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European American Culture Reading Selections

文化阅读文选

(上)

European American Culture European American

Culture

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欧美文化阅读文选

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前 言

欧美文化丰富多彩,对我们的广大师生有很强的吸引力,也是大家都喜欢了解的。为了适应我国培养新型的高素质的外语人才和国际化的人才需要,我们根据当前的实际教学情况编写了此书,以供广大高等院校的师生学习使用。愿它能在大家学习英语语言、提高英语水平与知识水平的同时,为大家更多地了解欧美文化方面的知识、服务于祖国人才培养和建设做出贡献。

这本《欧美文化阅读文选》是我们根据实际教学的需要而编写的一本高等院校英语选修课的教科书,它的编写旨在为学生提供一些欧美文化方面的信息和知识。它是学生们了解欧美文化的一本很好的教学用书,不但能帮助学习者学习和掌握欧美文化方面的基础知识,而且也能提高他们的语言能力和英语表达水平及综合水平。

语言的学习和文化的学习是密不可分的。语言学习不仅包括对语言本身的学习和语言知识的学习,也包括文化知识方面的学习。在学习英语的过程中我们会碰到许多文化方面的知识,例如:我们可能会碰到涉及文学作品、艺术创作、社会、科技、建筑、风土人情、人类成就以及政治等方面的重要人物和事件等。如果我们对这些知识不了解就会有碍我们英语学习的顺利进行,若我们对这些知识了解得越多就越能有助于我们语言的学习、掌握和提高。对欧美文化的学习也能在很大程度上提高人的素质和修养,有利于人的道德、性情和趣味的提高。

本书由 25 个单元构成, 每单元 4 个 Reading Passages, 共计 100 篇短文。在每个 Reading Passage 的后面都设有词汇表、注释和句子翻译或阅读理解练习。这些文章的内容包括西方的精神追求、价值观念、议事方式、知识背景、科技和艺术等方面的情况和成就以及一些综合知识等等。 我们的选材以欧美文化为主干,侧重美国文化,都是一些适合教学的质量高的文章,对培养学生的语言修养和文学素质、塑造完美人格、增强跨文化交际意识和文化鉴赏能力都有促进作用。

该书具有知识性、系统性、科学性、时代性、趣味性、新颖性和可读性等,方便教与学、思考和掌握。

在书的后面我们给出了每个阅读文章练习的答案,以供学习参考。

真诚希望各位读者读有所获,丰富自己的知识,提高个人的文化修养和素质,对我们所生活的世界有更多的了解,并为其多作贡献。

本书的出版要特别感谢吉林大学出版社的同志对我们的指导和支持,在此特致忠心的谢意。

书中如有不妥和错误之处,敬请广大读者提出批评和建议。

编 者

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Unit One

Part 1

Reading Passage I

The Nobel Prizes

Alfred Nobel was a shy, quiet Swedish bachelor who set the world on fire with an important discovery. He invented dynamite.

Nobel became rich as a result of his invention, but had difficulty enjoying his newfound wealth. He was consumed with guilt for having created such a deadly explosive. He chose to use his money to reward people who "contributed most materially to the benefit of mankind". In 1895, while visiting the Swedish Club of Paris, Nobel drew up a handmade will signing over his fortune to establish the Nobel Prizes. Within two weeks he was dead.

Despite the rather unofficial nature of the handmade will, the Nobel Foundation was formed with the purpose of seeing that Nobel's dream was realized. The foundation is run by six board members whose job is to oversee the investment of Nobel's original \$9 million. That sum has since grown to \$37 million thanks to investments in Swedish real estate, the American stock market, and other types of securities.

In the beginning, the foundation established five awards—literature, physics, chemistry, medicine, and peace. The prize for literature is voted by the Swedish Academy, which is made up of 18 writers. The prizes for physics and chemistry are chosen by the Swedish Academy of Science. Sweden's leading hospital, the Caroline Institute, is responsible for choosing the winner of the prize for medicine. It is voted by the hospital's staff of 45 physicians.

