

教育部大学英语教学改革示范点项目

教育部高等学校特色专业建设点（英语专业）项目

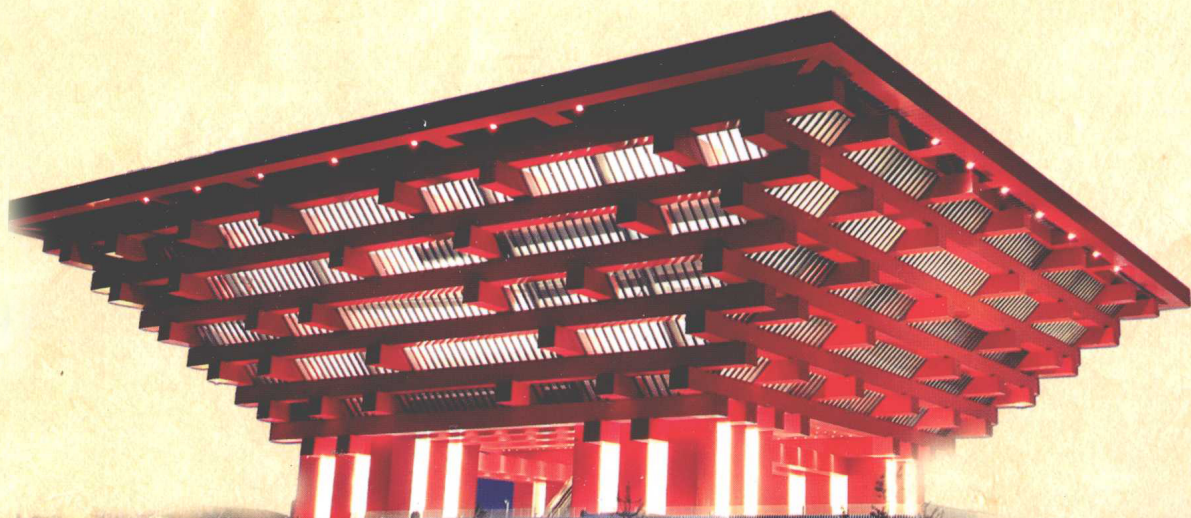


中国当代社会与文化 综合教程（英文版）

A Textbook of Contemporary
China's Society and Culture

史宝辉 总主编

訾纓 李芝 本册主编



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（英文版）

总主编 史宝辉

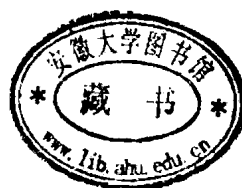
本册主编 訾 纓 李 芝

副主编 白雪莲 常 青

编者（按拼音顺序排列）

姜 佳 龙 莺 卢晓敏 南宫梅芳

欧阳宏亮 王雪梅 魏 文 张永萍



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举报电话: 010-62752024 电子信箱: fd@pup.pku.edu.cn

编写说明

《中国当代社会与文化综合教程》是高等院校文化素质类通识课教材，旨在通过对中国当代社会文化诸方面的学习以及相关英语表达方式的训练，使学生了解今日中国风采和中华民族风貌，并能以规范、流畅的表达方式对外介绍、弘扬中华文化，让世界了解今日中国。

本教程读者对象为非英语专业本科生和研究生，也可供英语专业本科生使用。

全书共10个单元，建议授课学时为30学时左右，一学期完成。每单元分为两部分，通过听说读写等多种训练方式帮助学生了解并能够用英语介绍中华文化。Section A包括两篇长度各500词左右的短文，通过阅读和写作的训练方式使学生掌握如何介绍中国当代社会与文化的方方面面。Section B包括一篇情景对话和一篇400词左右的演讲或解说词，以听说训练的方式提高学生的英语口语表达能力和跨文化交际能力。Section A的课文与Section B的对话和演讲均有录音供学习者模仿。

本教程语篇长度、难度适中，生词采用文中注释的方式，文化背景知识注释采用脚注方式，方便学习和查找。每篇文章后均有长难句注释。

练习形式的设计以提高学生跨文化交际能力为宗旨，以提高“写”和“说”的能力为突破口。写作练习以训练写摘要总结和应用文为主；口语训练旨在教会学生如何以流利的英语介绍中华文化。

本教程融知识性和趣味性于一体，图文并茂地提供了一种展现今日中国风采的视觉方式。在讲授过程中，充分利用电子教程的资源优势，根据所授内容插入相应图片和简短音视频资料，以凸显重要的主题，使课程内容生动、直观，符合90后大学生的认知心理。

