in the hunt. He stood up, but he could not run. He could walk slowly, but he could not hunt with the men.

They left Dom with the young boys.² He did not like that. He took his killing club and walked slowly through the tall grass. He did not go near the village. He saw the wood and went to it.

He found the stream and followed it.³ He walked in the stream. He saw the bushes with their bright flowers. He swung his club and hit the bushes. The flowers fell on the water. The stream carried them through the wood.

1. They hunted ... the village. 他们远离村庄去打猎。 2. They left Dom with the young boys. 他们把当姆托付给小伙子们。 3. He found ... it. 他发现一条小河，就沿着小河走去。