The peace prize award is decided somewhat differently. Nobel had a lifelong desire to draw his native Sweden closer to Norway, and as a result, he instructed the peace prize be voted by a Norwegian group. Each year five prominent Norwegians, appointed by their government, determine who wins the peace prize, perhaps the most revered award in the world.

These five prizes were the only ones given until 1968, when a prize for excellence in economics was added to the Nobel list. In addition to their responsibility for the physics and chemistry prizes, the Swedish Academy of Sciences selects the recipient of the economics prize.

The awards are handed out each year on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death. The ceremonies take place in both Oslo and Stockholm, where every winner receives a gold medal, a certificate, and cash ranging in amounts from \$30,000 to \$125,000. The Nobel Prize is the ultimate certificate of work toward a most admirable purpose—"the benefit of mankind".

Vocabulary

Swedish /'swi:diʃ / a. 瑞典人的,瑞典语的bachelor /'bætʃələ / n. 文理学士,单身汉dynamite /'dainəmait / n. 能产生不凡效果的人或物,炸药

explosive / iks'plausiv / n. 爆炸物,炸药 contribute /kən'tribiu:t/ v. 贡献,投稿,有助于 handmade / hænd'meid / 手写的,手制的 a. fortune / 'fo:t(en/ 命运,大量财产,财富 unofficial /ˈʌnəˈfiʃəl/ 非法定的, 非官方的, 非正式的 a. foundation /faun'dei[ən/ n. 建立,基础,基金会 board /boid/ 木板, 董事会 n. oversee / auva'si: / 检查, 监督, 监视 investment / in vestment / 投入,投资 n. original / əˈridʒənəl / 原版的,最初的,有独创性的 a. estate / i'steit / n. 阶层,不动产,财产 stock /stok/ 库存,股份,股票 n. security / si'kjuəriti / 抵押品, 保证金, 证券 n. establish /is'tæblif/ 确立, 创办, 成立 ν. vote /veut/ 选举,投票 ν . leading / li:din / a. 在前的, 主要的 physician / fi'zi∫ən / n. 内科医生, 医师 desire / di'zaiə / n. 欲望, 希望 instruct / in'strakt / v. 命令, 指导, 通知, 说明, 指示 / no:'wi:dʒən / Norwegian a.. 挪威的, 挪威人的 prominent / 'prominent / 突出的, 卓越的 a. appoint /a'point/ v. 指定,任命,委任 /di'tə:min/ v. determine 确定,决定,下决心 revere /ri'viə/ v. 崇敬,敬畏 recipient / ri'sipient / n. 接受者, 收信人 anniversary / ˌæni'və:səri / n. 周年纪念(日) 仪式,礼节,典礼 ceremony /'seriməni/ n. 执照,证(明)书 certificate /sə'tifikit/ n. ultimate /'Altimit/ 极限的,最后的 a. admirable / 'ædmərəbl / 值的赞美的,令人敬佩的 a. unmarked /'nn'ma:kt/ a. 无记号的,未被注意的 tragic /ˈtrædʒik/ a. 悲剧的, 悲惨的 tribute / 'tribju:t/ n. 页品, 礼物, 颂词 zono www.salasa comprise / kəm'praiz / ν. 由……组成,包含,构成 / tirt:cq' / tirtrog n. 肖像,画像

Notes

- 1. Nobel Prize: 诺贝尔奖金(1901年开始每年在诺贝尔逝世日 12月 10日颁发)
- 2. Alfred Nobel: (人名)阿尔弗雷特特·诺贝尔
- 3. Swedish Club of Paris: 瑞典的巴黎酒吧
- 4. Swedish Academy: 瑞典学院
- 5. Swedish Academy of Science: 瑞典科学院
- 6. Caroline Institute:卡罗琳学院

- 7. Sweden: 瑞典,位于斯堪的纳维亚半岛东部的北欧国家。
- 8. Norway: 挪威, 一北欧国家, 位于斯堪的纳维亚半岛西部。
- 9. In addition to their responsibility for the physics and chemistry prizes, the Swedish Academy of Sciences selects the recipient of the economics prize. 此句话中的 in addition to 意为"除…… 外(还),加于……之上"。
 - 例如: In addition to Bourgogne and Bordeaux, there are several other excellent wine-producing regions in France.

