

Grasp New Concept English with  
Famous English & British Newspapers

# 跟英美名刊

学透

# 新概念英语

(第三册)

考天下名师团 编

格林 主编



中国石化出版社

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教·育·出·版·中·心

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# 前 言

在教学实践中,作者体会到阅读英语报刊文章是学生提高英语阅读能力和了解外界信息的重要手段。很多学生由于语言水平的局限,习惯于逐字逐句的阅读,注意力通常集中在词和句上,尤其是那些自己不认识的词上。这也就是为什么他们往往总觉得词汇量小,读不懂,不知作者所云。而有些英语学习者则是在掌握一定的词汇和基本语法之后,总是希望能够尽快独立阅读英语报刊,想验证自己的英语语言能力是否能够达到独立“放飞”的程度。

人类祖先发明的语言是人类交流和传递知识的工具,不是光用来考试的。换句话说,以考试为目的的英语学习很难学好英语。事实证明,一个善于使用英语的人,应付各种考试的能力也自然要强得多。在我们这样一个汉语占主导地位的语言环境里,要想学好英语,最简便易行而又经济实用的一个方法就是阅读。阅读可以提高多方面的素养,提高听、说、读、写、译等多方面的能力,可以学习多方面的知识,可以非常有效地复习、巩固所学语言知识点。阅读在给人们带来快感的同时,从根本上提高了读者的语言感受力。

事实证明,“英语报刊”不但能使学生获得最新信息和增长知识,而且也是提高英语水平,尽快掌握英语最新词汇最见效的途径之一。《跟英美名刊学透新概念英语》与国内现有的英语报刊图书相比有以下特点。

1. 突破了同类书籍在题材和体裁方面的狭隘性。本书的编写重点以阅读和讨论为主要目的,旨在拓宽学生知识面,提高学生分析问题和判断是非的能力,扩大信息的交流。

2. 词汇注解详尽,阅读词汇双赢。本书对每一篇选文中的生词、重点词汇进行说明,让学生在阅读的过程中学习和记忆单词。

3. 背景材料简明扼要,尽量反映各专题的历史、文化背景。

4. 附有长难句注释,便于学生理解文章。

5. 选材新颖广泛,尽显时文本色。本书所选文段均来自英美名刊的最新刊载,使读者在洞悉世界最新动态的同时,体验学习英语的价值所在。

《跟英美名刊学透新概念英语》适合社会上不同层次英语学习者选择阅读。我们真心地希望读者朋友通过本套书的学习,逐步进入英语语境的阅读,提高英语实力。

由于时间仓促,书中不妥之处在所难免,敬请广大读者不吝批评指正。

编 者

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## Lesson 1

# Protect the African elephant

## 保护非洲象

非洲象是陆地上体形最大的哺乳动物。历史上,非洲象居住在撒哈拉沙漠以南的地区,由于人类侵犯和家业用地不断扩张,非洲象的栖息地仅限于国家公园和保护区的森林、矮树丛和稀树大草原。20世纪70年代初,因为象牙,无数的非洲大象被无辜杀害。联合国《濒危物种国际贸易公约》执行机构曾在1989年全面禁止了涉及大象的国际贸易。自禁令实施以来,象牙走私价格迅速上涨,大大刺激了国际非法象牙贸易,引发了对非洲的新一轮捕猎。为了保护濒危大象,肯尼亚等国曾呼吁对象牙贸易实施20年的禁令,遏制象牙非法交易,严惩偷猎行为,防止非洲象灭绝。但是在野生动物管理不太健全的国家,仍然存在为黑市盗猎的现象。

Africa's elephants are divided between the grasslands of eastern and southern Africa and the forests of central Africa. Some biologists **reckon**<sup>①</sup> the forest ones—smaller, with shorter, straighter tusks—may even constitute a distinct species. But not for long, at the latest rate of stealing. The high price of ivory is increasing the **incentive**<sup>②</sup> to kill elephants everywhere in Africa, and especially in places where there is virtually no law.

