

21世纪CBI内容依托系列英语教材

博雅



*Understanding the U.S.A.  
Physical and Human Geography*



美国国情  
美国自然人文地理

(第2版)

常俊跃 赵秀艳 赵永青 主编



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

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# 前 言

随着我国英语教育的快速发展,英语专业长期贯彻的“以技能为导向”的课程建设理念及教学理念已经难以满足社会的需要。专家教师们密切关注的现行英语专业教育大、中、小学英语教学脱节,语言、内容教学割裂,单纯语言技能训练过多,专业内容课程不足,学科内容课程系统性差,高、低年级内容课程安排失衡及其导致的学生知识面偏窄、知识结构欠缺、思辨能力偏弱、综合素质发展不充分等问题日益凸显。

针对上述问题,大连外国语大学英语专业在内容与语言融合教学理念的指导下确定了如下改革思路:

(一) **更新语言教学理念,改革英语专业教育的课程结构。**改变传统单一的语言技能课程模式,实现内容课程与语言课程的融合,扩展学生的知识面,提高学生的语言技能。

(二) **开发课程自身潜力,同步提高专业知识和语言技能。**课程同时关注内容和语言,把内容教学和语言教学有机结合。以英语为媒介,系统教授专业内容;以专业内容为依托,在使用语言过程中提高语言技能,扩展学生的知识面,提高思辨能力。

(三) **改革教学方法,全面提高语言技能和综合素质。**依靠内容依托教学在方法上的灵活性,通过问题驱动、输出驱动等方法调动学生主动学习,把启发式、任务式、讨论式、结对子、小组活动、课堂展示、多媒体手段等行之有效的活动与学科内容教学有机结合,提高学生的语言技能,激发学生的兴趣,培养学生的自主性和创造性,提升思辨能力和综合素质。

本项改革突破了我国英语专业英语教学大纲规定的课程结构,改变了英语专业通过开设单纯的听、说、读、写、译语言技能课程提高学生语言技能的传统课程建设理念,对英语课程及教学方法进行了创新性的改革。首创了具有我国特色的英语专业内容与语言融合的课程体系;开发了适合英语专业的内容与语言融合的课程;以英语为媒介,比较系统地教授专业内容;以内容为依托,全面发展学生的语言技能;扩展学生的知识面,提高学生的综合素质,以崭新的途径实现英语专业教育的总体培养目标。

经过十年的实验探索,改革取得了鼓舞人心的结果。

(一) **构建了英语专业内容与语言融合教学的课程体系。**课程包括美国历史文化、美国自然人文地理、美国社会文化、英国历史文化、英国自然人文地理、英国社会文化、澳新加社会文化、欧洲文化、中国文化、跨文化交际、《圣经》与文化、希腊罗马神话、综合英语(美国文学经典作品)、综合英语(英国文学经典作品)、综合英语(世界文学经典作品)、综合英语(西方思想经典)、英语视听说(美国社会文化经典电影)、英语视听说(英国社会文化经典电影)、英语视听说(环球资讯)、英语视听说(专题资讯)、英语短篇小说、英语长篇

小说、英语散文、英语诗歌、英语戏剧、英语词汇学、英语语言学、语言与社会、语言与文化、语言与语用等。这些课程依托专业知识内容训练学生综合运用语言的能力,扩展学生的知识面,提高学生的多元文化意识,提升学生的综合素质。

(二) 系统开发了相关国家的史、地、社会文化以及跨文化交际课程资源。在内容与语言融合教学理念的指导下,开发了上述课程的资源。开发的教材改变了传统的组织模式,系统组织了教学内容,设计了新颖的栏目板块,设计的活动也丰富多彩,实践教学中受到了学生的广泛欢迎。此外还开发了开设课程所需要的教学课件等。在北京大学出版社、华中科技大学出版社、北京师范大学出版社的支持下,系列教材已经陆续出版。