 The negotiations struck a snag when the union leaders asked for paid holidays in addition to the usual wage increase.
- 10. Oslo: 奥斯陆 (挪威的首都)
- 11. Stockholm: 斯德哥尔摩 (瑞典首都)
- 12. The ceremonies take place in both Oslo and Stockholm, where every winner receives a gold medal, a certificate, and cash ranging in amounts from \$30,000 to \$125,000. 此句话中的 range from ...to...意为"从……到……" (一般指一个范围)。例如: The children's ages range from 8 to 15.

Their salaries range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 each month.

Exercises

I. Complete each of the following sentences with words or expressions given, make changes where necessary (用所给的词或词组填空,如有必要作适当的改变):

with the purpose of choose to contribute to be consumed with sign over

vya v t	have difficulty (in) draw up as a result of be run by	not on C
1.	Home for asylum-seekers in Germany.	
	lealousy.	
3.	Let me the contract for your signature.	
	representing the interests of	f the weathing alone
5.	What if I getting the care I need?	i the working class.
0.	internet should key players.	
1.	be happy regardless of circumstances	
ð.	to others.	their future pension payments
9.	Risk behaviors unintentional injuries.	
10.	Scott failed the test not studying ahead of time.	

II. Translate the following sentences into Chinese (把下列句子译成汉语):

- 1. Alfred Nobel was a shy, quiet Swedish bachelor who set the world on fire with an important discovery. He invented dynamite.
- 2. He was consumed with guilt for having created such a deadly explosive. He chose to use his money to reward people who "contributed most materially to the benefit of mankind".
- 3. Despite the rather unofficial nature of the handmade will, the Nobel Foundation was formed with the purpose of seeing that Nobel's dream was realized.
- 4. Each year five prominent Norwegians, appointed by their government, determine who wins the peace prize, perhaps the most revered award in the world.
- 5. In addition to their responsibility for the physics and chemistry prizes, the Swedish Academy of Sciences selects the recipient of the economics prize.

Reading Passage II

Basketry: A Stone Age Craft

Basket making is a very ancient craft. Fragments of basketwork have been excavated from European Stone Age dwellings dated at about 9000 B.C. Early humans not only used basketry to make storage containers, but also as a building material, a framework for boats, for shields and armor, and for fish traps.

The materials employed for constructing baskets come from plants whose flexibility and durability allow them to be woven. In Europe, the customary materials for basket making are one- and two-year-old growths of hazel and willow and for "softer" basketry, straw is used. In Asia, the most commonly used materials are raffia, which is the shredded leaves of a tropical palm, and rattan, or cane, which is the long stem of a Southeast Asian palm. Timber may also be split and cut lengthwise to provide long, flat widths of basketry material. In Europe, the willow and hazel are used in this manner. Additionally, these materials and cane need to be soaked in water before use, to make them sufficiently malleable for weaving.

There are two major types of basketwork: that which is made by coiling and that which is woven. The softer natural materials are used for coiled baskets, while the stiffer natural materials are used for woven baskets.

Coiled basketry is rendered from long strips of fibrous materials which may be in the form of rods, but are commonly plaits, ropes, or simple bundles. The strip is coiled upon itself and fastened by stitching, or wrapping a separate strip around the coil. There are many different methods in which wrapping may be accomplished, the names of which are attributed to New World peoples, such as the Navajo of the Southwest, who are proficient in this kind of basketry. In Europe, coiled straw basketry was often used to construct beehives and floor mats.

Woven baskets may have a wooden base onto which are placed the upright rods to be woven, but usually two groups of rods are set at right angles and their centers intertwined to form the slath, or starting point. The rods are separated like the spokes of a wheel and further rods are spirally woven in and out around this slath. Once this base is adequately large and workable, the radial rods are bent upwards to form the sides of the basket, and weaving continues until the basket reaches the desired height.