The latest reports suggest that the forest elephant population is collapsing on the back of rising Asian demand for ivory. Some conservationists argue that a recent decision by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to auction 108 tons of stock-piled ivory from southern Africa may be prompting more stealing in central and eastern Africa, as criminals seek to mix illicit ivory in with the **legitimate**<sup>③</sup> kind. But some economists maintain that the legitimate

非洲的大象分布于非洲东部与南部的草原以及非洲中部的森林地带。森林象体形较小,象牙较短较直,因此某些生物学家认为它们甚至可以组成一个独特的种群。但是如果按照最近的猎杀象的速度,这个种群过不了多久就将不复存在了。象牙高昂的价格不断地刺激着人们在非洲到处猎杀大象,特别是在几乎不存在任何法律的地方。

最新的报告表明,由于亚洲对象牙的需求回升,使得非洲森林象的数量急剧下降。濒危物种国际贸易公约(CITES)最近决定拍卖108吨来自非洲南部的库存象牙,某些自然资源保护论者认为这可能会引发非洲中部和东部的更多偷猎行为,因为犯罪分子将企图把非法象牙混入合法象牙中携带入境。但是是一些经济学家坚持认为,象牙的合法出售会降低象牙的价格,从而减少对偷猎行为的刺激,而之前对象牙销售的研究也表明这一做法并未导致更密集的偷猎。

① **reckon** ['rekəniŋ] *vt.* 认为,猜想

② **incentive** [in'sentiv] *n.* 诱因,动机

③ **legitimate** [li'dʒitimit] *a.* 合法的



sale of ivory lowers prices, thus decreasing the incentive to steal. A study of a previous sale of ivory suggested it did not lead to more intensive stealing.

Either way, the Congo basin is “haemorrhaging elephants”, says TRAFFIC, which monitors trade in wildlife. The head of the 790,000-hectare<sup>④</sup> Virunga National Park in eastern Congo, Emmanuel de Merode, reports that 24 elephants have been stealed in his park so far this year. The situation is dire<sup>⑤</sup>: 2,900 elephants roamed Virunga when Congo became independent in 1960, 400 in 2006, and fewer than 200 today. Most have been stealed by militias, particularly Hutu rebels from Rwanda who hack off the ivory and sell it to middlemen in Kinshasa, Congo’s capital, who then smuggle it to Asian countries.

Once ivory has left its country of origin, and if it is seized by customs officials, it can be hard to identify its source and those responsible for acquiring it. But forensic<sup>⑥</sup> help may be at hand. Scientists from the University of Washington are using genetic markers in elephant dung to identify exactly where ivory has been stealed. This should help governments in countries such as Tanzania and Zambia, which are capable of catching stealers, but not in anarchic<sup>⑦</sup> eastern Congo, where 120-odd rangers have been killed in Virunga in recent years trying to protect elephants and gorillas.

With an influx of businessmen and other officials from Asian countries engaged in infrastructure projects such as road building and logging, the slaughter is expected to accelerate<sup>⑧</sup>. Forest elephants may survive in

国际野生动物贸易研究组织(TRAFFIC)一直在监测野生生物的贸易,他们认为无论以哪方式,在刚果盆地,“大象都血流成河”。Virunga 国家公园位于刚果东部,面积达 79 万公顷,据其负责人艾曼·德·莫瑞德报告,今年以来在该公园内就已经有 24 头大象被偷猎。形势非常紧急,1960 年刚果独立之时在 Virunga 国家内共有 2900 头大象,到了 2006 年只剩下了 400 头,而现在只有不到 200 头。大部分大象都是被民兵偷猎的,特别是来自卢旺达的胡图族叛乱分子,他们砍下象牙后出售给金沙萨(刚果的首都)的中间商,再由中间商把象牙走私到亚洲国家。

