

# 跨学科分级阅读

Reading Explorations

(美) Joanne Suter 著  
Sandra Widener

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机械工业出版社  
China Machine Press

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Joanne Suter, Sandra Widener: Reading Explorations

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## 出版说明

长久以来，英语学习者都有一个误区：学习者有意或无意地陷入无穷的题型和枯燥的单词记忆中，疲惫而低效。即使单词记住了，各种题会做了，英语水平仍未提高，仍然是不会说，不会写，更谈不上用英语思维。英语语言作为一种工具，没有附着在一定的内容上，没有同掌握知识和汲取信息结合起来。学校的学生更是如此。英语作为基础技能性的课程，课本中的内容有的明显滞后于学生思维的发展，涉及的知识面较窄，教学中机械式的识记活动较多，加之大量的应试练习，使学生在英语学习中缺乏信心和兴趣。随着学生年龄的增长和知识的丰富，他们渴望获得更多的信息，满足其求知欲，获得精神上的满足。鉴此，北京华章图文信息有限公司引进并出版了《跨学科分级阅读》(Reading Explorations)。

在众多的英语阅读教材中，《跨学科分级阅读》有其显著的特点。原版引进，学生能在纯正的英语环境中增长知识，提高英语水平。本书涉猎了人文、自然、社会、数学以及与生活相关的各种技能知识。内容丰富、有趣，由浅入深，循序渐进，符合初、中级英语

学习者的知识水平、认识水平和心理发展水平。在极大地丰富学生知识的同时，深化了学生的思想观念、文化观和价值观，使学生在思想上更深地理解人与人、人与社会、人与自然之间的关系，从而认识到三者之间应亲切、和谐地生存和发展。

全书分为六册，每册有四个独立的章节：

社会知识（**Social Studies**）——涵盖了世界历史、文化、经济、政治、重大事件以及重要人物等各方面的知识。

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数学（**Math**）——涉及到一般的数学计算、计量、数据的核算等，题材均来源于生活，没有纯数学的枯燥，使学生能轻松地掌握一般的数学技能。

生活技巧（**Life Skills**）——包括健康问题、休闲旅游、消费指南等一系列与生活息息相关的常识，在学习外语的同时，可获取一些实用的生活技能。

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# Social Studies

**Step back in time. You're about to visit some interesting places. You're going to meet some interesting people.**



# King Tut's Tomb

## **WORDS TO KNOW**

**Tutankhamen** /tu:ta:ŋ'ka:mən/ a king of Egypt more than 3,300 years ago

**tomb** /tu:m/ a large room or group of rooms dug in the earth where a dead person is buried

**coffin** /'kɒfin/ a box in which the body of a dead person is buried

**mummy** /'mʌmi/ a dead body kept in good shape by wrapping it and putting it in a safe place

**Tutankhamen** died thousands of years ago. Scientists later found his **tomb**. It was an important discovery. The tomb was full of riches. Today, it is still a wonder.

**T**utankhamen became king of Egypt when he was still a boy. He is called King Tut for short. He ruled more than 3,300 years ago. Because he was so young, he is sometimes called "the boy king." King Tut died when he was only 18.

In his day, people did a special thing when a king died. They buried him in a tomb. The tomb was as big as a house. It had many rooms. The king's gold and other treasures were buried with him.

King Tut was buried in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. There were 30 tombs there. The tombs were covered with sand to hide them. It was thought that no one could find the tombs.

Many years went by. People did find the tombs. They stole many of the treasures. Only one tomb stayed hidden. That was the tomb of King Tut. It stayed hidden for 3,200 years!

1. What was buried in a king's tomb with him?
2. Where was King Tut's tomb?

Then, in 1907, an English scientist named Howard Carter went to Egypt. He was looking for things people made long ago. He was working for an Englishman named Lord Carnavon. Together they began to search for King Tut's tomb. For 15 years they found nothing.

Then, in November 1922, Carter reached the door to King Tut's tomb. He dug some more. Then he came to another door. He cut a small hole in it. He stuck a candle through the hole. What he saw inside amazed him.

The room was filled with gold and other riches. Carter had found the treasure of King Tut! Soon Carter and his men found other rooms. They found more treasure. They continued to dig for 10 more years. In all, they found more than 5,000 things.