Vocabulary

篓编织品, 篮筐, 编制工艺 basketry /ba:skitri/ / 'frægment / fragment 碎片, 片段, 部分 n. basketwork /'ba:skitwa:k/ n. 编织物 excavate / ekskeveit / v. 凿通,挖掘,开凿 dwelling / dwelin / 住处 storage / storid3 / n. 贮藏库,存储 framework / 'freimwə:k/ n. 框架,结构 / [i:ld/ 防护物,盾, / 'a:mə / armor 装甲, 盔甲 / fleksə biliti / 机动性, 适应性, 弹性 n. durability / djuərə biliti / 耐久力, 经久, 耐用年限 n. hazel / heizl / 淡褐色,榛子,榛木 n.

willow / wilau / n. 柳木制品,柳树 straw /stro:/ 麦秆,稻草 raffia / ræfie / 酒椰叶的纤维, 酒椰 n. shred /'[red/ ν. 切碎,撕碎 tropical / tropikl / 热情的,热带的 a. 手掌, 棕榈叶, 棕榈 palm /pa:m/ rattan /rəˈtæn/ 藤条,藤杖,藤 藤条, 手杖, 细长的茎 cane /kein/ n. timber / timbe / n. 木料,木材 /split/ 分裂,劈开,分离 split ν. lengthwise / 'len θ waiz / ad. 纵长地 width /wid0/ n. 广博,宽度 additionally / ə'difənəli / ad附加地,额外地,另外地 soak /sauk/ 浸透, 泡 malleable / mæliəbl/ a. 可锻的, 有延展性的 coil 卷, 盘绕 / koil / strip /strip/ n. 带,条 fibrous / faibres / a. 纤维性的,纤维的 plait / plæt / n. 辫子, 发辫 bundle 束, 包, 捆 n stitch /stitf/ 缝合,缝 v. beehive /'bi:haiv/ 蜂箱,蜂窝 n. intertwine / inte(:)'twain / (使)缠绕,(使)纠缠 篮底中心编织开始处 slath /slæA/ n. spoke /spauk/ 刹车,轮辐,辐条 spirally /'spaiereli/ ad. 刹车,轮辐,辐条 radial 放射状的, 半径的, 光线状的, 径向的 / reidial /

Notes

1. Stone Age: 石器时代,人类文化可知的最早时期,以使用石器为特征。

2. The materials employed for constructing baskets come from plants whose flexibility and durability allow them to be woven.

此句话中的 allow to 意为 "允许,准许"。

例如: Nobody is allowed to smoke here.

China's government will allow banks to lend bonds for the first time.

3. In Europe, the willow and hazel are used in this manner. 此句话中的 in this manner 意为"这样,用这种方式"。

例如: A vowel sound is changed in this manner.

Ridges or pleats are produced in this manner.

4. The softer natural materials are used for coiled baskets, while the stiffer natural materials are used for woven baskets.

此句话中的 be used for 意为"用于"。

例如: 40% efficient solar cells are used for solar electricity.

In theory, it could be used for some of the compliance tests; however, it is not

programmed to do that.

5. There are many different methods in which wrapping may be accomplished, the names of which are attributed to New World peoples.

此句话中的 be attributed to 意为"归于……"。

例如: His failure is attributed to his laziness.

Health is attributed to good nutrition and regular exercises.

be used for

- 6. Navajo: 纳瓦霍人(美国最大的印第安部落)
- 7. New World peoples, such as the Navajo of the Southwest, are proficient in this kind of basketry.