一旦象牙离开其原产国,即使被海关查获,也难以确定其产地以及找出那些对此有需求的人。不过这个可能很快就可以得到法证方面的协助。华盛顿大学的科学家正在利用大象粪便中的遗传标记以确定象牙的具体偷猎之处。这应该会有助于坦桑尼亚和赞比亚等国的政府抓捕偷猎者,但是对于处于无政府状态的刚果东部地区,这么做仍然是无济于事的。最近几年,在这一地区的 Virunga 国家公园已经有 120 多位护林员为了保护大象和猩猩而被杀害。

随着从事道路建设和伐木等基础设施项目的亚洲商人和其它官员的大量涌入,预计对大象的猎杀将会加速。森林象要想大批量地存活,它们只能生活在刚果盆地的边远保护区内,例如位于刚果布拉扎维的欧得

④ hectare [ˈhektɑ:(r)] *n.* 公顷

⑤ dire [ˈdaɪə(r)] *a.* 急迫的,可怕的

⑥ forensic [fəˈrensɪk] *a.* 法医的,法庭的

⑦ anarchic [æˈnɑ:kɪk] *a.* 无政府状态的

⑧ accelerate [əkˈseləreɪtər] *vi.* 加速

large numbers only in remote protected pockets of the Congo basin, such as the Odzala-Koukua National park in Congo-Brazzaville and Minkebe National Park in north-east Gabon.

扎拉——可可尹阿国家公园和位于加蓬东北部的冈克比国家公园。

## 长难句

1. Some conservationists argue that a recent decision by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to auction 108 tons of stockpiled ivory from southern Africa may be prompting more stealing in central and eastern Africa, as criminals seek to mix illicit ivory in with the legitimate kind.

**解析:** 该句主干为 Some conservationists argue that...; 句中 that 引导一个宾语从句, 该宾语从句的结构为 a recent decision... may be prompting more stealing...; 其中 by... to auction... ivory from southern Africa 作为后置定语修饰 decision; as 引导的是原因状语从句, 其主干结构为 criminals seek to...。

2. This should help governments in countries such as Tanzania and Zambia, which are capable of catching stealers, but not in anarchic eastern Congo, where 120-odd rangers have been killed in Virunga in recent years trying to protect elephants and gorillas.

**解析:** 该句主干为 This should help governments..., 其后的 in countries such as..., but not in... 是两个并列的介词短语做定语修饰 governments, 而这两个介词短语之后都分别接有定语从句。第一个从句 which are capable of... 是由关系代词 which 引导的定语从句, 修饰前面的 countries; 第二个从句是 where 引导的定语从句, 其结构为... rangers have been killed..., 其中 trying to... 是现在分词短语充当原因状语。

## Lesson 2

# Too much of a good thing?

# 电视传媒过多是好的吗?

本文的中心是电视传媒对于人类生活产生的负面影响。特别是作者关于媒体目前新的业务收入增长点——儿童电视节目的评论,可谓切中时弊。其介绍和分析对于正处在经济高速增长中的中国,以及中国传媒业的健康发展,都不无启发。总之,电视、互联网、电子游戏,这些与少年儿童成长过程紧密相关的事物,带给孩子父母和整个社会的思考太多、太多。我们的政府、企业、我们的儿童家长,应该主动对这些问题加以思考,而不能等到问题成山以后再去“亡羊补牢”,尤其是我国还面临着独生子女所带来的特殊国情。

“Broaden their minds”, says a new advert for BSkyB, a satellite-TV company in Britain, which hopes that appealing to parents this Christmas will help sell its **packages**<sup>①</sup> of over 200 channels, 21 of which are devoted to children. There has never been so much television for kids. Part of the reason is that serving the very young is an especially lucrative and fast-growing business for Disney, Viacom and Time Warner, three big media **conglomerates**<sup>②</sup>. Equally, children's TV has never been so controversial. Parents increasingly fear that, far from broadening their darlings' horizons, watching television may lead to attention-deficit disorder and obesity.