(三) 牵动了教学手段和教学方法的改革,取得了突出的教学效果。在内容与语言融合教学理念的指导下,教师的教学理念、教学方法、教学手段得到更新。通过问题驱动、输出驱动等活动调动学生主动学习,把启发式、任务式、讨论式、结对子、小组活动、课堂展示、多媒体手段等行之有效的活动与学科内容教学有机结合,激发学生的兴趣,培养学生自主性和创造性,提高学生的语言技能,提升思辨能力和综合素质。曾有专家、教师担心取消、减少语言技能课程会对学生的语言技能发展会产生消极影响。实验数据证明,内容与语言融合教学不仅没有对学生的语言技能发展和语言知识的学习产生消极影响,而且还产生了多方面的积极影响,对专业知识的学习也产生了巨大的积极影响。

(四) 提高了教师的科研意识和科研水平,取得了丰硕的教研成果。开展改革以来,团队对内容与语言融合教学问题进行了系列研究,活跃了整个教学单位的科研气氛,科研意识和科研水平也得到很大提高。课题组已经撰写研究论文60多篇,撰写博士论文3篇,在国内外学术期刊发表研究论文40多篇,撰写专著2部。

教学改革开展以来,每次成果发布都引起强烈反响。在第三届中国外语教学法国际研讨会上,与会的知名外语教育专家戴炜栋教授等对这项改革给予关注,博士生导师蔡基刚教授认为本项研究“具有导向性作用”。在第二届全国英语专业院系主任高级论坛上,研究成果得到知名专家、博士生导师王守仁教授和与会专家教授的高度评价。在中国英语教学研究会年会上,成果再次引起与会专家的强烈反响,博士生导师石坚教授等给予了高度评价。本项改革的系列成果两次获得大连外国语大学教学研究成果一等奖,两次获得辽宁省优秀教学成果奖一等奖,一次获得国家教学成果奖。目前,该项改革成果已经在全国英语专业教育领域引起广泛关注。它触及了英语专业的教学大纲,影响了课程建设的理念,引领了英语专业的教学改革,改善了教学实践,必将对未来英语专业教育的发展产生积极影响。

《美国国情:美国自然人文地理》是英语专业内容依托课程体系改革与创新这项国家级教学成果的重要组成部分,是英语专业核心必修课程基础英语所使用的教材,教材针对的学生群体是具有中学英语基础的大学生。适用于英语专业一、二年级学生,也适用于具有中学英语基础的非英语专业学生和英语爱好者学习。总体来看,本教材具备以下主要特色:

### (一) 遵循了全新的教学理念

经过几十年的快速发展,我国的英语教学已经出现了翻天覆地的变化。今天的英语学习者不再满足只是单词、语法、句型等等英语语言知识的学习,他们更希望读到地道的

英语,在享受英语阅读乐趣的同时又能增长知识,开阔视野,了解英语国家,进而更好地运用英语与英语国家人民进行交流。本教材改变了“为学语言而学语言”的传统教材建设理念,在具有时代特色且被证明行之有效的内容依托教学理论指导下,改变了片面关注语言知识和语言技能忽视内容学习的作法。它依托学生密切关注的美国地理文化知识,结合自然人文知识内容组织学生进行语言交际活动,在语言交流中学习有意义的知识内容,既训练语言技能,也丰富相关知识,起到的是一箭双雕的作用。

## (二) 涉及了系统的地理内容

《美国国情:美国自然人文地理》是一本系统关注美国自然地理和人文地理的教材。全书分为15个单元,把美国划分为东北部、东南部、中西部、西南部和西部五大地理区域,帮助读者了解美国诸州及重要城市,领略美国的山川河湖以及国家公园的美景。在介绍了美国自然地理的基础之上,还介绍了美国的人文知识:传奇的历史、有趣的传说、伟大的人物、奇异的遗址、日新月异的工农业等等。

## (三) 引进了真实的教学材料

英语教材是英语学习者英语语言输入和相关知识输入的重要渠道。本教材大量使用真实、地道的语言材料,为学生提供了高质量的语言输入。此外,为了使课文内容更加充实生动,易于学生理解接受,编者在课文中穿插了大量的插图、表格、照片等真实的视觉材料,表现手段活泼、形式多种多样,效果生动直观,让读者身临其境,感同身受。

