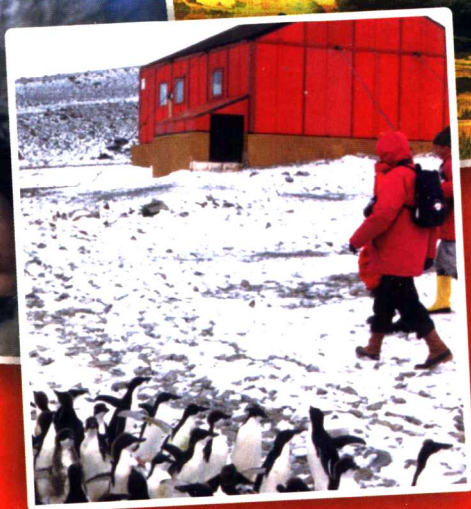


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What A World

英语看世界

朗文英汉双语阅读



吉林出版集团有限责任公司
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英语看世界

WHAT A WORLD

2

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前言

英国思想家培根说过,“阅读使人深刻”,而阅读在外语学习中的重要性更是不言而喻。只是长期以来中国英语教学中的功利主义思想使学习者无法真正利用这一工具,更谈不上体味其中的乐趣了,学生只会感到沉重的 **Pressure**。

通过阅读来提高英语水平归根结底有三个问题要解决,为什么读,怎么读和读什么。阅读的真正目的绝非是为了做豆腐块文章后面几道枯燥的练习,而是获取信息,增长知识,开拓视野和陶冶情操。从语言学习角度来说方法有精读和泛读之分:精读强调纵向挖掘,要一丝不苟地吃透文章,包括词汇用法和语法知识;而泛读则强调横向拓宽,要“不求甚解”地大量阅读,以此来培养语感,锻炼英语的应用和思维能力。至于读什么,当面对市场上汗牛充栋的英语图书时,许多学习者都踌躇难断。

神奇的世界,古老的历史,悠远的文化,幻变的人生,里面蕴含了多少弥足珍贵的遗产等待我们去挖掘,去品味。而语言,这一人类文明进化的产物此时便恰如其分地起到负载并传承这份遗产的作用。作为语言学习者,阅读历史,感受文化,品味人生,不仅意味着语言能力本身的提高,更是对情感世界的极大丰富。正是在这一思路的引导下,我们与世界著名的教育图书出版机构培生教育集团合作,推出这套《英语看世界》(1—3)及其姊妹篇《英语看人生》(1—3),二者相映成趣。

《英语看世界》(1—3)包含的内容似乎很难用常规的领域范围来加以界定,从自然环境到社会现象,从风俗传统到神话传说,从历史事件到名人轶事,可谓包罗万象。它可以告诉我们亚瑟王的传说为什么会如此风靡西方,南极洲的生活是什么样的一番景象,J.K. 罗琳,这位哈利波特之母一些不为人知的故事,以及新兴的安全卫士——网络天使究竟是怎么回事。其知识性和趣味性远非常见的阅读材料可比,堪称一部精华浓缩版的世界文明史。

除了阅读故事的精彩之外,文章后面的练习题也是本书的亮点所在。非传统形式的题目趣味性强,做起来毫不枯燥。多采用启发式、拓展性的问题,鼓励学生积极思考,真正起到检验阅读效果和巩固知识的作用。

VOCABULARY:除了鼓励学生利用上下文猜测词义的习题之外,还配有以应用为目的的口语练习,使学生抓住短暂记忆,循环利用,加深印象。

COMPREHENSION:从理解大意和把握细节两方面入手,锻炼学生的阅读技能,并巧妙地促使学生回视课文,进一步增进理解。还有复述故事和听写等项目,鼓励学生组对进行口头练习。

DISCUSSION:让学生对与阅读内容相关联的话题展开联想,表达自己独立的见解,并探讨不同文化之间的差异。

WRITING:“读书必须过笔”是古今中外学人的共同体会。只有经过笔头练习,才能真正将阅读到的知识内化为自身的技能。

本书的姊妹篇《英语看人生》(1—3)同样精彩,值得一读。

To some people reading maybe is a pressure, but we will make it a real Pleasure!

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UNIT 1

Who Is the
Most
Important
Person from
History?



BEFORE YOU READ

Answer these questions.

1. What do you think is the most important invention in history?
2. What do you think the machine in the picture does?
3. Were books always easy to make and to get? Why or why not?

Who Is the Most Important Person from History?

1 What person from history has the greatest **effect** on our lives today? Recently, a group of many different experts decided it was a man named Johann Gutenberg. Gutenberg is famous for inventing printing, but he didn't really invent it. He invented a better way of printing.

