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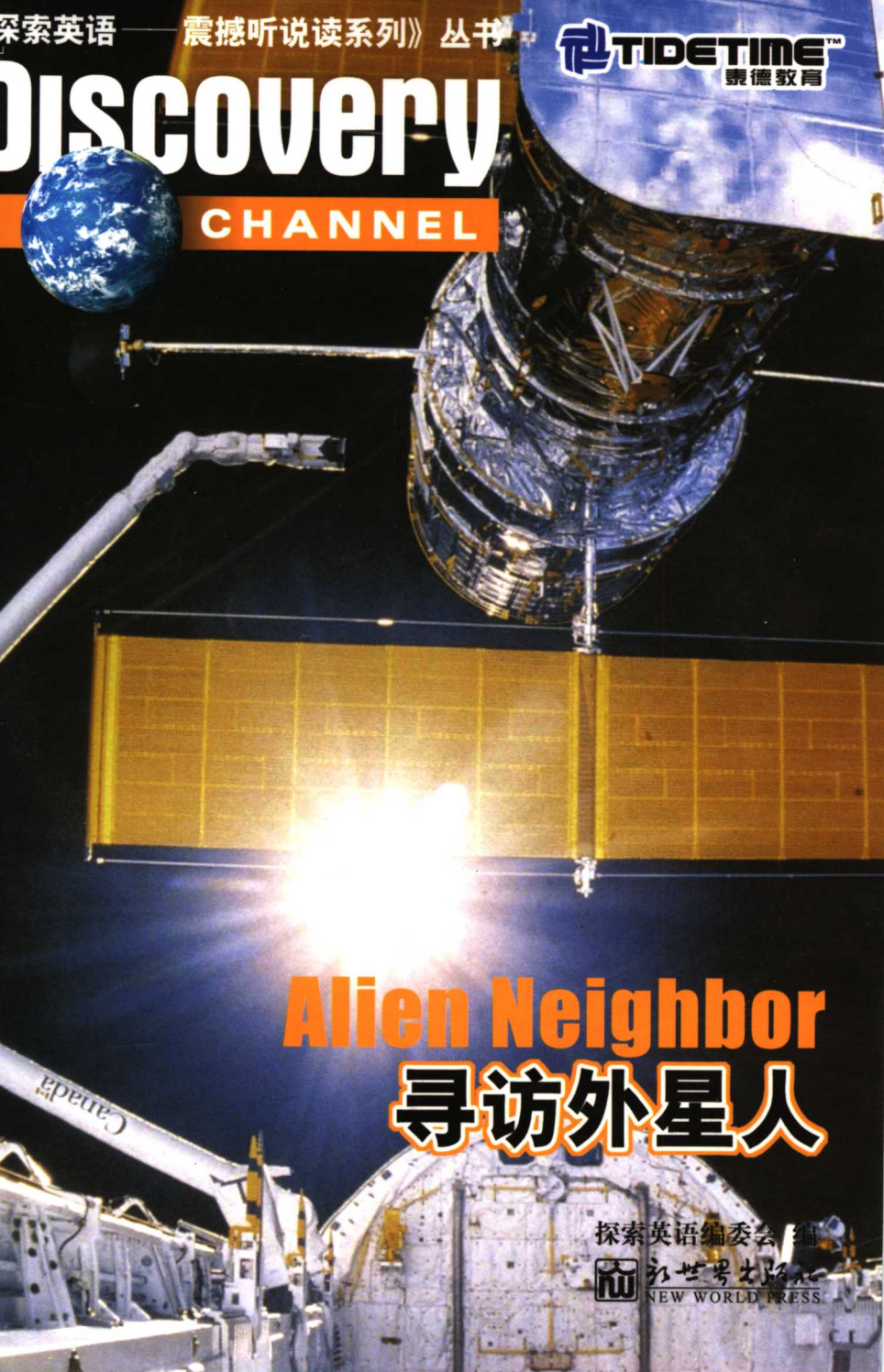

Alien Neighbor
寻访外星人

探索英语编委会 编

新世界出版社
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寻访外星人

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Preface
前 言

Discovery Channel 是美国著名的电视系列节目，自从播出后便以其丰富的主题、独特的视角、优美的画面和生动的语言感染了全世界的人们并掀起了一场全球性的探索热潮。

Discovery Channel 电视节目在我国各地电视台播出后引起了极大的反响，越来越多的人开始关注我们周围的世界，探知宇宙、自然、历史、科学、人类、动物、军事、医学等各种学科领域的知识。