The great thing about children's TV from a money-making point of view is that it generates three kinds of income. Like adult programming, there is advertising revenue, and pay-television operators pay fees. But children's TV offers the extra possibility of riches from merchandising. Thanks to “Sponge-Bob SquarePants”, for instance, a show about a sponge at the bottom of the ocean, Nick-

“开拓他们的心志”,英国一家名为BSkyB的卫星电视公司的一则新广告这么说。这家公司希望在今年圣诞节通过影响家长以促销该公司的几套涉及200多个频道的节目,其中有21个是专门为儿童制作的。孩子们从来没有过这么多的电视节目。这其中的部分原因是,为年幼者服务对于世界三个传媒巨头——迪斯尼公司、维亚康姆公司和时代华纳公司来说,是一项利润丰厚并快速增长的业务。同样,儿童电视节目从来没有像今天这样如此引发争议。家长们越来越担心,看电视非但不能拓宽自己心肝宝贝儿的视野,还可能导致孩子注意力不足症和肥胖症。

从赚钱的角度来评价儿童电视节目,最重要的是这些节目创造出3种收入。与成人节目一样,儿童节目能带来广告收入,而且付费电视用户还需缴费。不过,儿童电视节目提供了另一种可能,即通过销售商品可以赚大钱。比如说,多亏了“棉球方块历险记”这个电视节目(关于海洋底下一块海绵的节目),维亚康姆下属的尼克克隆顿公司发现自己处于一个令人羡慕的位置。它制作

① **package** [ˈpækɪdʒ] *n.* (一并出售的)整套电视节目

② **conglomerate** [kənˈglɒməreɪt] *n.* 联合大企业

elodeon, a division of Viacom, finds itself in the enviable position of earning a fortune from a TV show and now a movie which are themselves in effect advertisements for a hugely profitable range of consumer products.

Last year Nickelodeon's consumer-products division brought in sales of \$3 billion, up by one-fifth from 2002—by far the fastest-growing bit of Viacom, which also has a movie studio, a broadcast network and a radio business. This summer, analysts at a presentation by Time Warner, the world's biggest media firm, were surprised to discover that is Cartoon Network had made more money in 2003 than CNN, its cable-news business. Eyeing their success, this month the BBC said that it is thinking of launching new international pay-TV channels for children.

Children in developed countries have more access to money than ever before. Children used to be (supposedly) seen, but not heard. Parents have become less strict and children have become part of their lifestyle image, meaning they are more likely to spend money on them, says *Ynon Kreiz*, former boss of Fox Kids Europe (now owned by Disney). Advertisers know that children are a way to reach adults, too. "You'd be amazed how much influence a 10-11-year-old boy has on buying the family car," says Jason Maltby of MindShare, WPP's media-buying unit.

Strategically, too, children's TV has advantages over the adult sort. While grown-up TV is increasingly having to vie for attention with video games, the internet and mobile phones, children aged eight and under are still a fairly captive audience for television. And making children's programmes is an excellent way to tap international markets. Animation and simple plots travel far better than adult fare, and localising it with voiceovers is

了一个电视节目,随后又把它拍成电影而发了大财。该电视节目和随后的电影本身其实都是为一系列可带来巨大利润的消费品所作的广告。

去年,尼克克隆顿下属的消费品部销售额达30亿美元,比2002年增长了1/5。这是维亚康姆公司增长最快的业务领域。维亚康姆公司还拥有电影制片厂、一个广播网和一家无线电广播公司。今年夏天,在一次由全球最大的传媒公司时代华纳主持的推介活动中,分析人士惊奇地发现,2003年时代华纳的卡通电视网比美国有线新闻网的有线新闻业务赢利更多。目睹了别人的成功,在本月,英国广播公司对外宣布它正考虑推出新的国际付费儿童电视频道。

