

# "DO YOU KNOW?"

系列读物之五

*Different Cultures*

## 异域文化

——英语学习文化背景知识

赵群主编

邱明娟 王来喜 副主编



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## 内容提要

本书为“DO YOU KNOW?”系列读物之五,全书共 57 篇。内容紧密结合 *Senior English for China* 新教材所涉及到的文化背景知识,如:西方节日、奥运会、西方新闻媒体、美国总统选举、美国妇女、乡村音乐歌手约翰·丹佛、世界各地饮食习惯、现代农业、计算机的发展等等。选材广泛,文章短小精悍,针对性、实用性、知识性强,可作为教师授课时的教学参考资料和学生的补充读物。

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• 系列读物之五 •

## 前 言

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语言是信息的载体,也是文化的载体。学外语不仅要学习语言形式,也要学习文化,要全面深刻地了解英语国家的风俗习惯、人文地理、历史政治等诸方面的文化背景知识。在当今改革开放的新形势下,无论是学生还是教师都迫切地需要这方面的知识,以提高跨文化交际的能力。

本书主要对英语国家的文化背景知识加以介绍。文章后面附有单词、短语注释,并安排了判断正误、多项选择、填充、问答题等多种阅读理解练习,书后附有答案便于学习者自学自测。

本书可供高年级中学生和低年级大学生阅读,帮助增加词汇量,拓宽知识面,提高自身的英语素质。本书亦为广大英语教师提供了大量教学参考资料,是教师教学的好助手。

本书由南京晓庄学院外语系赵群、邱明娟、王来喜、朱红英和南京师范大学附属中学陈理编写。

限于编者的经验和水平,书中不足之处,欢迎读者批评指正。

编者

2002 年 6 月



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### **Key to Each Passage**

## **1** **Thanksgiving**    感恩节

In 1620 a group of English people, who were unhappy with the way that Church of English was organized, set sail from Plymouth on a ship called the Mayflower. They wanted to find a new church in America.

After six weeks at sea, the Pilgrims landed at what is now Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, in 1620. They had a hard winter and nearly half of them died. But the local Indians provided seeds for the corn, which the Europeans had never seen before. They also helped the English settlers to hunt and fish.

Fortunately the first year's harvest was good. The Pilgrims wanted to thank both God and also the Indians. So the governor declared a feast and invited the Indians to join in. About ninety Indians brought along fish, deer meat, turkey and pumpkin. The Indians taught the Pilgrims how to crush corn and make it into hot cornmeal bread. They feasted with English settlers for three days. The next year no Thanksgiving celebrations were held, and it didn't become an annual event until the 1780s. Thanksgiving became a national holiday due to the author of 'Mary had a little lamb', Sarah Joseph Hale, who began her campaign in 1846. George Washington had proclaimed a national Thanksgiving pay to honor the new Constitution, and Hale proposed calling it Union Thanksgiving, as she hoped the states would thus be brought into closer union. Anyway,

She won the support of Lincoln, who chose 6 August as the date, though the following year Thanksgiving was proclaimed a national holiday on the last Thursday of November. But Roosevelt felt that it was a bit too close to Christmas, so in 1939 Thanksgiving was held on the third Thursday. Finally in 1941 a joint resolution in Congress established it once and for all on the fourth Thursday.

Today, Americans celebrate this happy harvest festival in the fourth Thursday of November with much the same food as had been eaten at the first thanksgiving.

### New Words

Plymouth ['pliməθ] n. 普里茅斯 (英格兰西南部一城市)

Mayflower ['meɪflaʊə] n. 五月花 (船名)

Pilgrim ['pilgrim] n. 1620 年移居美洲建立普里茅斯殖民地的英国清教徒

Massachusetts [ˌmæsətʃʊ:sɪts] n. 马萨诸塞州 (美国东部的州)

fortunately ['fɔ:tʃənɪtli] adv. 幸运地, 吉利地

Indian ['ɪndiən] n. (美洲的)印第安人

crush [krʌʃ] v. 压碎

feast [fi:st] n. 宴会, 盛会, 筵席

annual ['ænjuəl] adj. 一年一次的, 一年的

campaign [kæm'peɪn] n. 运动

proclaim [prə'kleɪm] v. 宣言, 公告

constitution [ˌkɒnstɪ'tju:ʃən] n. 政治制度, 宪法

resolution [ˌrezəljʊ:ʃən] n. 决议, 提案, 决心

Congress [ˈkɒngres] n. 代表会议; 国会

### Phrases and Expressions

due to 因为, 由于

once and for all    断然, 只此一次

### **Reading Comprehension**

#### **I . Write "T"(true) or "F"(false) for each statement.**

1. In the early 17th century in England, a group of English people decided to leave England and set up a new church in America.
2. The Pilgrims finally arrived in America after one and a half months at sea.
3. The governor invited the Indians to celebrate the bumper harvest with English settlers, because both the Pilgrims and the Indians wanted to thank God.
4. With the support of Lincoln, Hale chose 6 August as the date to celebrate the happy harvest festival.
5. Today, Americans eat fish, deer meat, turkey and pumpkin on Thanksgiving Day.

## **2** **Halloween**    万圣节前夕

Halloween is celebrated on October 31 in both Britain and in the U.S. The main event is trick and treating—children knock on people's doors asking for treats (sweets/candies). If these people refuse to give the children anything then the children play some practical joke on them.