本教程配有图文并茂的课堂版教学电子课件，方便教师备课、授课使用。

本教程由北京林业大学“211工程”三期研究生创新人才培养建设计划子项目资助。

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Unit

Talking about China

导 读

本单元旨在通过对中国国家标志、地理特征、历史朝代和主要城市的介绍，使学生能运用相关的英语表达进行跨文化交流，让世界了解中国。

Before You Start

While you are preparing for this unit, consider what you know about the following questions:

1. What national symbols do you think of at the sight of the word “China”?
2. What are the geographic features of your hometown?
3. Can you list the dynasties in Chinese history chronologically?

Section A Reading and Writing

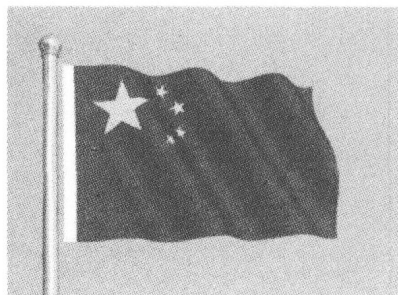
Text 1 General Survey

Country Name

China's official name is the People's Republic of China, often abbreviated as P. R. China or PRC. China is called *Zhōngguó* in Mandarin Chinese. The first character *zhōng* (中) means “central” or “middle”, while *guó* (國/国) means “state” or “nation”. Many Western works use the translation “middle kingdom” or “central kingdom”. In ancient texts, *Zhōngguó* referred to a state, a city or the group of states in the central plain. It became the shortened form of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

National Flag

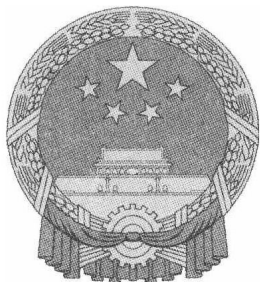
The national flag of China is red with a large yellow five-pointed star and four smaller ones (arranged in a vertical arc toward the middle of the flag) in the upper hoist-side corner. The color red symbolizes the spirit of



revolution, and the five stars signify the unity of the people of China under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The flag was officially unveiled in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on October 1, 1949, the formal announcement of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

National Emblem

① The design of the national emblem of the People's Republic of China, published by the Central People's Government on September 20, 1950, shows Tiananmen under the light of five stars, and it is framed with ears of grain and cogwheel (齿轮). Tiananmen is the place where the inauguration of the People's Republic of China was held. The cogwheel and the ears of grain represent the working class and the peasantry respectively, and the five stars symbolize the solidarity (团结) of the various nationalities of China. The emblem clearly indicates that People's Republic of China is a socialist state led by the working class and based on the alliance of industrial and agricultural workers.



National Anthem

March of the Volunteers, written in 1935, with lyrics by the poet Tian Han and music by the composer Nie Er, honors those who went to the front to fight the Japanese invaders in northeast China in the 1930s. The song was officially adopted as the national anthem of the P. R. China on December 4, 1982.

Lyrics (Translation)

March of the Volunteers

Arise, ye who refuse to be slaves!

Let us amount our flesh and blood towards our new Great Wall!

The Chinese nation faces its greatest peril,

The thundering roar of our peoples will be heard!

Arise! Arise! Arise!

We are many, but our hearts beat as one!

Selflessly braving the enemy's gunfire, march on!

Selflessly braving the enemy's gunfire, march on!

March on! March on! on!

Administrative Divisions & Capital



The entire country is divided into 23 provinces, five autonomous regions (Tibet, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Guangxi and Ningxia), four municipalities (Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing) and two special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau).

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. It is not only the nation's political center, but also its cultural, scientific and educational center, and a key transportation hub.

People

China, as the world's most populous nation, has a population of over 1.3 billion. Out of every five persons living in this world, one is a Chinese. People live mainly around the coastal areas and industrialized zones of central China.

China is home to 56 ethnic peoples. The Han people account for 92 percent of the total population, while the other 55 ethnic groups are known as minorities. All nationalities in China are equal according to the law. The state protects their lawful rights and interests and promotes equality, unity, and mutual help among them.

Language

The official language of China is standard Chinese or Mandarin, known as Putonghua. It is based on the Beijing dialect. Many other dialects and ethnic minority languages are also spoken.

All of the Chinese dialects share a common written form that has evolved and been standardized during two millennia and serves as a unifying bond amongst the Han Chinese. The government has aggressively developed both shorthand Chinese and Pinyin (phonetic spelling) as ways to increase literacy and transliterate Chinese names.