发达国家的儿童比以往任何时候都更容易接触到钱。以往,儿童们大概只是父母眼中的小孩,他们的意见并不被家长所接受。父母们现在已经变得不如以往那么严厉,儿童们也成为父母生活方式的部分形象。也就是说,父母们更可能在孩子们身上花钱。欧洲福克斯儿童频道(现由迪斯尼公司所有)前任老板这样告诉我们。广告商们同样知道,通过儿童可以影响成人。“一个10或11岁的男孩对购买家用轿车产生多大的影响,可能会令你惊讶”传力媒体(WPP公司的媒体采购部)的贾森·莫尔特比说道。

从战略上讲,儿童电视节目也比成人类电视节目具有优势。虽然成人电视节目不得不越来越倾向与电子游戏、互联网和移动电话争夺人们的眼球,但是8岁及以下的儿童仍然是相当受限于电视的观众。另外,制作儿童电视只是开发国际市场的一个绝佳途径。动画片和简单的剧情要比成人节目行销得更好,而且用画外音使电视节目本地化十分便宜。好莱坞制作的成人节目在欧洲和其他地方已经不如从前流行,因为观

cheap. Hollywood made adult shows have become less popular in Europe and elsewhere, because viewers want local programmes. No such shift has occurred in the international market for children's programming. Disney, Nickel-odeon and Cartoon Network will continue to dominate.

A headache for the business, on the other hand, is "age compression": kids are growing up faster than they used to. When "Sesame Street" started 35 years ago it was watched by five and six-year-olds. Now three and four-year olds make up most of its audience. Older children increasingly prefer grown-up reality television, MTV (a music channel also owned by Viacom), and video games.

#### Getting older, faster

The response from programmers, says Michael Wolf, head of McKinsey's global media and entertainment practice, has been to follow children as they grow up faster, with edgier programmes that children "get" but their parents don't necessarily. Nickel-odeon, for instance, regards, children, not their parents, as the customer. Its programming is often mildly subversive, says Rober Thompson, director of the Centre for the Study of Popular Television (really) at Syracuse University.

Disney, on the other hand, continues to make children's shows that embrace the whole family, not just for kids as independent agents. "It's a big brand difference between us and Nickelodeon," says Rich Ross, head of the Disney Channel Worldwide, "you can empower kids without disempowering families." That approach is a big advantage, he says, as the Disney channel expands overseas—this month it will launch in India. Children in America and Britain think of themselves as independent, but in Latin America, continental Europe and Asia, says Mr Ross, families expect to be more involved in their lives.

众想看本地的节目。这种转变在国际儿童节目市场还尚未发生过。迪斯尼、尼克克隆顿和卡通电视网三大公司还将继续主宰这一市场。

但另一方面,这一行业的难题是所谓的“年龄压缩”——即孩子们比过去成长得更快。当《芝麻街》在35年前播出的时候,其观众是五、六岁的孩子。而今天,观众主要是三、四岁的孩子。年纪稍大的孩子越来越倾向于选择成人类纪实性电视节目、音乐电视(也是由维康姆拥有的一个音乐频道),以及电子游戏。

#### 儿童们成长得更快

麦肯锡公司的全球媒体和娱乐业务主管迈克尔·沃尔夫说,来自节目制作商的反应是这样的,由于儿童成长得更快,所以制作商就用儿童们可以“理解的”更时髦的电视节目伴随他们成长,而儿童的父母们却并不一定明白这些节目。比如说,尼克克隆顿公司就将儿童(而不是他们的父母)看作是自己的顾客。位于锡拉丘兹大学的大众电视研究中心主任罗伯特·汤普森说,这类电视节目经常都带有那么点儿颠覆性。