Halloween derives from the ancient Celtic feast of the dead known as Samhain. Samhain meant end of the summer, and this feast also celebrated the close of the harvest. Samhain coincided with the beginning of the year, which began in what is now November. The change from one year to another was a magical time, and the Celts believed that the living could communicate with the dead on this night. The dead lived in a land of eternal youth and happiness called Tir Nan Og, which they shared with fairies. On this night the fairies would try and trick human beings into becoming lost and trapped forever. Traditionally, New Year's Eve festivals such as this were a time for playing tricks and practical jokes. Adults and children would imitate the fairies and go from house to house asking for treats, such as food. If the owner didn't give them a treat, then they would play a trick on him. Turnips were used, to hide the faces of the trick and treaters. Turnips were also hollowed out and faces carved like pumpkins in the United States today. Then candles were put inside and these turnip lanterns were used to scare away

the fairies and evil spirits. Great fires were lit and many animals were killed, not as a sacrifice, but as a source of food for the coming winter. There is little evidence that human sacrifices were made.

### **New Words**

coincide [ˌkəʊɪn'saɪd] vi. 巧合;一致

magical [ˈmædʒɪkəl] adj. 不可思议的,有魔力的

communicate [kə'mju:nikeɪt] vt. 通信;通话

eternal [ɪ'tə:nl] adj. 永久的;永恒的

trap [træp] vt. 使坠入困境,诱骗

imitate [ɪ'miteɪt] vt. 模仿;仿效

turnip [ˈtɜ:nɪp] n. 芜菁;萝卜

lantern [ˈlæntən] n. 提灯;灯笼

sacrifice [ˈsækrɪfaɪs] n. 献祭;祭品

evidence [ˈeɪdəns] n. 迹象;证据

### **Phrases and Expressions**

practical joke 恶作剧

trick somebody into doing something 哄骗某人去做某事

scare away 吓跑;吓走

hollow out 挖空

### **Reading Comprehension**

**Choose the best answer for each of the following statements**

1. Who were first to celebrate Halloween?

A. Americans.

B. Celts.

C. Vikings.

2. Samhain means the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. end of summer
  - B. beginning of winter
  - C. all hallows' (saints') evening
3. The Celts believed that the dead lived \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. in a land of eternal youth and happiness  
B. trapped forever inside turnips  
C. with the fairies
4. Is the origin of trick or treat connected with the use of pumpkins?  
A. Yes.  
B. No.  
C. Not necessarily.
5. Were human sacrifices made?  
A. Yes.  
B. No.  
C. Maybe.

### **3** **Mother's Day** 母亲节

The first celebrations in honour of mothers were held in the spring in ancient Greece. They paid tribute to Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the 17th century, England honoured mothers on "Mothering Sunday," celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

In the United States, Julia Ward Howe first suggested the idea of Mother's Day in 1872. Later, Anna Jarvis was credited with bringing about the official observance of Mother's Day. Two years after her mother died in 1905. Jarvis held a ceremony in Grafton, West Virginia, to honor her. She was so moved by the proceedings that she began a massive campaign to adopt a formal holiday honoring mothers. In 1910, West Virginia became the first state to recognize Mother's Day. A year later, nearly every state officially marked the day. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially proclaimed Mother's Day as a national holiday to be held on the second Sunday of May.

Jarvis accomplishment turned bitter for her. She thought Children could honor their mothers by spending some time with them as an act of love and care. However, the holiday turned out to be a major event for department stores, flowers shops and greeting card industry to raise money. "This is not what I intended," Jarvis said. "I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit!"

Jarvis died in 1948, at age 84. She had never been a mother.



She told a reporter shortly before her death that she was sorry she had ever started Mother's Day. She spoke these words in a nursing home where every Mother's Day her room had been filled with cards from all over the world.

Today many celebrations of Mother's Days are held throughout the world. Although they do not all fall at the same time, such countries as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia and Belgium also celebrate Mother's Day on the same day as the United States.

### New Words

celebration [ˌselɪbreɪʃən] n. 庆典, 典礼

celebrate [ˈselɪbreɪt] vt. 庆祝; 举行仪式

Lent [lent] n. 四旬斋, 大斋期 (封斋期从圣灰星期三[大斋节的第一天]到复活节的 40 天, 基督徒视其为禁食和为复活节作准备而忏悔的季节)

observance [əbˈzə:vəns] n. 礼仪, 仪式

proceeding [prəˈsi:diŋ] n. 行动; 举动; [复]活动; 项目

adopt [əˈdɒpt] vt. 采用; 选定

recognize [ˈrekəɡnaɪz] vt. 承认

officially [əˈfɪʃəli] adv. 官方的; 法定的; 正式的

mark [mɑ:k] vt. 标志; 表示……的特征

accomplishment [əˈkɒmplɪʃmənt] n. 完成; 成就

bitter [ˈbɪtə] a. 辛酸的, 痛苦的

major [ˈmeɪdʒə] ad. 较大的; 较重要的

intend [ɪntend] vt. 打算; 意指

sentiment [ˈsentɪmənt] n. 感情; 情操

profit [ˈprɒfɪt] n. 利润; 益处

fall [fɔ:l] vi. 来临