Carter and his men found many wonderful treasures. They found jewelry and weapons. They found statues and paintings. They even found furniture. Many of these things were made of gold.

In 1925, Carter found the **coffin** of King Tut. It was in a nest of golden coffins. Inside the smallest box was the boy king's body. It had been kept as a **mummy**, wrapped in cloth.

The news of Carter's find spread. He came to the United States to speak. He even met the president. Carter became famous all over the world.

The boy king became famous, too. People started wearing King Tut hats. They wore King Tut rings. Women wore King Tut dresses. Almost everything that looked Egyptian became popular. Someone even named a cigar after King Tut.

More than 50 years passed. Then King Tut was in the news again. The treasures of his tomb were sent around the world for people to see. King Tut's treasures came to the United States. Thousands of people saw them in museums. They stood in line for hours. They waited to see the treasures. People were excited. They were thrilled. They got to see riches from a long-ago time. They learned

about King Tut, the boy king who was hidden for more than 3,200 years!

3. Why do you think people long ago buried kings in tombs full of treasures? What does this tell you about their ideas of life after death?
4. What did the people long ago do to King Tut's dead body to keep it in good shape?
5. Why do you think people were excited about seeing King Tut's treasures?

# The Wright Brothers

## **WORDS TO KNOW**

**Ohio** /əu'haieu/ a state in the middle part of the United States

**North Carolina** /nɔ:θ ,kæərə'lainə/ a state in the southern part of the United States

**invention** /in'venʃən/ a thing or a way of doing something that has never been made or thought of before

**glider** /'glaide/ light aircraft without an engine. It floats on the air and moves with the wind.

For thousands of years, people watched the birds and wished they could fly. Finally, in 1903, two brothers made a dream come true. They made and flew the first airplane.

There were two brothers who worked in a bicycle shop. Their home was in **Ohio**. Now the brothers were far from home. They were on a beach in **North Carolina**. It was December 1903. But they were not there to swim in the ocean. They were there to fly.

The brothers were Orville and Wilbur Wright. They had made an **invention**. It was the first flying machine. It was the first airplane with an engine. The airplane was supposed to take a person up into the air with power from its engine. Then it would land. That had never been done before.

The brothers had built the airplane, or plane, in their bicycle shop. The plane weighed about 600 pounds. Its wings were about 40 feet across. The two men also built the engine. It ran on gasoline. They spent \$1,000 of their own money to make this flying machine.

1. What did the Wright brothers invent?
2. Describe two things about the Wright brothers' invention.

They were ready to test the machine. Wilbur tried to fly it. The airplane barely lifted off the ground. The engine stalled. It stopped running. It lost power. The plane fell to the ground. It had been in the air for just 3 seconds.

Still, the brothers wanted to try again. Nothing would stop them. The next day, the weather was bad. It was very cold. The wind was blowing hard off the ocean. They still wanted to try to fly the airplane.

The men pointed the plane into the wind. Then Orville climbed out onto the lower wing and stretched out face down. Wilbur tied a strap around him so he would not fall off.

Wilbur started the engine. Orville grabbed the plane's controls. It went straight into the wind.

Slowly, the plane began to rise into the air. It went higher and higher. It reached 10 feet in the air. Someone on the beach shouted, "He's flying! He's flying!"

A few moments later, the plane landed. Wilbur checked his stopwatch. It counted every second. His brother had been in the air for a



full 12 seconds! The airplane had gone about 120 feet in the air.

Other people had used a **glider** to travel that far before. Even the Wright brothers had flown gliders. A glider floats on the air. It has no engine. Orville's first flight was different, though.

Gliders could fly from a high hill to a lower place by using the wind. Orville's plane used engine power. It started on a tall hill and landed on another equally tall hill. No one had ever done that before.

The brothers kept flying that day. Wilbur took a turn and flew over 800 feet. He stayed in the air almost a full minute. Then their luck changed. A strong wind came up. It tipped the plane over. The plane was damaged. It would not run on its own power. It would not fly. It had to be fixed.

That was all right, though. The brothers knew they could fix it. They knew they could make it better. This was just the beginning of flight. Wilbur and Orville Wright were the first people to fly.