另一方面,迪斯尼公司继续制作可以迎合全家人的儿童电视节目,而不是仅仅把孩子当成孤立的消费动力。迪斯尼全球频道主任里奇·罗斯说:“这就是我们与尼克克隆顿公司品牌上一个巨大的差别,”“你可以给孩子们权力,同时又不剥夺家庭的权力。”他说,迪斯尼公司的这个频道正在向海外不断扩张,这一方法颇具优势——本月它将在印度开播。罗斯先生说,美国和英国的儿童自视独立,而在拉丁美洲、欧洲大陆和亚洲,多数家庭都希望能更多地参与到儿童的生活中去。

Another response to age compression has been to segment children's TV more precisely. That way, a six-year-old, say, gets programming designed specifically for a six-year-old and does not have to make do with stuff that four-year-olds like too. People in the children's TV business expect the market to fragment still further.

As older children move on sooner from kids' television, programmers are aiming still younger. Babies, apparently, are currently badly underserved by the media industry. An American mother spotted the gap in the market: Julie Clark, a new-ageish high school art and English teacher from the suburbs of Denver, started making videos set to classical music for her new baby. First, all her friends wanted them too. Then she made a deal with a toy store to sell her "Baby Einstein" products. Finally, Disney spotted her success, bought her company and expanded its turnover from \$ 25m to \$ 165m this year.

Mr Kreiz, the former Fox Kids executive, is considering launching another suite of media products for babies and preschoolers next year. He may begin with a series of DVDs and videos, and later, perhaps, start a new TV channel for babies. His aim is to make shows that are more educational than Baby Einstein.

As the quantity of children's TV has grown, so have parental worries about it, especially in American and Britain. Baby Einstein is jokingly referred to as "baby crack": it entertains babies and stops them crying, but is it safe at such a formative stage? An article this year in *Pediatrics*, a journal, said that watching TV increases the risk of attention problems. Food adverts on TV are also being blamed for obesity. In Britain, says one TV executive, the government is leaning towards banning food ads at certain times of the day.

针对年龄压缩问题的另一个反应是把儿童电视节目更加细分。这样一来,比如说,一个6岁的孩子就得到专门为6岁孩子设计的电视节目,而不必凑合着看4岁孩子也喜欢看的节目。儿童电视节目的从业者希望这个市场能够进一步细化。

因为年纪稍大的孩子更早期地从儿童的电视节目分离出来,电视节目制作商正在瞄准更小的观众。显然,目前传媒产业对婴儿提供的服务严重不足。一位美国母亲发现了市场上的这一空缺:丹佛市郊的一位新派中学艺术和英语老师牛莉·克拉克已经开始为她的新生婴儿制作有古典音乐伴奏的带。开始的时候,她的所有朋友也都想要这些东西。后来,她与一家玩具商店谈妥由该店来销售她的“小小爱因斯坦”产品。到最后,迪斯尼公司发现她很成功,随即购买了她的公司并在今年将其营业额从2500万美元扩大到1.65亿美元。

福克斯儿童频道前任总经理克赖兹先生目前正在考虑明年为婴儿和学龄前儿童制作另一个系列传媒产品。他可能先制作一系列DVD和录像制品,然后他也许会开播一个针对婴儿的新频道。他的目标是制作比“小小爱因斯坦”更包含寓教内容的电视节目。

伴随着儿童电视节目数量的增加,父母对于这类节目的担忧也随之增加,特别是在美国和英国。“小小爱因斯坦”被人揶揄为“幼儿玩笑”:它为婴儿提供娱乐并使他们停止哭闹,不过在婴儿期这一如此重要的成长阶段这是否安全呢?今年,《儿科学》杂志上有一篇文章指出,看电视增加了儿童注意力方面的各种问题。电视上的食品广告同样受到指责,有人说它们导致了肥胖症。有一位电视节目总经理说,在英国,政府正倾向于在一天中的某个时段禁播食品广告。

That would hurt revenues, so programmers are taking the threat seriously. In America, Nickelodeon pulled itself off the air for three hours in October as a way to get its viewers to go outside and play. All three big firms are now making shows that promote physical activity. But the rapid growth of programming for children is likely to continue. However much parents worry about its effects, they depend on the telly to give them a break from managing their kids. And at least SpongeBob SquarePants, Phil Diffy from Disney's "Phil of the Future" and Cartoon Network's Atomic Betty are more innocent companions for their children than the sexy, violent characters that adults are addicted to.