## (四) 设计了新颖的教材板块

本教材每一单元的主体内容均包括 Before You Read, Start to Read, After You Read 和 Read More 四大板块,包括课前热身、课文正文、课后练习、辅助阅读、专有名词列表、娱乐园地、附录内容等。课前热身包括启发性的问题或准备活动;主课文介绍重要的自然和人文地理知识并突出显示了语言学习重点;课后练习关注美国地理知识学习和英语语言学习;辅助阅读内容对主课文进行补充,为学有余力的读者提供更加充实详细的内容;专有名词列表为读者省去了查阅美国地理专有名词的麻烦;相关网址、电影、书籍、歌曲推荐可以让读者选择自己感兴趣的内容,对美国进行多角度探索;附录内容提供了各种美国地图,介绍了各州州旗、州花、州鸟、州面积,主要城市的概况等等。教材不仅在结构上确立了学生的主体地位,而且系统的安排也方便教师借助教材有条不紊地开展教学活动。

## (五) 提供了多样的训练活动

为了培养学生的语言技能和综合素质,本教材在保证历史知识体系完整的前提下,在关注英语语言知识训练和相关内容传授的基础上精心设计了生动多样的综合训练活动,如小组讨论、广告创意、故事接龙、对比写作等等。教材在每一单元都精心设计了旨在对学生在语法、词汇、篇章结构、语言功能等方面进行全面严格的基本技能练习。同时,编者通过参阅大量国外资料,设计出与美国自然人文地理相关的、学生参与度极高的课堂和课外活动。就连副课文都精心设计了培养寻读、略读能力的练习。多样化的活动打破了传统教材单调的训练程式,帮助教师设置真实的语言运用情境,组织富于挑战性的、具有意义的语言实践活动。它们改变了教师单纯灌输、学生被动接受的教学方式,促使学生积极思考、提问、探索、发现、批判,培养自主获得知识,发现问题和解决问题的

能力,培养学生综合运用语言 and 知识进行沟通的能力、逻辑思维能力和探索求知的能力。

### (六) 推荐了经典的学习材料

教材的另一特色在于它对教学内容的延伸和拓展。在每个章节的最后部分,编者向学生推荐经典的书目、影视作品、名诗欣赏以及英文歌曲等学习资料,这不仅有益于学生开阔视野,也使教材具有了弹性和开放性,方便不同院校不同水平学生的使用。这些活动的设置使得课堂教学得以延伸,也能激发学生的学习热情。

### (七) 引进了先进的数码技术。

采用“互联网+”技术,实现从纸质资源到立体化多媒体资源的立体呈现,学习者可利用移动设备上的二维码扫描软件在线阅读相关内容和收听相关录音。

本教材是我国英语专业综合英语课程改革的一项探索,凝聚了全体编写人员的艰苦努力。然而由于水平所限,还存在疏漏和不足,希望使用本教材的老师和同学们能为我们提出意见和建议。您的指导和建议将是我们提高的动力。

编者

2016年5月17日

于大连外国语大学



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# Unit 1

## Panoramic View of the USA

In the United States there is more space where nobody is than where anybody is. That is what makes America what it is.

—Gertrude Stein (1874—1946)

### Unit Goals



- To have a general idea of the geography of the USA
- To be familiar with useful geographical terms about the USA
- To be able to describe the geographical features of the USA
- To be able to use the passive voice more skillfully



### Before You Read



1. Tick (✓) the neighboring countries and oceans of the USA.

Countries		Oceans	
China		the Pacific	
Canada		the Atlantic	
France		the Indian	
Mexico		the Arctic	

2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ states in the USA, and \_\_\_\_\_ states are contiguous.
3. Have you ever heard of “the backbone of the continent” in the USA?  
What is it?