《探索英语——震撼听说读系列》是一套集听、说、读为一体的英语学习丛书，根据探索节目内容编排而成，共分七大主题——宇宙、自然、动物、历史、科学、探案、军事。每个主题下又由数本小主题组成，独立成册。这套丛书采用中英文双语形式，每本书均设有背景知识、难点注释、词汇解释、综合理解练习。

高品位的节目，高质量的音效，高水准的配音及优美、流畅、地道的语言表达是这套丛书的特点，也使它独具魅力，可谓是学习英语类图书中难得的上好教材。读者可以借助磁带或 CD 聆听纯正的英语朗读，在享受的同时磨练听力，还可以通过阅读细细体味原汁原味的英语美文、精巧的句式和短语，从而丰富语言知识。此外，读者也可以利用书中设

置的讨论题结合主题展开讨论，表述自己的观点和看法，以此达到练习口语的目的。另外，由于本书内容由解说词和谈话构成，所以部分语句不可避免地存在不符合书面语法的情况，这是英语（尤其是美语）口语的特点，而并非错误。

如今英语学习已进入了一个崭新的时代，全面提升英语素质的图书受到越来越多人的欢迎。《探索英语——震撼听说读系列》丛书愿为英语学习爱好者和不断寻求新知的人打开一扇窗，清新的空气会令人心怡气爽，感悟英语学习也能如此惬意、愉悦，同时带来的是前所未有的心灵震撼。

我们衷心希望这套丛书能对读者提高英语素质有所益处，让读者在阅读和聆听的同时感受快乐和满足。让我们一起走进探索英语，体会那份震撼与魅力吧。

编者

2004 年 11 月 30 日

How to Use This Book
学习指南

专家提示您采用以下方法学习：

- 阅读“背景介绍”

它有助于您更好地了解本书的主题和相关的知识。

- 学习“相关词汇”

这里的词汇全部与本书主题紧密相关，大多数取自正文，个别词汇源于他处是扩展词汇。它们对学习者进行针对主题展开的讨论大有帮助，也便于记忆。

- “正文”学前的热身

进入正文学习时请先听一遍录音，测试一下自己能听懂多少内容，有心者可做个记录。

- “正文”泛读

在不参考注解的前提下阅读正文，测试一下自己的理解能力，并培养把握中心大意的能力。

- “正文”精读

1. 借助词汇注解仔细阅读全文，全面理解文中的内容；

2. 学习词汇、短语和其在文中的用法；学习或背诵文中的好句子、好段落。文中的词汇和短语均用黑体显示并有标号，方便您随时查找，其音标和中文释义标在书页的一侧，

音标前有标号。好句子和好段落均用下划线标出。当然，您也可以自己采集好句子和好段落，反复回味。

- “理解练习”

这是为检测您对本书的理解而设置的小小练习，您可以在开始泛听和泛读之前先浏览一遍题目。

- “讨论题”

这是针对学生而设置的口语练习，学生可以利用所学的词汇和对主题的了解和掌握表述自己的观点和看法。每个讨论题均有参考答案。

- “译文”

在书后我们提供了译文，供您参考。

- “词汇表”

词汇表中包括单词和短语两部分，所有正文中标出的单词均列在表中，表中的中文释义比正文中的多，含有每个单词在其他的句子中的不同解释。

以上是我们的建议，衷心希望您能学有所获。

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Alien Neighbor
寻访外星人

Background 背景介绍

地球如今是惟一有生命存在的地方，人类拥有惟一的有智慧的文明世界。但我们的太阳毕竟仅是宇宙数 10 亿颗恒星中的一个，宇宙中包含有地球生命具备的所有元素，其他地方可能也存在着像人类一样具有智慧的生物。

很多科学家都相信，茫茫宇宙当中，一定有和地球相似的行星，上面也会产生生命，演化出智慧生物———外星人。一些不甘寂寞的地球人，开始想方设法地要和外星人取得联系。

19 世纪的人们想用灯光之类的东西找寻外星人。第一次真正合乎科学的无线电搜寻在 1960 年展开。科学家进行了一项搜寻可能来自遥远天体电波的“奥兹玛计划”。1992 年，那些热衷于寻找外星人的科学家，又推出了一个规模更大的“地外文明搜索计划 (SETI)”，至今还没有收到什么信息。

除了收听，地球人还“主动出击”。1972 年和 1973 年，美国发射的“先驱者”10 号和 11 号空间探测器，分别带着两张特殊的地球“名片”，上面刻有一男一女两个人像代表地球信息的符号。1974 年，人们通过阿雷西沃天文台，向武仙座的一群星星发出了第一份“电报”，这份“电报”。要过 24000 年才能到达目的地。1977 年 8 月，美国发射的“旅行