National Animal

The Giant Panda is regarded as a national treasure. Just over 1,000 survive in the wild and most of them live in Sichuan province. The panda has a black-and-white coat. ② It is easily recognized by its large, distinctive black patches around the eyes, over the ears, and across its round body. Though it belongs to the order Carnivora (食肉类), the panda's diet is 99% bamboo. (740 words)



Based on:

1. <http://english.gov.cn>
2. Catherine Field, 2004, *China*, Oxford: Raintree



Difficult Sentences

- ① The design of the national emblem of the People's Republic of China, published by the Central People's Government on September 20, 1950, shows Tiananmen under the light of five stars, and it is framed with ears of grain and cogwheel.

中华人民共和国国徽的设计由中央政府于1950年9月20日颁布，图案中间是五星照耀下的天安门，周围是谷穗和齿轮。

- ② It is easily recognized by its large, distinctive black patches around the eyes, over the ears, and across its round body.

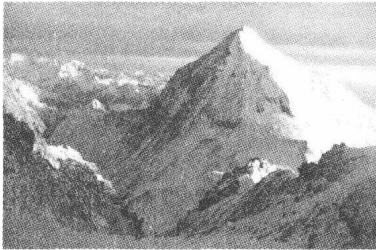
熊猫的眼睛周围、耳朵上、滚圆的身体上都长着大块的、独特的黑色皮毛，很容易识别。

Text 2 Geographic Overview

China, an ancient, mysterious and beautiful land, is located in the eastern part of the Asian continent, on the western Pacific Rim. Occupying an area of 9,600,000 square kilometers, it is the third largest country in the world, next to Russia and Canada. When inhabitants of eastern China are greeting the dawn, people in western China still face four more hours of darkness. When northern China is still gripped in a world of ice and snow, flowers are already blooming in the warm and pleasant south.

China has a total of 22,117 kilometers of land boundaries with 14 other nations. The coastline extends 14,500 kilometers from the border with North Korea in the north to Vietnam in the south. The coasts are on the Korea Bay, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, and South China Sea.

Broadly speaking, the relief (地貌) of China is high in the west and low in the east; consequently, the direction of flow of the major rivers is generally eastward. The surface may be divided into three steps, or levels.



① The first step is represented by the Plateau of Tibet, which is located in both the Tibet Autonomous Region and the province of Qinghai and which, with an average elevation of well over 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) above sea level, is the loftiest highland area in the world and often known as the “roof of the world.” At the southern rim of the Tibetan Plateau, on the Nepalese-Tibetan border, are the soaring Himalayan

Mountains. Here stands the world’s tallest peak, Mount Qomolangma, (meaning “Goddess” in Tibetan; known to the West as Mount Everest) which is 8848 meters (29,028 feet) high.

The second step lies to the north of the Kunlun and Qilian mountains and (farther south) to the east of the Qionglai and Daliang ranges. ② There the mountains descend sharply to heights of between 1,800 and 900 meters (6,000 and 3,000 feet), after which basins intermingle with plateaus. This step includes the Mongolian Plateau, the Tarim Basin, the Loess Plateau (loess is a yellow-gray dust deposited by the wind), the Sichuan Basin, and the Yunnan-Guizhou (Yungui) Plateau.

The third step stretches down to the Pacific Ocean and is the most fertile and populous area of China. Almost all of this area is made up of hills and plains lying below 450 meters (1,500 feet). In the far north, the terrain is low and flat, broken only occasionally by mountains. Farther south are the vast flood plains of China’s great rivers. In the far south, there are low mountains crossed by river valleys.

The most remarkable feature of China’s relief is the vast extent of its mountain chains. By rough estimate, about one-third of the total area of China consists of mountains. China has

some of the world's tallest mountains and the world's highest and largest plateau, in addition to possessing extensive coastal plains. The five major landforms—mountain, plateau, hill, plain, and basin—are all well represented. China's complex natural environment and rich natural resources are closely connected with the varied nature of its relief.

