

# A CULTURAL READER



Milada Broukal  
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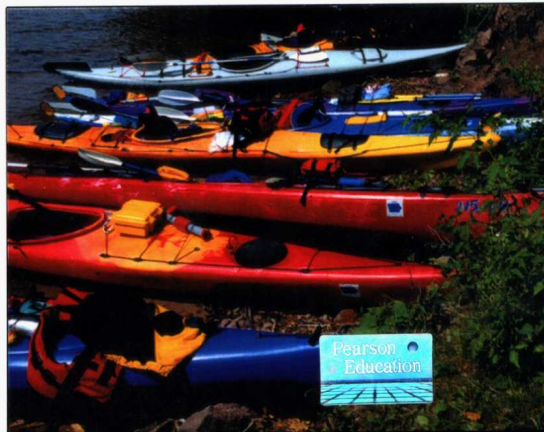
张丙松 注释



## 美国文化一览



# More About The USA 再看美国



**MORE ABOUT THE**

**USA**

A Cultural Reader

美国文化一览

# 再看美国

张丙松 注释

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## 出版说明

朗文出版公司出版的这套 *Cultural Reader* 原有四个分册,分别是 *A First Look At The USA, Introducing The USA, All About The USA, More About The USA*。在编辑出版时把它们合为三个分册,分别为《初识美国》,《纵览美国》,《再看美国》。这样处理是因为原书的前两个分册篇幅较小,难易程度相差不多,合并之后与后两个分册在篇幅上大致相当,难易程度形成梯次结构,便于使用。

当初我们决定引进这套书,把它介绍给中国读者,首先是看到它内容好。我们通常见到的介绍美国文化的图书要么是教科书式的,面面俱到,抽象呆板,缺乏可读性和趣味性;要么是学术性读物,里面有很多过于专业的内容,语言难度较大,只有少数人能读懂,不适合大多数人阅读。这套书的内容比较集中,它选择了一些最有代表性的人物、事件来介绍美国文化。这些内容既是大家熟悉的,可能又是知其然不知其所以然的,特别能激发人们的阅

读兴趣；本书还选编了一些专业读物中涉及不到的、大多数读者感兴趣的内容，这些内容又恰恰是美国文化的亮点。此类内容的图书在国内市场上还很少见。另外，它在内容上虽然涉及美国社会的方方面面，但作者客观地介绍美国文化，没有不适于我国读者阅读的思想倾向，这也是我们决定引进这套书的初衷之一。

其次，是看到它文风好。既短小精炼又通俗易懂。书中多数文章都很短，内容却很充实，在短小的篇幅里浓缩了大量的信息。凝炼的文字往往有失通俗，而这套书使用的语言很浅显易读，句式也不复杂，第一分册和第二分册初高中学生就能读懂，大学一二年级的水平能读懂第三分册。

第三是看到它有较大的改造余地。原书中每个单元的结构是按课堂教学的方式设计的。除了课文以外，还配有练习，包括词汇练习、阅读理解、语法练习、写作练习、讨论和研究性练习。这些练习设计合理，题型新颖，紧扣语言的重点、难点。但考虑到我国读者学英语的习惯和实际需要，我们将练习部分的写作、讨论和研究练习删掉，只保留了词汇、阅读理解和语法三种练习，目的是帮助读者在理解文章内容的基础上进行语言盘练。每篇文章开头加上内容简介，帮助读者理解文章大意。

基于以上三种认识，我们引进了这套书并进行了编辑加工，相信这套书面世后会受到读者的喜爱。对这套书有什么意见和建议敬请函告。

山东科学技术出版社  
外语图书工作室



## INTRODUCTION

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*More About the USA* is an intermediate reading skills text for students of English as a Second Language. A host of facts about the USA presented within the themes of people, places, living things, great moments, and culture, not only provide students with information about the USA, but also stimulate cross-cultural exchange. The vocabulary and structures used in the text have been carefully controlled at an intermediate level, while every effort has been made to keep the language natural.