者”一号和二号太空探测器，各携带一张“地球之音”的唱片，向遥远的文明星球问好。

为了加速探测外星人的工作，“凤凰计划”将天文望远镜瞄准邻近像太阳的恒星。

各个行星之中，我们认为火星上最可能有生物、智慧或者其他生命，可是没有发现有生命存在的迹象。太空探测显示火星几乎没有大气层，表面上没有液态的水，如今干燥、寒冷的火星不宜居住。但不论是在炎热的古老盐矿，还是冰封冷冻的南极，生物自有其生存之道。也许有一天，或许我们可用某种方法分离出熟睡着的火星生物。

地球的姊妹行星金星是天空中最明亮的星体。金星也可能曾经有过水，但失控的温室效应造成温度高达摄氏 500 度，使它变得不适合生物居住。

木星、土星、天王星与海王星是外太阳系的气体星球。虽然这些行星的内部略温暖一些，但最外层云层的压力与温度使它们过于寒冷，没有足够的日照和可维持生命的液态水，因此不可能有生命。

寒冷的冥王星上只有岩石和冰，没有气体。它离太阳最远，因此过于寒冷和黑暗，不可能有生命。

外太阳系将近有 60 颗卫星，研究显示多数都不适宜居住，但有两个例外：一是土星最大的卫星——泰坦。另外一个是木星多岩石的卫星——欧罗巴。

宇宙，每踏出一步，距离，就缩小一点。浩瀚的星际，潜藏着无数的巨大物体。对于太阳系边缘，这块没有地标的黑暗地带，人类的求知欲望，将透过一次又一次的太空探险，不断获得惊喜！

Key Words 相关词汇

alien *n.* 外星人
cosmos *n.* 宇宙
universe *n.* 宇宙
solar system 太阳系
galaxies *n.* 银河
planet 行星
Venus *n.* 金星
Mars *n.* 火星
Martians *n.* 火星人
Saturn *n.* 土星
Jupiter *n.* 木星
Mercury *n.* 水星
Titan *n.* 泰坦（土卫六）
Europa *n.* 欧罗巴（木卫二）
probe *n.* 探测器
Hubble space telescopes 哈伯太空望远镜
asteroid *n.* 小行星
microorganism *n.* [微生] 微生物
organism *n.* 生物体
search for *v.* 搜查，搜索
extraterrestrial *adj.* 地球外的，宇宙的
habitat *n.*（动植物的）生活环境，栖息地
exobiology *n.* 外空生物学

meteorite *n.* 陨石

greenhouse effect *n.* 温室效应

photosynthesis *n.* 光合作用

fantasy *n.* 幻想

on the move 在活动中

Text 正文

Alien Neighbor

Is life on earth the only life in the **cosmos**[1]? If we are not alone, what, or who else, is out there? Is anybody listening?

2042 A. D. powerful orbiting telescopes **scour**[2] the heavens for signs of life.

They **focus on**[3] a dim yellow globe.

Spectrum[4] **Analyzer**[5] results: negative. No oxygen, no life. The auto tracker **zooms**[6] into another world, a pale blue dot. Oxygen signal: affirmative, and, there appears to be water. This could be it. The **scenario**[7] belongs to the future, but the future is almost here. Life on Earth may have begun with a bang, when **microorganisms**[8], **hitching a ride**[9] on a comet or **asteroid**[10], crash landed on our planet.

Finding themselves in a mild and watery world, the single celled **organisms**[11] could have slowly evolved into the rich and varied life forms that exist today. There are clues that this may have been what happened, but what do these early microorganisms look like, and, from which planets or moons, might they have come?

1 ['kɔzmɔs]
n. 宇宙

2 ['skauə]
v. (搜索或追捕时) 急速走遍

3 集中

4 ['spektrəm]
n. 光，光谱

5 光谱分析仪

6 [zu:m]
v. [摄像机] 拉进，推进

7 [si'nɑ:riəu]
n. 某一特定情节

8 [maikrəu'ɔ:gəniz(ə)m]
n. [微生] 微生物

9 [口] 要求 (免费) 搭车

10 ['æstərɔid]
n. [天文] 小行星

11 ['ɔ:gəniz(ə)m]
n. 生物体

Single-celled organisms are just one example of life that might exist in the depths of space. There could also be intelligent life out there, way beyond our own solar system.

Some people go as far as to say that **aliens**[1] have already appeared on Earth, that governments have hidden them away in secret military establishments. Today, serious efforts are being made to **search for**[2] life on other worlds.

Radio telescopes listen for signals transmitted from civilizations at least as advanced as ours. Seth Shostak works for **SETI**[3], the Search for **Extraterrestrial**[4] Intelligence, the **offshoot**[5] of an earlier **NASA**[6] program.