③ China's climate diversity mirrors that of its topography, ranging from extremely dry desert-like conditions in the northwest to a tropical monsoon climate in the southeast. From September to April of the following year, dry and cold air masses (冷气团) blow from Siberia and the Mongolian plateau, resulting in cold and dry winters, and great differences between the temperatures of north and south China. From April to September, warm and humid summer monsoons blow from the seas in the east and south, resulting in overall high temperatures and abundant rainfall, and the range of temperatures between north and south is quite small. (604 words)

Based on:

1. *Kenneth Pletcher, 2011, The Geography of China: Sacred and Historic Place, Britannic Educational Publishing*
2. *Discover China, 2009, China Intercontinental Press*
3. *Catherine Field, 2004, China, Oxford: Raintree*



Difficult Sentences

- ① The first step is represented by the Plateau of Tibet, which is located in both the Tibet Autonomous Region and the province of Qinghai and which, with an average elevation of well over 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) above sea level, is the loftiest highland area in the world and often known as the "roof of the world."

第一阶梯以青藏高原为主，青藏高原位于西藏自治区和青海省境内，平均海拔在4,000米（13,000英尺）以上，是世界上最高的高原，有“世界屋脊”之称。

- ② There the mountains descend sharply to heights of between 1,800 and 900 meters (6,000 and 3,000 feet), after which basins intermingle with plateaus.

那里的山脉海拔高度迅速下降到1,800至900米（6,000至3,000英尺），盆地和高原交错分布。

- ③ China's climate diversity mirrors that of its topography, ranging from extremely dry desert-like conditions in the northwest to a tropical monsoon climate in the southeast.

中国的气候与地形一样具有多样性，从西北部极其干旱的沙漠气候到东南部热带季风气候，复杂多变。



Exercises

1. Thinking and Writing

Direction: *Write an essay on National Emblem of the People's Republic of China.*

2. Research and Development

Direction: *Review the geographic features of China and give a presentation to the class analyzing How do the physical features of China affect its climate?*

Section B Listening and Speaking

Text 3 Situational Dialogue: Chinese History

- Mark: Guess what I did today!
- Li: Called that ... what's her name again... and asked her out?
- Mark: Come on, give me a break. I've been to the museum. There's an exhibition of ancient Chinese relics.
- Li: Sounds great.
- Mark: It's fantastic! They look so elaborate and so Chinese! Each item seems to tell a lot about its time.
- Li: Taking you back to hundreds or even thousands of years ago.
- Mark: Yeah, exactly. But the problem is I've got totally lost about those names of dynasties. Could you straighten it out for me?
- Li: Of course. Xia is the first Chinese dynasty. But nothing much is known about it for lack of archeological evidence.
- Mark: Did Xia really exist? Isn't it a legend?
- Li: I'm not sure. ① But I believe it once flourished, linking the late Neolithic¹ cultures with the urban civilization of the Shang Dynasty. Shang is the first historically documented dynasty.
- Mark: Written on oracle bones²?
- Li: Right. Then, the Zhou Dynasty began to emerge in the Yellow River valley, overrunning Shang. This period in China was like ancient Greece, a time of incredible development in thought.
- Mark: Any great thinkers?
- Li: I'm sure you've heard of Confucius and Lao Tze. And how about *The Art of War*?
- Mark: Is it a person's name?
- Li: No, it's a book about military laws and tactics of deploying troops. But many sales leaders read it for marketing and negotiation strategies.
- Mark: Business is war.
- Li: As the power of the Zhou court gradually diminished, the kingdom broke apart into smaller states. Qin was one of them. Its King, Ying Zheng, ended the rivalry among the independent states and established the first centralized, multiethnic (多民族的) state in Chinese history under the Qin Dynasty.
- Mark: Wow, he was cool!

1 新石器时代始于距今8 000年前的人类原始(母系)氏族的繁荣时期。一般认为新石器时代有三个基本特征: 1) 开始制造和使用磨制石器; 2) 发明了陶器; 3) 出现了原始农业、养畜业和手工业。