Each unit contains:

- A reading passage (520 – 820 words)
- Topic-related vocabulary work
- Skimming for main ideas
- Scanning for details
- Order of events
- Making inferences and drawing conclusions

The reading of each passage should, ideally, first be done individually by skimming for a general feel for content. The teacher may wish to deal with some vocabulary at this point. A second, more detailed individual reading could be done while

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## INTRODUCTION

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working through the vocabulary exercise. Further reading(s) could be done aloud by the teacher or with the class.

The VOCABULARY exercise encourages students to work out meaning through context and then check with a dictionary. If the meaning is clear through context, there is no need to check with a dictionary. However, occasionally there are words that are too difficult to be guessed through context, and a dictionary will be needed. This will prepare students to deal with vocabulary in an authentic text. As suggested previously, this section can be done during the reading phase or afterwards or both.

There are four kinds of COMPREHENSION exercises: *Skimming for Main Ideas* helps students confirm the basic content of certain paragraphs. This can be done either individually, in pairs, in small groups, or as a whole class. *Scanning for Details* concentrates on the scanning skills necessary to derive maximum value from reading. *Order of Events* concentrates on developing a sense of organization of the reading and develops the skill of spatial organization. *Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions* develops the skill of inferring meaning from what is not directly stated in the passage by reading "between the lines."

### Additional Assignment Suggestions:

*A Summary*: This written exercise (this exercise can also be done orally) focuses attention on expressing the main ideas of the passage in the students' own words. Students write a one-paragraph summary of the reading, focusing on the key points in the reading and making sure that all the main ideas are discussed in the summary. Students must not copy from the reading.

*Restatement*: This exercise provides the opportunity to practice the newly-learned vocabulary in a clearly constructed paragraph. A particular paragraph is chosen in the reading. Students read the paragraph several times and then restate the content in their own words in writing (can also be done orally).



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# Part 1 PEOPLE



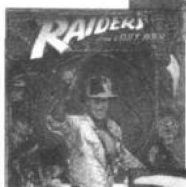
## Unit 1

*Susan Butcher on the Iditarod Trail*



## Unit 2

*Oprah Winfrey*



## Unit 3

*Lucas and Spielberg at the Movies*



## Unit 4

*Georgia O'Keeffe-Art Legend*



## Unit 5

*The Birdman of Alcatraz*



## Unit 6

*Babe Ruth*

## Unit 1

# Susan Butcher On The Iditarod Trail

在寒冷的阿拉斯加州有一项狗拉雪橇赛事,全长达 1 000 公里,被认为是世界上最艰难的比赛。此项赛事源于 1925 年。这一年在诺姆地区流行白喉症,需要从 700 英里以外的 Anchorage 取回药品。当时惟一可行的办法是用狗拉雪橇一站一站地传递。在途中,有一个小镇叫伊迪塔洛。狗拉雪橇比赛就以此镇命名。

苏珊·布彻于 1978 年开始参加此项比赛,直到 1900 年为止,12 年间她创造了一个又一个记录,次次夺得冠军。她的力量、耐力和拼搏精神使她成为此项赛事的顶尖明星。



An hour into the race, Susan Butcher and her sled dog team speeded down a hill, skidded off the trail, and crashed into a fallen tree.<sup>①</sup> With a hurt shoulder, Susan untangled her sled and team of Alaskan husky<sup>②</sup> dogs and continued the grueling race across the frozen Alaskan wilderness. It was the fourth year she had run this race, known as the Iditarod<sup>③</sup>, and she wanted

very much to win it.

The history of the Iditarod goes back to 1925 when a doctor in Nome, Alaska, was desperately in need of medicine to stop the spread of a deadly disease called diphtheria<sup>①</sup>. Only a hospital in Anchorage, 700 miles away, had the supplies he needed. But it was January, too dangerous to send a boat across the frozen Bering Sea and too stormy for his tiny airplane. The only hope was to use sled dog teams following an old native trail through the mountains and tundra<sup>②</sup>. The medicine was passed from one man and his sled team to another along the trail. It was named Iditarod after one of the towns it passed through. Storms of wind and snow, and temperatures as cold as 60 degrees below zero, did not stop them, and the medicine was delivered in record time. Most of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race follows the route of the famous medicine run.<sup>③</sup> It is over 1,000 miles long, and is considered the toughest race in the world. In 1978 Susan Butcher entered it for the first time.