4. Which of the following is the national bird of the USA?



A. European Robin



B. Red-crowned Crane



C. Kiwi



D. Bald Eagle

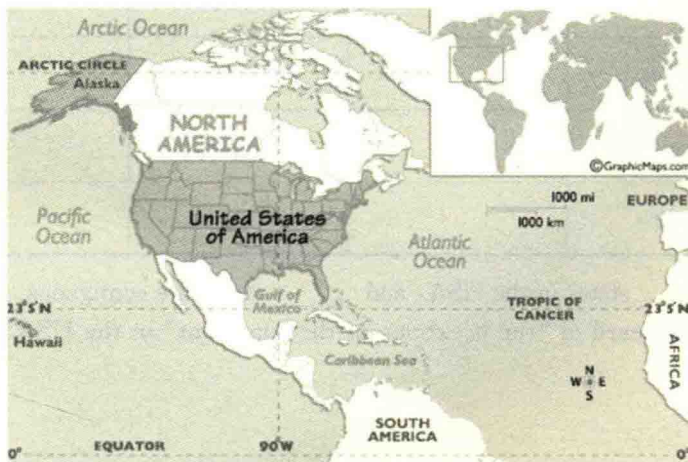
5. Form groups of three or four students. Try to find, on the Internet or in the library, more information about the USA which interests you. Prepare a 5-minute classroom presentation.



## Start to Read

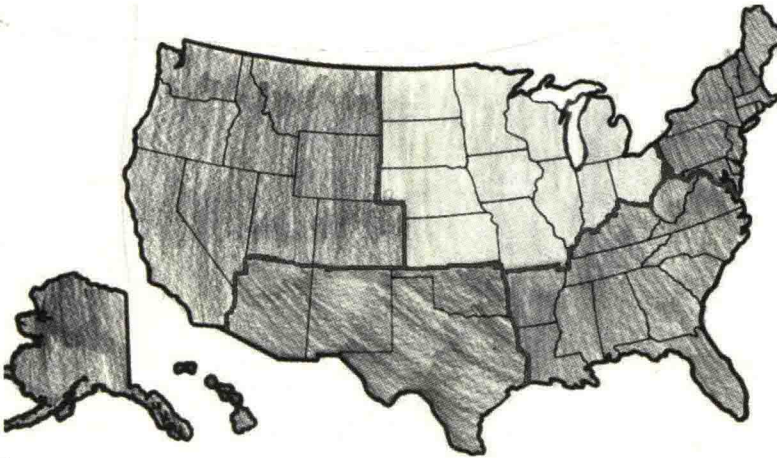
### Text A General Characteristics and Major Regions of the USA

The United States is a federal constitutional republic. The country is situated mostly in central North America in the Western Hemisphere. It consists of forty-eight **contiguous** states on the North American continent, Alaska, an enormous peninsula which forms the northwestern part of North America, and Hawaii, an **archipelago** in the Pacific Ocean. It also holds several United States territories in the Pacific and the Caribbean.



The United States shares land borders with Canada to the north and Mexico to the south, and a territorial water border with Russia in the northwest. The contiguous forty-eight states are otherwise bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west, the Atlantic Ocean on the east, and the Gulf of Mexico on the southeast. Alaska borders the Pacific Ocean to the south, the Bering Strait to the west, and the Arctic Ocean to the north, while Hawaii lies far to the southwest of the mainland in the Pacific Ocean.

Forty-eight of the states are in the single region between Canada and Mexico; this group is referred to, with varying **precision** and **formality**, as the “continental or contiguous United States,” and as the “Lower 48.” Alaska, which is not included in the term “contiguous United States,” is at the northwestern end of North America, separated from the Lower 48 by Canada. The State of Hawaii is an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. The capital city, Washington, District of Columbia, is a federal district located on land **donated** by the state of Maryland. (Virginia had also donated land, but it was returned in 1847.) The United States also has overseas territories with varying levels of independence and organization.