此句话中的 be proficient in 意为"熟练,精通"。

例如: He is proficient in management.

be attributed to

Please select a language you are proficient in apart from your native language.

in the form of be proficient in

Exercises

allow to

I. Complete each of the following sentences with words or expressions given, make changes where necessary (用所给的词或词组填空,如有必要作适当的改变):

	render	be excavated from	in this manner	come from	be accomplished
1.	Great id	deas the thi	ngs you pick up ald	ong the way.	
2.	The vol	lume of rock to	the Manhattan	Tunnel would:	fill an area.
3.	After re	eading this book, you	will writ	ing.	
4.	It is a h	otly debated topic too	lay whether college	students should	d get married.
5.	The gre	ease from pork can	frying.		
6.	His fatr	ness him ur	able to bend down	7 46 504	
		lt can him.			
8.	A new 1	hearing aid	a pair of glasses w	as unveiled last	week.
9.	Why is	the program operated	<u>- 的水色之</u> ? - 1144		
10). Lunar p	probe is to	in 13 years.		

II. Translate the following sentences into Chinese (把下列句子译成汉语):

- 1. Early humans not only used basketry to make storage containers, but also as a building material, a framework for boats, for shields and armor, and for fish traps.
- 2. The materials employed for constructing baskets come from plants whose flexibility and durability allow them to be woven.
- 3. Additionally, these materials and cane need to be soaked in water before use, to make them sufficiently malleable for weaving.
- 4. The strip is coiled upon itself and fastened by stitching, or wrapping a separate strip around the coil.
- 5. Once this base is adequately large and workable, the radial rods are bent upwards to form the sides of the basket, and weaving continues until the basket reaches the desired height.

Part 2

Reading Passage I

The Fortune in Hardwoods

People in the United States pride themselves on having beautiful, attractively furnished homes. The degree of warmth and beauty in our surroundings, provided by hardwoods, is a major factor in creating this pride.

The beauty of hardwoods is important enough for today's researchers to be looking ahead. In Nevada or Oklahoma, for example, trees are a bit scarce because of climate or soil. In the Pacific Northwest where softwoods are king, the seriousness of the problem facing our future generations may be dimmed. But in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, and many other states there is a serious problem.

Actually, there are two problems or situations. The first involves the need for educating owners of private timberlands to take better care of the nation's existing broad stands of hardwoods that cover most of our states in the northern, eastern, central, and southern regions. These trees can use a little attention. They respond to pruning, fertilization, and clearing just as corn, soybeans, and cabbage respond to plowing, cultivating, and fertilizing. And whereas the farmer gets pennies for a few plants of these crops, one good, valuable, hardwood tree can bring hundreds or thousands of dollars.

The day is gone when a person plants a hardwood grove as an investment for grandchildren. People seem to think that is old fashioned. It dates back to the era when a person was sure that a walnut seedling, for example, wouldn't be ripe for harvesting until the next century. From data secured by researchers, a 25-year-old farmer can now plant a walnut grove and start banking money when he's sixty. With controlled harvesting, there can be a fortune in valuable hardwoods.

The second problem concerns the desirability of putting more of our finer species into the ground, just to be sure of meeting demands for a far larger population five decades ahead. One very notable step forward in this direction is concerted action by one of the largest single groups in the United States—the bubbling, energetic army of more than five million Boy Scouts of America. A planned program for hardwood reforestation by the Scouts was first implemented during the late sixties. The program has continued through the years to include plantings of many important species on public lands, Scout lands, and private property in hardwood growing regions.

Replacing the hardwoods that are removed for industrial reasons is recognized as being important for environmental and future security.

Vocabulary

furnish / 'fə:nif / 装备,用(家具等)布置(房间、公寓等) hardwood 坚硬的木材,产坚硬木材的树 scarce /skees/ 缺乏的,不足的 softwood / softwud / 软材,针叶树材,针叶树 n. (使)变暗,(使)变模糊 involve / vlcv'ni / 包含,包有 ν. timberland / timbəlænd / 森林, 材地 n.

