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中级英语学习丛书

# A COMPANION TO MIDDLE-SCHOOL ENGLISH

中学英语课文专有名词解释

人民教育《陈社

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王美芳 刘佳琍 等编写 丁往道 审校

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### 前 言

全国通用的人民教育出版社外语编辑室英语组编写的中学英语课本,尤其是高中用的几册,课文中有不少人名、地名、书名、历史事件名等等。对这些专有名词有适当的理解是十分重要的,因为这不仅有助于读懂课文,而且能增加学习者的知识,引起他们进一步学习有关各科的兴趣。但为中学师生编写的包含这些专有名词的解释的参考书,不论是中文的还是英文的,都很难找到。因此我们编写了这本小册子,以填补这个空白,满足广大中学师生的需要。同时也为具有中等英语程度的学习者提供了一本知识性读物。

我们从初中和高中各册英语课本的课文中收集了人名、 地名等共94条,差不多包括了所有在课文中出现的专有名 词,并逐条用浅易的英文加以说明,力求做到简明扼要。在说 明中不可避免地又要用一些专有名词,对它们则用中文做了 注释,必要时还用国际音标注音,因为专有名词的读音往往是 困难的。

为便于查阅,条目按英文字母顺序排列。根据惯例,人名一律把姓放在前面,姓的后面是名,用逗号分开。如 Thomas Alva Edison(爱迪生)在条目中写成Edison, Thomas Alva。所以查人名时要以姓的字母为准。其次,专有名词前的冠词(the 或 a)在条目中一律略去,如 the Bible(圣经)列为 Bible。

参加本书编写的有王美芳、刘佳琍、陈国芳、刘道义、刘燕盛、胡伏根、赵翊等同志。初稿完成后又经丁往道教授审校。 我们欢迎本书的读者提出批评意见,以便再版时改进。

> 编写组 1985年10月

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## A Tale of Two Cities

It is the name of a novel written by Charles Dickens in 1859. The two cities in the story are London and Paris, and the time is the French Revolution.

The main character is a young French nobleman, Charles Darney<sup>1</sup>. Being sympathetic to the French Revolution, he does not want to be the nephew of his aristocratic uncle any more, because he has seen how his uncle oppresses his tenants. His sympathy with the Revolution and hatred for the aristocracy grow after he marries Lucie<sup>2</sup>, daughter of Dr. Manette, who has been a political prisoner in the Bastille for 18 years. Dr. Manette was put into prison by Darney's uncle for trying to expose the latter's cruelties to his tenants.

During the revolution Darney is arrested and sentenced to death because he has an aristocratic uncle. But he is saved by an Englishman called Sydney Carton<sup>3</sup>, who is willing to die for Darney. This is possible because Carton and Darney look exactly alike.

Sydney Carton has loved Lucie. However, he sacrifices himself so that Darney may enjoy happiness with the girl whom both of them love.

Though Dickens describes the dangerous and bloody days of the French Revolution, it is clear that he thinks that the Revolution was necessary. This can be seen in his descriptions of the aristocrats' ruthless oppression of the poor people.

#### Notes

- 1. Charles Darney ['tʃa:lz 'da:ni] 查理·达尼。
- 2. Lucie ['lu:si] 露西。
- 3. Sydney Carton ['sidni 'ka:tən] 画德尼·卡尔登。

## Aesop's Fables

Aesop¹ was a slave in ancient Greece. It was said that he was ugly and deformed. He had a great talent for telling stories, and because of this he was not only set free by his master but also was invited to live in the court of Croesus², King of Lydia³, which was not far from Greece. Aesop knew some of the most famous and wise men of Athens⁴, and enjoyed their respect.

People like his stories because they are simple and vivid, and also because they contain useful advice about everyday affairs. All his stories are about animals and each contains a moral or lesson. In other words, they are fables. In Aesop's fables, animals behave and talk like human beings, and they show human weaknesses and virtues. The moral lessons are expressed in a most forceful and impressive way.

Aesop did not write out his fables but recited them. They were handed down from generation to generation — young people learnt them by listening to older people telling them. The first written collection of his fables was compiled in the 4th century but was later lost. Those fables of Aesop that we know today were written down by a monk who lived in the 4th century. They have been translated into almost all languages and loved by people of all countries. Among the well-known fables of Aesop are: The Fox and the Grapes, The Boy Who Gried 'Wolf', The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing, and The Tortoise and the Hare.