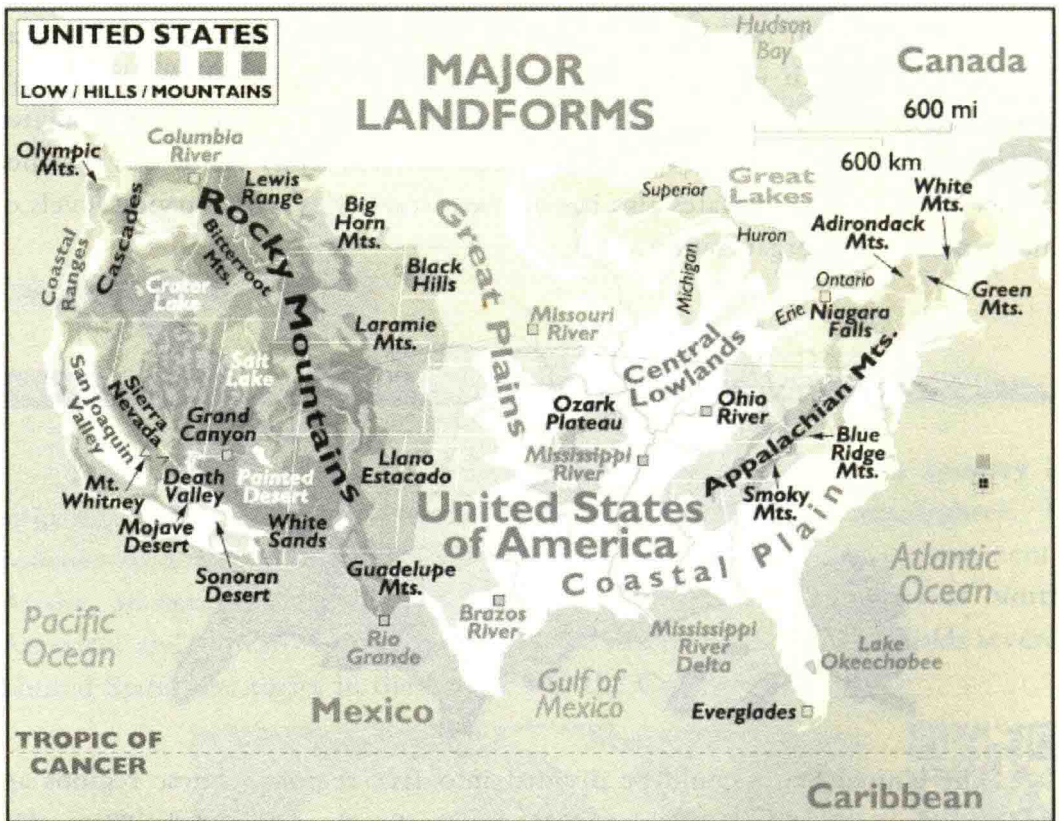


The United States could be divided into five regions. These regions are the Northeast, the Southeast, the Midwest, the Southwest, and the West. The regions of the United States are grouped by history, traditions, economy, climate, and geography. Each region is different from one another.

### Text B The Face of the Land

On a **topographic** map of the United States, the mountains look like **jagged** masses, the plains like vast open flat spaces, and the rivers like

**meandering** threads. Today, highways and railways crisscross the land, making travel easy. But only a few generations ago, the topographic features on the map represented great dangers and difficulties. Today's visitors, riding over a good road in the Cascade Mountains in the west coast states of Oregon and Washington, may see marks on the rocks made by ropes where pioneer settlers painfully lowered their horses and wagons down cliffs to reach the **fertile** river valley far below. In the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, the main route now runs through a mountain pass which was once too narrow for a wagon to go through. Pioneer families reaching that pass had to **take** their wagons **apart** piece by piece, carry them through, and then **reassemble** them on the other side.



Modern means of communication and transportation have enabled man to overcome these **obstacles**. Poles and wire now carry electrical power and telephone communication over **ridges** that are so deep in snow that only persons wearing snowshoes or skis can reach them. Railroads run along the sides of mountains or in tunnels through them. Bridges have been built over valleys and rivers. Highways run through the burning heart of deserts.