2 甲骨文是中国的一种古代文字, 被认为是现代汉字的早期形式。甲骨文是商朝(约公元前17世纪—公元前11世纪)的文化产物, 距今约3600多年的历史。

- Li: He sure was. ② He unified Chinese script, standardized the currency and measures, and built the old Great Wall as well as an extensive network of roads and canals.
- Mark: Was he the owner of the terracotta (兵马俑) army?
- Li: That's right. Those warriors in his tomb were to guard him in the afterlife.
- Mark: Impressive.
- Li: The Han Dynasty succeeded Qin as the second imperial dynasty. It witnessed further advances in science and culture. Papermaking technique is a great contribution to human civilization. This period also produced China's most famous historian, Sima Qian. His work *Shiji* provides a detailed chronicle from the time of a legendary Xia emperor to that of the Han emperor Wu Di.
- Mark: Was the Silk Road developed in Han?
- Li: Yeah, mainly for trading between China and the Roman Empire. The Han regime existed for over four hundred years. It was followed by the Three Kingdoms Period of Wei, Shu and Wu.
- Mark: Wow, turbulent times for heroes, Cao Cao, Guan Yu, Zhuge Liang ...
- Li: *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*? That's not real history.
- Mark: Anyhow, I like it.
- Li: After nearly four centuries of civil wars, the Sui Dynasty managed to reunite China again. The succeeding Tang Dynasty pushed the feudal society to the height of prosperity. China became an expansive, cosmopolitan empire. Its national capital, Chang'an, developed into the world's biggest city at the time.
- Mark: A golden age in Chinese history.
- Li: ③ But it began to decline from the middle of the 8th century and another time of political chaos (混乱) followed till the Song Dynasty ended the divisions and moved to form reunification.
- Mark: I saw a panoramic (全景的) painting today, rather long, about the city life and landscape along a river...
- Li: *Along the River during the Qingming Festival*.
- Mark: That's it. People from all walks of life jostling for their own businesses ... it's amazing!
- Li: After Song, Kublai Khan established the Yuan Dynasty. It's the first foreign dynasty to rule all of China. A book may give you a better view of this period, *The Travels of Marco Polo*. In the Yuan Dynasty, there was widespread sentiment against the rule of the foreigners. Finally the Mongolians were pushed back to the steppes (大草原) and replaced by the Ming Dynasty.
- Mark: Was it the last dynasty in Chinese history?
- Li: No, the last one was the Qing Dynasty founded by Manchus. Anyhow, these two dynasties saw unprecedented consolidation and development of China as a unified multiethnic country. It reached its height under the Qianlong Emperor in the eighteenth century, expanding beyond its prior and later boundaries.

Mark: Wow, a super power!

Li: But isolated from the outside world and content with the things as they were, it was doomed to decline. The revolution of 1911 overthrew the Qing Dynasty and established a democratic republic.

Mark: From Xia to Qing, it's really a long history. (778 words)

Based on:

Cao Dawei & Sun Yanjing, 2011, China's History, Cengage Learning Asian Pte Ltd

Difficult Sentences

① But I believe it once flourished, linking the late Neolithic cultures with the urban civilization of the Shang Dynasty.

不过, 我相信它曾兴盛一时, 将新石器晚期文化与商朝城市文明连接起来。

② He unified Chinese script, standardized the currency and measures, and built the old Great Wall as well as an extensive network of roads and canals.

他统一了汉字, 规范了货币和度量衡, 修筑了古长城和大量的道路及运河。

③ But it began to decline from the middle of the 8th century and another time of political chaos followed till the Song Dynasty ended the divisions and moved to form reunification.

但是它从8世纪中期开始衰落, 引发了另一个政治混乱时期, 直到宋朝结束了分裂继而重新统一了中国。

Exercises

Task 1: Listening, imitating and summarizing

Directions: *Listen to the dialogue twice and try to retell the Chinese history.*

Task 2: Dialogue Making

Directions: *Make up a dialogue or a short play related to the Chinese history and then act it out with your partner.*

Text 4 Cities to See in China

Beijing

If you choose to visit only one city in China, it should definitely be Beijing.

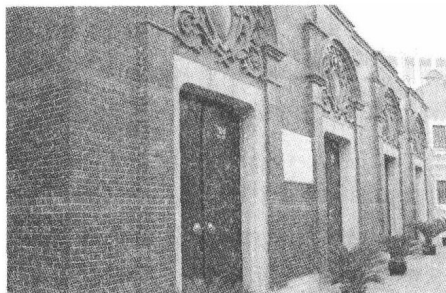
The city has been an integral part of China's history over the past eight centuries, and nearly every major building of any age in Beijing has at least some national historical significance. ① The imperial residences and parks, military fortifications, walled hutongs (residential alleys), each is narrating



to people its own story in the long course of history. Be in Beijing to visit incredible ancient Forbidden City — the home to China's emperors, marvel at the scale and ingenuity of the Great Wall, and awe at the grandeur of imperial Temple of Heaven. Besides all these, Beijing is a great source of endless stories and beautiful legends. All awaits your discovery!

