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国家地理
学生英语主题阅读训练丛书



中国学生阅读
国学文库

Amazing Ants

神奇的蚂蚁

[美] Sue Whiting 等著



北京大学出版社
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

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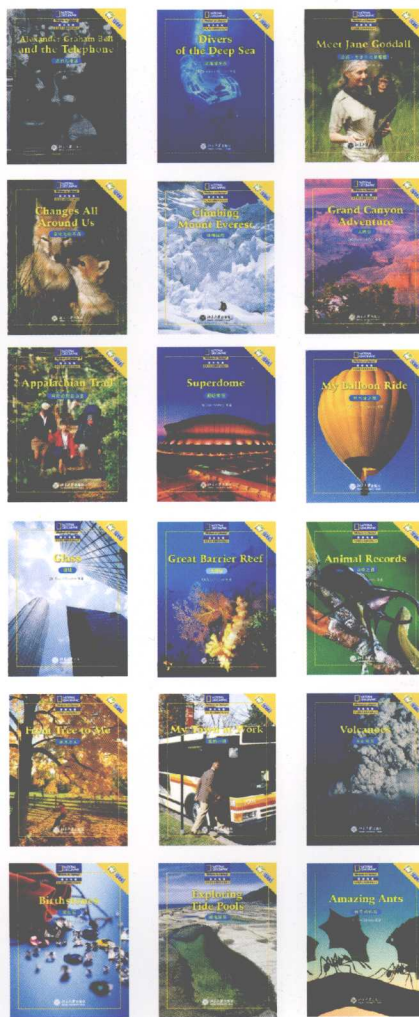
《国家地理学生英语主题阅读训练丛书》是我们继《国家地理英语阅读与写作训练丛书》(共14种)之后推出的又一套美国英语阅读教材系列,旨在进一步为我国的中学生及同等英语水平学习者提供既有美国原版教材精髓,又充分体现我国新课标英语教学理念的新型英语学习读本。全套丛书共有2 000余幅活泼自然、优美迷人的精彩图片,佐以简洁生动、深浅有度的文字,引导学生借图读文、借文识图;图文相辅的阅读材料不仅使学生的英语学习变得更轻松有趣,同时,图文并重,也十分契合我国高考中的看图作文命题的新趋势。

《国家地理学生英语主题阅读训练丛书》共18册,涵盖9个主题,72个话题,涉及数学、科学与社会研究三个学科领域。根据我国中学生英语学习和高考写作的要求,我们在为学生提供全英文阅读素材的基础上,继续沿袭《国家地理英语阅读与写作训练丛书》所采用的词汇分级注释原则,将注释的词汇分为“记忆词汇”、“阅读进阶词汇”和“阅读参考词汇”三类。考虑到音标对单词记忆的重要作用,培养学生的朗读与口语能力,我们对所有注释词汇都加注最新版国际音标。此外,我们在每本书中增加了相应的“Reading Objectives”(阅读目标)及“Review Activities”(活动空间),以配合教师的课堂教学,并帮助学生进行英语阅读理解的自我检测。

《国家地理学生英语主题阅读训练丛书》提供的英语原味图文阅读,十分有利于中学生扩大知识面,拓展文化视野,而且,也能有效帮助学生实实在在地提高英语能力,达到“知”与“学”的统一。我们衷心希望,本套丛书的出版不仅能使我国的中学生在轻松的阅读中掌握丰富的知识和有效的英语学习方法,同时,也能为提高学生的人文情结、科学视野、社会关怀以及全球性思维等综合素质略尽绵薄之力。

编者

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Amazing Ants



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Sue Whiting
[美] Monica Halpern 著
Robyn O'Sullivan

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Contents



The Amazing Silkworm

Reading Objectives 6

• Silk 7

• The Discovery of Silk 8

• The Silkworm 10

Strange Animals

Reading Objectives 18

• What Is Hiding Here? 20

• Pretty But Poisonous 24

• Super Sprayers 28

• It's a Trick! 32

• Big Bluffers 36



Strange Plants

Reading Objectives 40

- Plants Are Important 41
- Meat-Eating Plants 44
- Poisonous Plants 54
- Amazing Plants 60



Amazing Ants

Reading Objectives 62

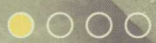
- Ants Everywhere! 63
- Active Ants 64
- Inside the Nest 66
- Ants at Work 68
- Amazing Ants 74



Review Activities

- Think and Discuss 82
- Multiple-Choice Test 84

Index 88



THE AMAZING SILKWORM

In this section, you'll learn how farmers harvest the silk and use it for production purposes.