Susan Butcher was born in 1954 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and had a love of animals and the outdoors from the time she was a child. She was athletic and loved to sail. She often imagined herself sailing around the world by herself. Little did she know what she would really end up doing.<sup>④</sup> In her teens Susan was given a Siberian husky dog and became very interested in the history of huskies as sled dogs. At the age of 17 she moved to Colorado where she began to train and run dogs for a racing kennel. After reading about the Iditarod race in a magazine, Susan moved to Alaska. She worked at several jobs to earn enough money to buy herself a sled and team of huskies. Susan achieved her dream of being in the Iditarod after years of hard work and vigorous training.

In her first race in 1978 she finished 19th and became the first woman to finish in the top 20. The following year she finished ninth, and the third year in fifth place.<sup>⑤</sup> In her fourth race in 1982 she came in second. The next year she again finished in the top 20. In 1984 she was leading her team across a frozen waterway when suddenly the ice began to shake and fall apart. Susan and

her team fell into the frigid water. Her lead dog managed to get to shore and pulled Susan and the other dogs out of danger. Susan's clothes were soaked and already starting to freeze. Nevertheless she kept going, running for a while to dry her clothes, then riding the sled so her lungs wouldn't freeze from her heavy breathing.<sup>⑨</sup> Remarkably, she pulled into Nome in second place.

In 1985 many people thought Susan would win. However, it was not to be. On the trail, she met a starving moose<sup>⑩</sup>, which is a very large hoofed animal<sup>⑪</sup> of the deer family, that attacked her dogs, killing two and injuring eleven. Susan had to leave the race. That year, it was another woman, Libby Riddles of Teller, Alaska, who became the first woman to win the Iditarod. In 1986 Susan joined the race again. This time her lead dogs fell off a shelf of ice.<sup>⑫</sup> Susan managed to rescue them and kept going through blinding snow storms. Sometimes she was so tired she began to imagine things, such as a forest where there was none. More than once she lost the snow-covered trail. But others did too, and Susan won the race. She won again in 1987. In 1988 she became the first ever to win three Iditarod races in a row.<sup>⑬</sup> Unbelievably, Susan became a winner for the fourth time in 1990. Her strength, stamina, and dedication<sup>⑭</sup> had made her the most famous dog sled racer in the world.

### 注释:

- ① An hour into the race, Susan Butcher and her sled dog team speeded down a hill, skidded off the trail, and crashed into a fallen tree. 进入比赛一小时后, 苏珊·布彻和她的狗拉雪橇队快速冲下山坡, 滑离了小径, 撞在一棵横倒在地 的树上。
- ② husky /'hʌnski/n. (在北极用于拖雪橇的)爱斯基摩狗
- ③ Iditarod /'idita:rɒd/(地名)伊迪塔洛(美国阿拉斯加州的一个小镇)
- ④ diphtheria /dif'θɜ:riə/n. 白喉症
- ⑤ tundra /'tʌndrə/n. 北极及北极附近地区的冻原, 苔原; 冻土带
- ⑥ Most of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race follows the route of the famous medicine run. 伊迪塔洛狗拉雪橇比赛的大部分路线是当年著名

的送药所经过的路径。

- ⑦ Little did she know what she would really end up doing. 她不知道最终她会做什么
- ⑧ The following year she finished ninth, and the third year in fifth place. 第二年她取得了第九名, 第三年她取得了第五名的成绩。
- ⑨ Nevertheless she kept going, running for a while to dry her clothes, then riding the sled so her lungs wouldn't freeze from her heavy breathing. 然而, 她继续又走又跑了一会儿, 来风干她的衣服, 为了不使沉重的呼吸冻僵她的肺, 她又骑上雪橇。
- ⑩ moose /mu:s/n. 驼鹿
- ⑪ a large hoofed animal 一头大型的有蹄类动物
- ⑫ fall of a shelf of ice 从冰架上摔下来
- ⑬ in a row 连续, 一连串
- ⑭ dedication /dedi'keifən/n. 贡献; 献身

## VOCABULARY

Complete each definition with one of the following words or phrases. Guess your answers, then check with a dictionary.