#### Notes

- 1. Aesop ['i:səp] 伊索(620?—560? B.C.,希腊寓言家)。
- 2. Croesus ['kri:səs] 克里萨斯(公元前六世纪里底亚国(Lydia) 之 王, 极为富有, 在位期间为 560-546 B.C.)。
- 3. Lydia ['lidia] 里底亚(小亚西亚西部一古代王国)。
- 4. Athens [ˈæθinz] 雅典(希腊首都)。

## **Africa**

Africa is the second largest continent. It is larger than China, Europe and the United States put together.

The continent is joined to Asia by a narrow isthmus, which was cut through by the Suez Canal in 1869 to link the Mediterranean Sea<sup>1</sup> with the Red Sea<sup>2</sup> and the Indian Ocean.

Africa is very wide in the north, but becomes narrow in the south. Its shape is like a huge pear upside down. It has a very smooth coastline, with few bays or inlets. There are few island groups off its coasts. The largest island off Africa is Madagasca<sup>3</sup>, about 297 kilometres out in the Indian Ocean.

The main mountain ranges are the Atlas mountains<sup>4</sup>, in the northwest; the Ethiopian Highlands<sup>5</sup>;and the Drakensberg Mountains<sup>6</sup> in South Africa.

There are great rolling deserts in the north and the south of Africa. Parts of the deserts are so dry that there is no vegetation. The Sahara<sup>7</sup>, which covers most of North Africa, is the largest desert in the world.

Central Africa is a land of rain forests. In these forests there are so many trees, and they grow so close together, that it is hard for people to move around in them.

In Central Africa, or the tropical region, there are all kinds of animals — zebras, giraffes, elephants, rhinoceroses which live on grass and leaves of trees. This region is also the home of meat-eaters — the lion, leopard, and hyena — who feed on the grass-eaters.

One cannot think of Africa without thinking of Egypt, the cradle of an ancient civilization. There would not have been Egyption civilization without the Nile<sup>8</sup>, the longest river in the world. It is 6,670 kilometres long. It flows northwards into the Mediterranean Sea.

Most of the people south of the Sahara are black Africans, while in the north, most are Arabs.

Before the Second World War, almost the whole of Africa was under colonial rule (there were only three independent countries then). After the war, especially during the 1960's a national liberation movement swept the continent, and one country after another won independence. Today, there are 43 independence

dent countries in Africa; 12 colonies or territories are still under the control of other countries.

#### Notes

- 1. the Mediterranean [,meditə'reinjən] Sea 地中海。(在欧非两 洲之间)。
- 2. the Red Sea 红海 (介于非洲与阿拉伯半岛间)。
- 3. Madagascar [ˌmædəˈgæskə] 马达加斯加岛(位于非洲东南印度 洋中)。
- 4. the Atlas [1ætləs] mountains 阿特拉斯山脉(位于非洲西北部)。
  - 5. the Ethiopian [ˌi:θiˈəupjən] Highlands 埃塞俄比亚高原。
  - 6. the Drakensberg ['dra:kənz,bə:g] Mountains 龙山山脉 (在南非境内)。
  - 7. Sahara [sə'ha:rə] 撒哈拉(非洲北部大沙漠)。
  - 8. the Nile 尼罗河(在非洲东部)。

## Alaska

Alaska is the largest and the most sparsely populated state of the United States. In its over 1,500,000 square kilometres live only about 253,000 inhabitants. Alaska is a peninsula, which forms the northwestern corner of the North American continent.

For a long time Alaska had no government of its own to protect and develop its rich natural resources. In the 18th century, Russia occupied Alaska and ruled it for more than 100 years. During this time the fur seals were killed so wastefully that only a small number of them survived. Then in 1867, the United States bought Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000. In 1959, Alaska was admitted as the 49th state of the United States.

Alaska has considerable natural resources, including what may be the largest oil deposit in North America. Apart from this, fur, fish and gold are the three well-known natural resources. They have been worth many times the money the U.S. paid for the

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