"People in the last century thought about possibly searching for aliens, using lights and stuff like that, but, in fact, radio searches began in this century, and really, after the war. It was 1960 that the first really scientific radio search was conducted."

"Invaders from Mars. **Weird**[7] ..."

Popular **fantasies**[8] about the appearance and intentions of alien beings are as varied as human imagination.

Paul Davies is a physics professor and writer of popular science. He has studied the cultural presence of aliens in human history.

"When most people think about intelligent alien

1 ['eiliən]
n. 外星人

2 搜查，搜索

3 [专] the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence 地外文明搜寻计划

4 [ˌekstrətə'restriəl]
adj. 地球外的

5 ['ɔ(:)fʃu:t]
n. 分支，支流

6 *abbr.* National Aeronautics and Space Administration (美国)国家航空航天局

7 [wiəd]
adj. 怪异的，神秘的

8 ['fæntəsi]
n. 幻想

beings, they have something, ah, very much like ourselves in mind, that they look like us, think like us, and behave like us, that they be sort of super beings. And when you look back in history, stories of angels and giants, and Greek gods, and so on, ah, they're always presented, ah, in this human, or semi-human form. Ah, I think that's just some sort of deep, ah, cultural need to **believe in**[1], ah, something like ourselves, but better."

"From the planet."

Human-like aliens have been good business in the 20th century. B-movie makers in particular have found a winning formula in showing semi-human space creatures with a **fanatical**[2] urge to conquer Earth.

"**Bent on**[3] conquering the world."

"I don't think it's very likely that the Earth has been visited by intelligent aliens. In fact, the whole business of travel from one star system to another, physical travel, ah, I think is really rather fantastic. It's much easier to send messages, and communicate with your friendly aliens next door, than physically get in a spacecraft and go and visit."

Because we don't yet have the **know-how**[4] how to detect them, let alone travel to them, if they exist, it's clear that only a technologically superior race could visit us. In the mean time, we strain to pick up unfamiliar radio signals, and scan the heavens for clues. In al-

1 信仰

2 [fə'nætikəl]
adj. 狂热的,盲目的

3 (与 on 连用) 下决心…的 (= bent upon)

4 ['nəuhau]
n. 〈口〉 实际知识,技术秘诀

most forty years, there have been only four possible messages, all of them false alarms.

An alien signal **heading for**[1] Earth could come from any direction. To speed up the search, a SETI program, called Project Phoenix, has made some choices.

"Project Phoenix has a fairly straightforward philosophy. Ah, we point our telescope in the direction of nearby sunlight stars, stars that are cousins of our own sun. Those are the ones we think are most likely to have planets somewhat similar to Earth around them, and maybe with an, an advanced civilization on one of those planets."

No star in the search is farther away than one hundred and fifty light years, and, like our sun, each one is over three billion years old, plenty of time for intelligent life to have developed radio technology. The president of the SETI Institute, Frank Drake, **pioneered**[2] the techniques used in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. He doesn't **rule out**[3] the idea that someone is tuned into us.

"The space on earth is full of radio signals, and in particularly, television signals, which we have transmitted over roughly the last fifty years. In fact, there's a shell around the Earth, fifty light years in **radius**[4], full of our signals. And in the shell there are about fifteen hundred stars which are now receiving our signals. And

1 出发，动身，前往

2 [ˌpaiəˈniə]
vt. 发明，创造，开拓

3 划去，排除，取消

4 ['reidiəs]
n. 半径

if anyone's there, they're able to find out all about us by watching our television."

Can't SETI transmit powerful radio signals of its own, hoping for a response?

"Some people think that Project Phoenix actually broadcasts inquiries into space, and we wait for replies from the aliens. Well we don't do that, and the reason is quite simple. Ah, say, say, that the nearest extraterrestrials were a hundred light years away. Well, our question would take a hundred years to get there, and if they **deigned**[1] to reply, it'll be another hundred years before their answer gets back to us. Two hundred years have gone by, you've probably lost interest, and surely your funding has gone away."

There may well be a communications technology that we don't know about yet, as we were unaware of radio waves only a century ago.

Technology is definitely **on the move**[2].

After the walk on our own moon, we began exploring new worlds by remote control, using more and more advanced spacecraft. Among the most successful missions was Voyager II. Launched in 1977, Voyager II explored the outer planets and their weird moons, moving ever deeper into space, into regions completely mysterious to us **earthlings**[3]. On board is a gold-coated phonograph record, containing a hundred and sixteen images

1 [dein] *v.* 屈尊

2 在活动中

3 ['ə:θliŋ] *n.* 居住在地球上的人