2 For hundreds of years people used blocks of wood to print. They used a knife to cut words in the block of wood. They made the words **backward**. Then they covered the block with ink and **pressed** it onto paper. When they pulled the paper from the inky blocks, the words appeared on the paper in the right direction. In Korea and China, people printed with metal stamps instead of wood. Either way, printing was difficult and very slow. People usually wrote books **by hand**, so it took several years to make one copy of a book.

3 Books were very expensive and **rare**. Only rich people could buy them, and only rich people could read. As more people learned to read, books became more popular. People around the world wanted to find a quicker, better, and less expensive way to print books. One of these people was Johann Gutenberg.

4 Gutenberg was born in Mainz, Germany, around 1400. We do not know the exact year. He was an intelligent man, and he was good at working with metal. Gutenberg probably **had no idea** how people printed in China. His idea was to make a metal stamp for each letter of the alphabet and use the letters **over and over**. He could put the stamps together to make words and **arrange** the words to make pages. With ink on the stamps, he could press paper on them to make a page. A "printing press" machine could make hundreds of copies of a single page quickly. After that page, he could rearrange the same letters to make other words and print other pages.

5 It took Gutenberg many years to make the stamps for each letter of the alphabet. When he finished the stamps, he didn't have enough money to make the printing press. He **borrowed** money from a man named Johann Fust. They became business **partners**. After many years, Gutenberg's printing press was ready. Gutenberg printed his first book, the Bible, around 1455.

6 Johann Fust was a good businessman. He understood the importance of Gutenberg's invention. He **took** Gutenberg **to court** because Gutenberg still owed him money. Gutenberg had no money, so Fust took his printing press and started his own business. He printed and sold more Bibles and kept all the money. Gutenberg was sad and **broke**. He died in 1468, a poor man.

7 Today people remember Johann Gutenberg. The city of Mainz has a **statue** of him and a museum. His original printing press is in the museum. They print several pages a day to show that it is still in good condition. There are only forty-eight copies of the original Bible. It is the most expensive book in the world. In 1987, a Gutenberg Bible sold in New York for \$5.3 million.



WORD STUDY

backward: *adv.* towards the beginning or the past 向后地, 相反地

eg: Count backwards from 100.

rare: *adj.* not seen or found very often, or not happening very often 稀罕的, 珍贵的

eg: I only saw Helen on the rare occasions when I went into her shop.

over and over: many times 反复, 再三

eg: The way to learn the script is to say it to yourself over and over again.

arrange: *v.* to organize or make plans for something such as a meeting, party, or trip
安排, 排列

eg: I'd like to arrange a business loan.

take...to court 将...告上法庭

eg: She threatened to take the magazine to court if they didn't publish an immediate apology.

VOCABULARY



MEANING

Write the correct words in the blanks.

backward	rare	broke	pressed	effect
partners	statue	borrowed	arranged	

1. Gutenberg _____ money from Johann Fust and said he would give it back later.
2. There were few books before the printing press. Books were _____.
3. Gutenberg _____ words to make pages, then printed the pages.
4. Gutenberg's invention was very important. It has a big _____ on our lives today.
5. People cut words _____ into blocks of wood so that the printed words would be in the right direction.
6. Gutenberg and Fust worked together and became _____ in business.
7. Before Gutenberg's printing press, people _____ blocks of wood on paper to print a page.
8. Later in his life, Gutenberg had no money and was _____.
9. The people of Mainz, Germany, wanted to remember Gutenberg, so they put a _____ of him there.



WORDS THAT GO TOGETHER

Write the correct words in the blanks.

by hand had no idea over and over took...to court

1. The Chinese also printed on paper, but Gutenberg _____ of this. He didn't know about it.
2. They used the metal stamps not just one time, but _____.
3. Before the printing press, people copied books _____.
4. Fust wanted his money back from Gutenberg. He needed help from a judge and a lawyer. He _____ Gutenberg _____.



USE

Work with a partner to answer the questions. Use complete sentences.

1. What do you sometimes *borrow* from another student? From a neighbor?
2. What is the name of a famous *statue*? Where is it? Why is it famous?
3. What is something that is *rare*?
4. What things do you usually *press* with your finger?
5. What is something you do *over and over* in your English class? At home?
6. What things were made *by hand* many years ago and today are made by machines?

COMPREHENSION



UNDERSTANDING THE READING

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Before Gutenberg's printing press, _____.
 - a. there were other kinds of printing
 - b. it was easy to print books by hand
 - c. Europeans printed with metal stamps
 - d. people only wrote books by hand
2. Gutenberg _____.
 - a. had the idea for a printing press
 - b. knew about printing in China
 - c. had the idea for printing
 - d. was good at working with paper
3. Today people think of Gutenberg as _____.
 - a. a statue in Mainz, Germany
 - b. a great inventor
 - c. a great seller of Bibles
 - d. sad and broke



REMEMBERING DETAILS

Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. Where was Gutenberg born?
2. What was he good at?
3. Who did he borrow money from?
4. When did Gutenberg print his first book?
5. Where is Gutenberg's printing press?
6. How much did a Gutenberg Bible sell for recently?