Much of the geography and history of the United States was **determined**

some 10,000 to 25,000 years ago. At that time, the great northern ice cap flowed over the North American continent and ground into it a number of major changes. These ice flows determined the size and **drainage** of the Great Lakes. They changed the direction of the Missouri River and carved the channel of the Hudson River. They pushed soil off a huge part of Canada into the United States, thus creating the northern part of the central agricultural basin—one of the richest farming areas in the world.



## After You Read



### Knowledge Focus

#### 1. Fill in the blanks according to the geographical knowledge you have learned in the texts above.

- (1) The United States is a country in the \_\_\_\_\_ Hemisphere. It consists of \_\_\_\_\_ contiguous states on the North American continent, and Hawaii.
- (2) The USA shares land borders with Canada and \_\_\_\_\_ and a water border with Russia.
- (3) The contiguous forty-eight states are otherwise bounded by \_\_\_\_\_ on the west, \_\_\_\_\_ on the east, and the Gulf of Mexico on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- (4) The United States could be divided into five regions. They are the Northeast, \_\_\_\_\_, Midwest, \_\_\_\_\_, and the West.
- (5) The five Great Lakes, which the United States shares with \_\_\_\_\_, are estimated to contain about half of the world's \_\_\_\_\_.
- (6) In the east of the USA lie \_\_\_\_\_, the oldest mountains in the United States.
- (7) \_\_\_\_\_, “the backbone of the continent,” are considered young mountains of the same age as \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe, \_\_\_\_\_ in Asia, and \_\_\_\_\_ in South America.
- (8) Washington, D. C. , is located on land donated by \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2. Write T in the brackets if the statement is true, and write F if it is false.

- (1) The USA consists of 48 states. (     )
- (2) The USA is bordered by Australia and Canada. (     )
- (3) The Rockies, located in the west of the USA, are old mountains in the country. (     )
- (4) Alaska borders the Pacific Ocean to the south, the Bering Strait to the west, and the Arctic Ocean to the north. (     )



**Language Focus**

**1. Fill in the blanks with the proper form of the following words or expressions you have learned in the texts.**

resemble    take... apart    enable... to  
grind    determine    reassemble

- (1) This dictionary will \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ understand German words.
- (2) Pioneer families had to \_\_\_\_\_ the wagons \_\_\_\_\_ piece by piece, carry them through, and then \_\_\_\_\_ them on the other side.
- (3) He \_\_\_\_\_ his father in character as well as in appearance.
- (4) The amount of the rainfall \_\_\_\_\_ the size of the crop.
- (5) The great northern ice cap flowed over the North American continent and \_\_\_\_\_ into it a number of major changes.

**2. Fill in the blanks with the proper forms of the words in the brackets.**

- (1) The topographic features on the map represented many \_\_\_\_\_ (difficult).
- (2) This soil has good \_\_\_\_\_ (drain).
- (3) That is when the Nile River flooded its banks, bringing water and \_\_\_\_\_ (fertile) to the land.
- (4) A marked change in \_\_\_\_\_ (topographic) is a fault or deep valley.

**3. Fill in the blanks with the proper prepositions or adverbs that collocate with the neighboring words.**

- (1) This group is referred \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ the "continental or contiguous United States," and as the "Lower 48."
- (2) Alaska, which is not included in the term "contiguous United States," is \_\_\_\_\_ the northwestern end of North America, separated \_\_\_\_\_ the Lower 48 by Canada.
- (3) The United States also has overseas territories \_\_\_\_\_ varying levels of independence and organization.
- (4) The great northern ice cap flowed over the North American continent and ground \_\_\_\_\_ it a number of major changes.

**4. Correct the grammatical mistakes about the passive voice in the following sentences.**

- (1) The country situated mostly in central North America.
- (2) The contiguous forty-eight states were bound by the Pacific Ocean on the west, the Atlantic Ocean on the east, and the Gulf of Mexico on the southeast.
- (3) The group was referred to as the "continental or contiguous United States," and as the "lower 48."
- (4) The regions of the USA group by history, traditions, economy, climate, and geography.
- (5) Much of the geography of the USA is determined some 10,000 to 25,000 years ago.