这将损害传媒企业的收入,因此节目制作商们正在开始严肃地对待这一威胁。在美国,尼克隆倾公司在10月份里每天停播3小时,以便让其观众到户外去玩耍。三大传媒公司目前都开始制作宣传体育活动的电视节目。但是儿童电视节目的迅速增长很可能要继续下去。不管父母多么担忧电视节目的危害,他们都依赖于电视机来使自己从照看孩子的劳累中得到短暂的解脱。而且,与成人爱看的性感暴力的人物相比,像“棉球方块历险记”、迪斯尼公司的“未来的菲尔”节目中的若尔·迪菲和卡通电视网里的 Atomic Betty 这些人物则是孩子们更纯真的伴侣。

长难句

1. This summer, analysts at a presentation by Time Warner, the world's biggest media firm, were surprised to discover that is Cartoon Network had made more money in 2003 than CNN, its cablenews business.

解析:该句主干为 analysts were surprised to discover that... 意为分析人士惊奇地发现了……,that 引导宾语从句,解释发现的内容。主语部分中,at a presentation by Time Warner 为介词短语作定语修饰 analysts.

2. The response from programmers, says Michael Wolf, head of McKinsey's global media and entertainment practice, has been to follow children as they grow up faster, with edgier programmes that children "get" but their parents don't necessarily.

解析:The response... has been to follow children 作句子主干。as 引导原因状语从句,“as they grow up faster”意为由于孩子们长得更快,而同时父母却不一定明白这些节目,由 with 引导的状语从句表示。

## Lesson 3

# Researchers lift obelisk with kite to test theory on ancient pyramids

## 用风筝运石头? —— 金字塔的另一奇迹

这一篇是关于讨论埃及人是否用风筝来运送金字塔巨石的。先是一位研究埃及壁画的科学家发现有大鸟的图案,进而猜测是风筝,可能被用来运石头;然后另一位物理学家和他的学生(好像是)通过做实验发现风筝运石头可行,但是需要风力条件等;最后说埃及人对飞行很有研究,得到结论。

Palmdale California—When people think about the building of the Egyptian pyramids, they probably have a mental image of thousands of slaves laboriously<sup>①</sup> rolling massive stone blocks into place with logs and levers. But one Caltech aeronautics<sup>②</sup> professor has set out to demonstrate that the task could have been accomplished by several people using a kite to move the heavy stones.

On June 23, Mory Gharib and his team raised a 6,900-pound (3132.6 kg), 15-foot (3.0 m) obelisk<sup>③</sup> into vertical position in the desert near palmdale by using only a kite, a pulley<sup>④</sup> system, and a support frame. Although the blustery<sup>⑤</sup> winds were gusting up to 22 miles (35.4 km) per hour, the team set the obelisk upright on their second attempt.

“It actually lifted up the kite flyer, Eric May, so we had to kill the kite quickly,” said Gharib. “But we finished it off the second time.”

当人们联想到埃及金字塔的建造时,他们脑海中可能会出现这样的景象:成千上万个奴隶用圆木和杠杆艰难地将硕大的石头滚送到目的地。但是加州理工学院的一位航空学教授已经开始着手证明,这项工程可能是由几个人驾驭一只风筝来完成运送沉重石材任务的。

6月23日,在帕尔姆达尔附近的一个沙漠里,莫里·加利布及其研究组仅仅使用了一个风筝、一套滑轮系统以及一副支架,便把一块重6,900磅(3132.6千克),高15英尺(3.0米)的方尖石塔提起放到指定位置的垂直上方。虽然猛烈的狂风大作,风速达到了每小时22英里(35.4千米),莫里·加利布团队还是在第二次试验中把石塔摆放到了垂直位置。