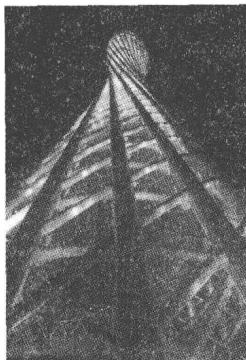
Shanghai

Shanghai is the largest city in China. It was one of the first Chinese ports to be opened to Western trade. Originally a fishing and textile town, Shanghai, due to its favorable port location, flourished to become multinational center of finance and business by the 1930s. Today it is the largest center of commerce and finance in mainland China.



Shanghai is a fascinating mix of modern and traditional, east and west. With its distinctive architecture and culture, Shanghai enjoys the fame of “Paris of the East”. It is popularly seen as the birthplace of everything considered modern in China. The new skyscrapers and old Shikumen¹ lanes together draw the skyline of the city. Western customs and Chinese traditions have intertwined to form Shanghai's culture. Here you will be inspired by the striking contrast between the modern and old Shanghai.

Guangzhou



Known to many in the West as Canton, Guangzhou is famous for foreign trade and business doings, and holds China's largest trade fair, the Canton Fair. Construction of brand new skyscrapers and shopping malls seems a never ending process here. However, there is much history and culture underneath all the glitz and glamour. ② The elegant churches, villas and mansions on the Shamian Island², and lovely old residences, temples and gardens hidden among back lanes offer you a time trip to the past.

Of course, it's impossible to talk about Guangzhou without mentioning the food. It's here that you'll try Cantonese cuisine cooked at its very best. The Cantonese will make certain you won't leave their city hungry.

Chongqing

③ Chongqing is an enormous, one-of-a-kind Chinese megalopolis (特大城市) that represents the greatest population concentration in all of China. And the old city of Chongqing has a history stretching back some 3000 years. Given the area's population density and its prominent role



The People's Great Hall of Chongqing

1 石库门是最具上海特色的居民住宅。以石头做门框，以乌漆实心厚木做门扇，这种建筑因此得名“石库门”。
2 沙面岛是广州市独具特色的旅游景点，因建国前曾长期被英、法等国占为租界，岛上拥有众多欧陆风情的古建筑。

in the country's history, it is no surprise that Chongqing offers an array of major historical and cultural attractions. The city was the base for the Allied effort during WWII. It is also home to the Dazu Rock Carvings¹, there is a Panda Room at the Chongqing Zoo, and the city boasts China's largest ecotourism venue and Chongqing Safari Park.

Xi'an

Enjoying equal fame with Athens, Cairo and Rome as one of the four ancient civilization capitals, Xi'an is the cradle of Chinese civilization and the representative of Chinese culture.

World-famous for its Terracotta Warriors (兵马俑) — the “Eighth Wonder of the World”, the city is filled with amazing historic wonders. It once served as the capital of 13 ancient Chinese dynasties and influenced the world as the eastern start point of the Silk Road. Wandering about the straight and spacious streets encircled by the City Wall, the past of this ancient capital city seems laying out in front of you. It is a place where you can see the 5000 years history of China. (600 words)



Based on:

1. www.chinatravel.com
2. www.lonelyplanet.com
3. *Show You Real China 2, China Odyssey Tours*

Difficult Sentences

- ① The imperial residences and parks, military fortifications, walled hutongs (residential alleys), each is narrating to people its own story in the long course of history.
皇家住宅及园林、军事要塞、胡同，每一处都在向人们讲述它们在漫长的历史进程中所经历的故事。
- ② The elegant churches, villas and mansions on the Shamian Island, and lovely old residences, temples and gardens hidden among back lanes offer you a time trip to the past.

1 大足石刻位于重庆市大足区境内，是唐末、宋初时期的宗教摩崖石刻，以佛教题材为主，是中国晚期石窟造像艺术的典范，与敦煌莫高窟、云冈石窟、龙门石窟齐名。1999年12月1日被列入联合国教科文组织世界文化遗产。

沙面岛上精致的教堂、别墅、府邸，还有藏在僻静小路旁、可爱而古老的住宅、寺庙和花园都能把你带回到过去的时光。

- ③ Chongqing is an enormous, one-of-a-kind Chinese megalopolis that represents the greatest population concentration in all of China.

重庆是一个巨大的、独一无二的大都市，是全中国人口最集中的地方。



Exercises

Task 1: Listening, Imitating and Summarizing

Direction: *Listen to the speech twice and try to introduce your hometown to your classmates.*

Task 2: Dialogue Making

Directions: *Make up a dialogue introducing a major Chinese city and then act out the dialogue with your partner.*