记忆词汇



completely /kəm'pli:tli/

adv. 完全地

cycle /'saɪkl/ *n.* 循环, 周期

fasten /'fæsn/ *v.* 使固定

female /'fi:meɪl/ *adj.* 雌性的

form /fɔ:rm/ *n.* 形态; *v.* 形成

furniture /'fɜ:nɪtʃə/ *n.* 家具

inch /ɪntʃ/ *n.* 英寸

insect /'ɪnsekt/ *n.* 虫, 昆虫

lay /leɪ/ *v.* 产卵, 生蛋

mile /maɪl/ *n.* 英里

process /'prɑ:səs/ *n.* 过程, 历程

ship /ʃɪp/ *v.* 运送

spot /spɔ:t/ *n.* 地方; *v.* 发现

stage /steɪdʒ/ *n.* 阶段, 时期

stuff /stʌf/

v. 填充, 塞满; 吃饱

thread /θred/ *n.* 线; 细丝

The Amazing Silkworm



By Monica Halpern

Reading Objectives 阅读目标

Word Attack and Vocabulary Skills 词汇攻略

- Decoding compound words
解析复合词
- Identifying prefixes: *-un*
掌握前缀 *-un* 的用法
- Adding the suffix *-ly* to make adverbs
加后缀 *-ly* 变副词

Content and Thinking Skills 阅读与思考训练

- Understanding that silkworms have a life cycle
了解蚕的生命周期
- Recognizing that people use materials from nature
了解人类如何利用自然资源
- Making connections between historical facts and modern industry
将史实和现代工业进行联系



Silk

- ▼ A silkworm crawls across a mulberry bush.

Have you ever seen or touched something made from silk? Silk is a strong thin **thread** that is used to make cloth. Silk cloth is soft to touch. It is strong, but it is also very light. Many beautiful things are made from silk, including clothing, **furniture**, and **curtains**.



Silk is made from the long threads that come from an **insect** called a **silkworm**. The silkworm is a kind of **moth**. A silkworm moth is different from other moths because it is domesticated. This means it is raised by people. Very few silkworm moths live in the wild.



阅读进阶词汇

curtain /'kɜ:rtɪn/
n. 窗帘

阅读参考词汇

moth /mɔ:θ/ n. 蛾
silkworm /'sɪlkwɜ:rm/
n. 蚕

- ◀ Silk clothing is soft to the touch and very light.

The Discovery of Silk

No one really knows how silk was discovered, but we do know that silk was first used in China. The Chinese learned what the silkworm could do more than 4,000 years ago.

A Chinese Tale

*There is a very old Chinese story about how silk might have been discovered. In the story, a Chinese **Empress** first discovered silk thread when a strange **oval** object dropped into her teacup. When she tried to pull it out, the object **unwound** into a very long, shiny thread.*



阅读进阶词汇

dye /daɪ/ v. 染色
empress /'empres/ n. 女皇, 皇后
unwound /,ʌn'waund/ v. (unwind 的过去式) 展开
woven /'wouvən/ adj. (weave 的过去分词) 织

阅读参考词汇

oval /'ouvl/ adj. 椭圆形的

◀ Silk thread is **dyed** many different bright colors before it is **woven** into cloth.