加利布说:“事实上,第一次试验的时候,风筝将风筝手艾瑞克·梅带飞了起来,所以我们必须迅速地将风筝降落,但是我们在第二次时圆满地完成了任务。”

① laboriously [iə'boriəsli] adv. 辛苦地,费力气地

② aeronautics [æə'nɔ:tiks] n. 航空学,飞行术

③ obelisk ['ɒbəlɪsk] n. 方尖石塔

④ pulley ['pʊli] n. 滑轮,滑车

⑤ blustery ['blʌstəri] adj. 狂暴的,汹涌的



Emilio Castano Craff, a Caltech undergraduate who tackled the problem under the **sponsorship**<sup>⑥</sup> of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program, was also pleased with the results. "The wind wasn't that great, but basically we're happy with it," he said.

Despite the lack of a steady breeze, the team raised the obelisk in about 25 seconds—so quickly that the concrete-and-rebar object was lifted off the ground and swung free for a few seconds. Once the motion had **stabilized**<sup>⑦</sup>, the team lowered the obelisk into an upright position.

The next step is to build a bigger obelisk to demonstrate that even the **mammoth**<sup>⑧</sup> 300-ton monuments of ancient Egypt—not to mention the far less massive building blocks of Egypt's 90-odd pyramids—could have been raised with a **fraction**<sup>⑨</sup> of the effort that modern researchers have assumed.

Gharib has been working on the project since local business consultant Maureen Clemmons contacted him and his Caltech aeronautics colleagues two years ago. Clemmons had seen a picture in *Smithsonian* magazine in 1997 of an obelisk being raised, and came up with the idea that the ancient Egyptian builders could have used kites to accomplish the task more easily. All she needed was an aeronautics expert with the proper credentials to field-test her theory.

Clemmons' kite theory was a major departure from **conventional**<sup>⑩</sup> thinking, which holds that thousands of slaves used little more than brute force and obelisks in place. No one

加州理工学院大学生艾米罗·卡斯塔诺·格拉夫在夏季大学生研究奖学金的资助下,参与了这项研究。他也对这样的结果感到满意。他说:“虽然风没有预想的那么大,但是我们对它的表现基本上是满意的。”

尽管缺乏稳定的风流,该研究组还是在25秒内把石塔抬了起来——以如此之快的速度将钢筋混凝土浇灌的石塔抬离了地面,以至于石塔在被搬离地面后自由摆动了数秒。一旦石塔的运动稳定下来,研究人员便把它降到了指定的位置的垂直上方。

下一步是建造一个更大的石塔,来证明即使是古埃及纪念碑那样一个重达300吨的庞然大物——更不用说埃及90座奇特的金字塔所用的是小得多的石块了——都能够按现代研究者设想的那样,不费吹灰之力就被搬动起来。

2年前,自从当地的商业顾问莫莉恩·克莱门斯主动联系加利布和他在加利福尼亚理工学院的航空学同事们后,加利布就一直致力于此项目的研究。克莱门斯在1997年的《史密斯桑尼》杂志上看到一张抬起石塔及建筑者可能是使用了风筝来更轻易地完成搬运的任务。她所需要的就是找一位优秀的航空学专家对她的理论进行实地演习。

克莱门斯的风筝理论与传统观点有很大的区别。传统观点认为,把石材和石塔运送到合适的位置是依靠成千上万的奴隶的

⑥ **sponsorship** ['spɒnsəʃɪp] *n.* 赞助,资助

⑦ **stabilize** ['steɪbilaɪz] *vt.* 使稳定,使稳固

⑧ **mammoth** ['mæməθ] *n.* 庞然大物

⑨ **fraction** ['fræksjən] *n.* 小部分,些微

⑩ **conventional** [kən'venʃənəl] *adj.* 传统的,常见的