|               |             |          |       |
|---------------|-------------|----------|-------|
| sled dog team | skidded off | grueling | trail |
| untangled     | desperately | vigorous |       |
| frigid        | kennel      | stamina  |       |

1. A person with \_\_\_\_\_ has a strong body or mind to fight tiredness and keep on going.
2. Extremely cold is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A place where dogs are kept is a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A group of dogs working together to pull a small vehicle for sliding along snow is a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. If a vehicle \_\_\_\_\_ the road, it would have slipped sideways out of control.
6. Exercise that demands a lot of force and energy is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A path across rough or wild country is a \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Something that is very hard and exhausting is \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When something is \_\_\_\_\_, the twisted parts are made free.
10. To suffer from extreme need of something is to need it \_\_\_\_\_.

## **COMPREHENSION**

### **A. Skimming for Main Ideas**

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. Paragraph 2 is mainly about
  - a. the history behind the Iditarod race.
  - b. the difficulty of transportation in Alaska.
  - c. the suffering of the people in Nome, Alaska.
2. The main topic of Paragraph 3 is
  - a. Susan Butcher's move to Colorado.
  - b. Susan Butcher's life up to the time of her first Iditarod race.
  - c. Susan Butcher's love of dogs and her work with them in Colorado.
3. The main topic of Paragraph 4 is
  - a. Susan Butcher's historical win in 1978.
  - b. Susan Butcher's accident on the trail in 1984.
  - c. Susan Butcher's top 20 finishes in spite of all odds.
4. The last paragraph is mainly about
  - a. Susan Butcher's courage and determination leading to her success.
  - b. Susan Butcher meeting disaster and being forced to leave the 1985 race.
  - c. Libby Riddles becoming the first woman to win the Iditarod.

### **B. Scanning for Details**

Scan the paragraphs for details. It is not necessary to read the whole passage again. Some of the following sentences have incorrect facts. Cross out the incorrect fact and write the correct

answer above it.

1. The Iditarod Sled Dog Race is over 3,000 miles long.
2. The history of the Iditarod began in 1940 when a doctor in Anchorage, Alaska, was desperately in need of medicine.
3. At 17 Susan Butcher moved to Colorado and went to college to become a veterinarian.
4. In her first Iditarod race, Susan Butcher became the first woman to finish in the top 20.
5. A plane couldn't be used to get the necessary medicine for measles because they couldn't find a pilot.
6. In 1985 Susan had to leave the race after a starving moose attacked her dogs.
7. In 1988 Susan Butcher became the first person ever to win three Iditarod races in a row.
8. Susan Butcher moved to Alaska after someone offered her a job.
9. In 1984, even after falling into freezing cold water, Susan Butcher continued the race and came in second.
10. The Iditarod Trail is named after the doctor who sent for the medicine.

## C. Order of Events

Number the sentences to show the correct order.

- Susan Butcher moved to Colorado and began training dogs.
- Susan Butcher moved to Alaska.
- Medicine was carried along the difficult and dangerous Iditarod trail.
- People were in danger of getting the deadly diphtheria disease.
- Susan Butcher entered her first Iditarod race.
- Susan Butcher became the first person to win three Iditarod races in a row.
- Susan Butcher read about the Iditarod race.



## D. Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions

The answers to these questions are not directly stated in the passage. Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. From the passage, it can be concluded that
  - a. Susan Butcher could probably have won the Iditarod when she was still in her teens.
  - b. it takes years of training to develop the strength and ability to win an Iditarod race.
  - c. the Iditarod race is the kind of athletic event that almost anyone can enter and have a chance to win.
2. It can be inferred from the passage that
  - a. it was because of the courage and determination of the men and their sled teams that the people of Nome were saved.
  - b. other forms of transportation would have been more successful than the sled teams in bringing medicine to Nome.
  - c. it was too late to save the people of Nome by the time the medicine arrived from Anchorage.
3. The passage implies that
  - a. Susan Butcher achieved success as a result of courage, hard work, and determination.
  - b. the 1984 Iditarod was an easy race for Susan Butcher to win.
  - c. Susan Butcher was well known even before she began participating in the Iditarod races.