/ stænd / n. (被视作商品的)森林木材 stand 修剪(枝条等) prune /pru:n/ v. /fə:tilai'zei(ən/ n. 施肥 fertilization clear /klia/ v. 清除, 开拓, 开垦 小树林, 树从, 园林 grove / arəuv/ 胡桃, 胡桃树(木) walnut /'wo:lnet/ n. 树苗 seedling /'sixdlin/ n. investment / in'vestment / n. 投资,投入 /si'kiuə/ v. 把······弄到手,获得 secure desirability / di,zaiərə biləti / n. 称心,合意,值得想望 species /'spi:[iz/ n. 种类,种 商定的,一致的 concerted / kən'sə:tid / a. bubble /'babl/ v 沸腾,抑制不住地激动起来 scout / skaut / n. 童子军 reforestation / 'ri:fɔri'steiʃən/ n 重新造林 implement / 'impliment / ν ,贯彻完成。

Notes

- 1. where the softwood are king: 此处软材为最佳,这句中的 "king" 为"最佳者"之意
- 2. take better care of: 更好地照看或照管
- 3. the existing broad stands of hardwoods: 现存的广阔的硬木林。
- 4. These trees can use a little attention. 这些树木需要我们稍加注意一下。
- 6. It dates back to the era when ...: 这始于 ······ 的时代
- 7. meet the demands for: 满足……的要求, meet 为"满足"之意, 还可以说 meet the needs, meet the cost 等
- 8. five decades ahead: 未来(今后) 的 50 年
- 9. Boy Scouts of America: (美) 男童子军,为 the Scout Association 之成员。该组织以训练其成员性格和培训各种技能为目的。Girl Scouts 女童子军。

Understanding the Passage

- 1. The article implies that
 - a. hardwood groves are more profitable today than they once were.
 - b. conifers are more resistant to disease than hardwoods.
 - c. walnut trees grow rapidly.
- 2. The Boy Scouts of America is mentioned as
 - a. a group that improves recreational facilities.
 - b. one of the largest organizations in the United States.
 - c. a group that is learning technical skills.
- 3. According to the author, people who live in North Carolina are
 - a. concerned about dwindling supplies of hardwoods.
 - b. planting large groves of softwoods.
 - c. experimenting with new strains of walnut trees.

- 4. The author mentions cabbage as an example of a plant that
 - a. requires little care.
 - b. responds to cultivation.
 - c. can survive harsh weather.
- 5. The reader can infer that
 - a. hardwoods are worth more to us than softwoods.
 - b. softwoods can be grown in any type of soil.
 - c. walnut trees grown best in damp, cool climate.

Reading Passage II

What to Do with Solid Waste

We have all learned that we cannot go on using the resources of this planet as if they were infinite. We can no longer deal with environmental problems as if they were simple, isolated problems. The solution is not outside the 'broad social, political, and economic framework that they are a part of.

Solid waste management is a root environmental issue and illustrates that we must change many of our common attitudes and habits. We must work to adapt our institutions, both public and private, to the problems and opportunities of solid waste, of resource recovery, and of misuse of our national resources.

The broad front on which we fight the solid waste battle today is a fluid one. And we can hardly make a move without being beset by a loud roar of claims and counterclaims about precisely what we should do and shouldn't do to win it.

Characteristic of our society, when a problem has been discovered, we feel it should be solved at once in a simple and direct way. If this fails, we despair of its being solvable at all. This is no doubt part of what has been termed our frontier mentality. It is due, in part, to this mentality that the first wave of public awareness of the environmental crisis hit before we had even begun to take the first small steps toward proper disposal of the ever-growing solid waste of our high-production, high-consumption society. A thoroughly urbanized people, we were acting as if all we had to do was to throw away our ugly discards, whatever their nature, into a pile somewhere preferably, out of our immediate sight.

The frontier solution to the urban solid waste problem was the open dump. Aesthetically offensive, creating rodent and insect problems, wasteful of land, contributing often to air and water pollution, open dumps had little to recommend them. Dumping was cheap, quick, and dirty. We were proud to regard ours as the most sophisticated society in the world when it came to exploiting raw resources, processing them, manufacturing them into goods, and transporting and distributing them with great speed. But we had given almost no thought at all to closing the city dump. Suddenly, we were told that the ecological circle had to be closed throughout the world. Cheap, quick, and dirty intrusions into the environment had to cease, unless humans were to perish.