MAKING INFERENCES

All of the statements below are true. Some of them are stated directly in the reading. Others can be inferred, or guessed, from the reading. Write *S* for each stated fact. Write *I* for each inference.

Example: S Gutenberg invented a better way of printing.

 I Before Gutenberg's time, most average people could not read.

1. Gutenberg was not a good businessman.
2. Gutenberg spent most of his life and money making his printing press.
3. Gutenberg had no idea that his invention would have an effect on our lives today.
4. The Bible was the most important book in Europe at that time.
5. The Bible was the first book to be printed.



TELL THE STORY

Work with a partner or together as a class. Tell the story of Johann Gutenberg. Use your own words. Your partner or other students can ask questions about the story.

DISCUSSION

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. Who are some other people from history who have an effect on our lives today?
2. What is an invention that you could not live without?
3. What do you think will be the next great invention?

WRITING

Write six sentences or a short paragraph about an invention that is important to your life.

Example: *The most important invention for me is the telephone. I use the telephone many times a day to talk to my family.*

UNIT 2

What Are Fattening Rooms?



BEFORE YOU READ

Answer these questions.

1. Do women in Europe and North America prefer to be thin or fat?
2. Do you think a thin person is healthier than a fat person?
3. Is it easier for you to gain weight (become fatter) or to lose weight (become slimmer)?

What Are Fattening Rooms?

1 In North America and Europe, most women want to be **slim**. In those places, a slim woman is a beautiful woman. People think that a slim woman is healthy and careful about what she eats. But in some parts of the world, women want to be fat. In many parts of Africa, a fat woman is a beautiful woman. How fat? There is no **limit**. If a woman is fat, they think that she is healthy and rich. If you are slim, that means you are a worker with little money and not enough food to eat. Also, people believe that a slim woman will be sick or that she can't have children. A fat woman has enough food to eat, so she is healthy and will have many healthy babies.

2 To help girls and women look healthy and beautiful, people in central Africa send them to a fattening room. Fattening rooms are an old tradition and an important part of a girl's life. After a girl goes to a fattening room, her family and her village say that she is a woman. The fattening room is usually near the family's house or part of it. In the fattening room, a girl sits on a special chair until it is time to eat. Then she sits on the floor on a **mat** made of leaves. She also sleeps on the floor. Her mother gives her bowls of food like rice, yams, and beans—the **kinds of** foods that help her get fat. She also drinks a lot of water.

3 In the fattening room, the girl does not move very much. She can only eat, sleep, and get fatter. Her only visitors are women who teach her how to sit, walk, and talk in front of her **future** husband. They also give her advice about cleaning, sewing, and cooking. It is boring to be in the fattening room for so long with nothing to do, but the girl **doesn't mind**. She knows that it is important for her.

4 In southeastern Nigeria, brides go to a fattening room or a fattening farm before they get married. They cannot leave the farm for many weeks. At the end of this time, but before the wedding, the brides walk through the village so everyone can **admire** their big bodies. After a woman is married, she can also go to a fattening room. She may go several times because it is important for her to stay fat. A man wants his wife to be fat so other people will think that the man is rich and that he is a **responsible** man.

5 If parents don't send their daughter to a fattening room, their friends and relatives may laugh at them. They will say that the parents are not **doing their duty**. **In the old days**, girls sometimes stayed in a fattening room for two years. Today some families cannot **afford** more than a few months. Also, fattening rooms are not very popular in cities now. In cities, health education and Western culture have a big effect on people's ideas. But in villages, this traditional custom continues.

6 In Niger, they have a festival to celebrate the heaviest woman. Here, women have a **contest** to see who is the fattest. On the morning of the contest, the women eat **enormous** amounts of food and drink lots of water. The fattest woman is the winner. She gets a prize—more food!



WORD STUDY

slim: *adj.* someone who is slim is attractively thin 苗条的, 纤细的

eg: a slim young woman

limit: *n.* the greatest or least amount, number, speed etc that is allowed 界限, 限度, 限制

eg: There's a limit on the time you have to take the test.

admire: *v.* to respect and like someone because they have done something that you think is good 赞美, 钦佩, 羡慕

eg: I really admire the way she brings up those kids all on her own.

responsible: *adj.* if someone is responsible for an accident, mistake, crime etc, it is their fault or they can be blamed 有责任的, 可依赖的, 负责的

eg: Police believe that the same man is responsible for three other murders in the area.

afford: *v.* to have enough money to buy or pay for something 提供, 给与, 供应得起

eg: We can't afford to go on vacation this year.

enormous: *adj.* very big in size or in amount 巨大的, 庞大的

eg: an enormous amount of money