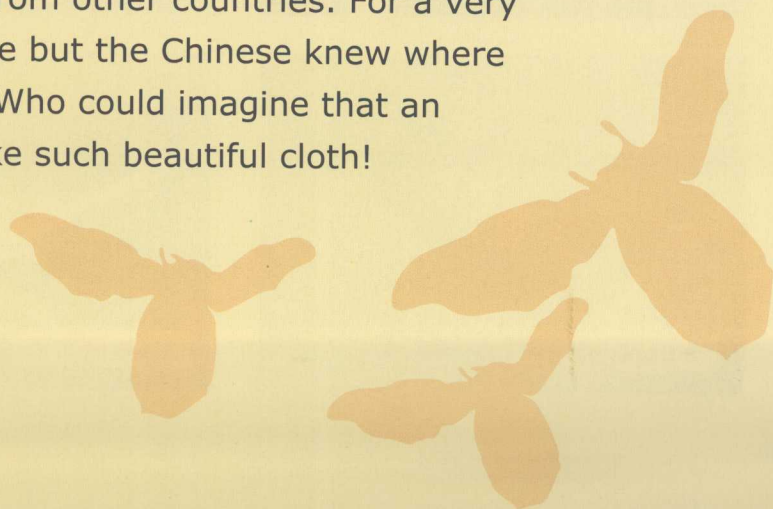
▲ Chinese workers dyed silk threads by hand in the 1800s.

The Chinese dyed the silk threads many rich colors and wove them into cloth. Chinese **traders** sold some of the cloth to people from other countries. For a very long time, no one but the Chinese knew where silk came from. Who could imagine that an insect could make such beautiful cloth!

阅读进阶词汇



trader /'treɪdə/ n. 商人



The Silkworm

Like all moths, the silkworm moth goes through four different **stages** of growth as it becomes an adult. This **process** is called **metamorphosis**, which means change.

阅读参考词汇

metamorphosis
/.metə'mɔ:rfəsis/
n. 变形, 变态

The four stages in the silkworm moth's life **cycle** are the egg, the caterpillar or larva, the pupa, and the adult. The caterpillar stage is what we call the silkworm.



The Egg

A **female** silkworm moth usually **lays** between 300 and 500 yellow eggs. Each egg is no bigger than the head of a **pin**. She **fastens** them onto a **mulberry** leaf one by one. She produces a special glue-like liquid that makes the eggs stick to anything they touch.

When the eggs **hatch**, tiny dark caterpillars **emerge**. They immediately eat their **eggshells**. Then, they begin to **stuff** themselves with the mulberry leaves on which they were born.

阅读进阶词汇

eggshell /'egʃel/ *n.* 蛋壳
emerge /ɪ'mɜːrdʒ/ *v.* 出现
hatch /hætʃ/ *v.* 孵化, 孵
mulberry /'mʌlberi/ *n.* 桑
pin /pɪn/ *n.* 别针



▲ A tiny caterpillar hatches from its egg.



The Caterpillar

The young silkworm eats almost without stopping. It grows quickly and becomes very fat. After a few days, its skin starts to **split**. The caterpillar **wiggles** out of its old skin. The silkworm keeps eating mulberry leaves until it changes its skin again. This process is called **molting**. The caterpillar molts four times.

After about four weeks, the silkworm is fully grown. It is now about three **inches** (seven and a half centimeters) long. It stops eating. It is ready to change into its adult **form**. It finds a quiet **spot** and begins to **spin**.

阅读进阶词汇

constantly /'kɒnstəntli/
adv. 继续不断地
spin /spɪn/ *v.* 吐丝, 作茧
split /splɪt/ *v.* 裂开

阅读进阶词汇

molt /moult/ *v.* 蜕皮
wiggle /'wɪgl/ *v.* 摇摆, 扭动



◀ These caterpillars are beginning to molt, or change their skins.

▼ A silkworm caterpillar eats **constantly**.



Pupa

The silkworm is making a **cocoon**.

This is a covering to protect the silkworm from its enemies. As it spins, the silkworm moves its head **back and forth**. It spins one long, unbroken silken thread more than one **mile** (one and a half kilometers) long.

阅读进阶词汇

back and forth

来回地，反复地

cocoon /kə'ku:n/

n. (蚕) 茧; (昆虫的) 卵袋

enclose /ɪn'klaʊz/

v. 圈起，包围

shed /ʃed/ v. 脱落，蜕(皮)

The silkworm works for two to three days making its cocoon. It works without stopping. When it is finished, the silkworm is **completely enclosed** in a thick, strong shell of silk thread.

Once inside its cocoon, the silkworm changes into a pupa. It **sheds** its skin for that last time.



▲ Inside its cocoon, a silkworm changes into a pupa.