

# A CULTURAL READER



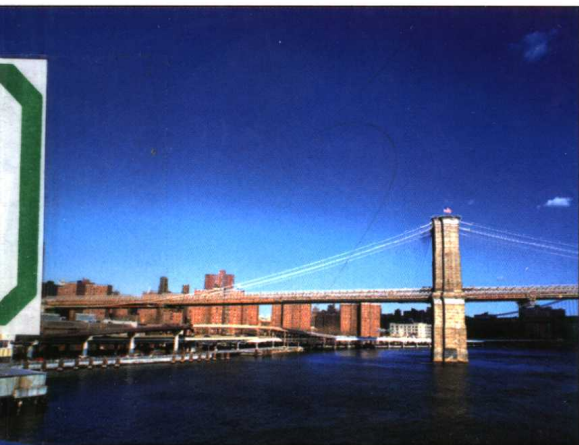
Milada Broukal  
Peter Murphy

翟丽霞 张海霞 辛 丽 谭业敏 注释

## 美国文化一览



# A First Look At The USA 初识美国



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**A FIRST LOOK AT THE**

**USA**

A Cultural Reader

美国文化一览

# 初识美国

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## 出版说明

朗文出版公司出版的这套 *Cultural Reader* 原有四个分册, 分别是 *A First Look of The USA*, *Introducing The USA*, *All About The USA*, *More About The USA*。在编辑出版时把它们合为三个分册, 分别为《初识美国》,《纵览美国》,《再看美国》。这样处理是因为原书的前两个分册篇幅较小, 难易程度相差不多, 合并之后与后两个分册在篇幅上大致相当, 难易程度形成梯次结构, 便于使用。

当初我们决定引进这套书, 把它介绍给中国读者, 首先是看到它内容好。我们通常见到的介绍美国文化的图书要么是教科书式的, 面面俱到, 抽象呆板, 缺乏可读性和趣味性; 要么是学术性读物, 里面有很多过于专业的内容, 语言难度较大, 只有少数人能读懂, 不适合大多数人阅读。这套书的内容比较集中, 它选择了一些最有代表性的人物、事件来介绍美国文化。这些内容既是大家熟悉的, 可能又是知其然不知其所以然的, 特别能激发人们的阅读兴趣; 本书还选编了一些专业读

物中涉及不到的、大多数读者感兴趣的内容,这些内容又恰恰是美国文化的亮点。此类内容的图书在国内市场上还很少见。另外,它在内容上虽然涉及美国社会的方方面面,但作者客观地介绍美国文化,没有不适于我国读者阅读的思想倾向,这也是我们决定引进这套书的初衷之一。

其次,是看到它文风好。既短小精炼又通俗易懂。书中多数文章都很短,内容却很充实,在短小的篇幅里浓缩了大量的信息。凝炼的文字往往有失通俗,而这套书使用的语言很浅显易读,句式也不复杂,第一分册和第二分册初高中学生就能读懂,大学一二年级的水平能读懂第三分册。

第三是看到它有较大的改造余地。原书中每个单元的结构是按课堂教学的方式设计的。除了课文以外,还配有练习,包括词汇练习、阅读理解、语法练习、写作练习、讨论和研究性练习。这些练习设计合理,题型新颖,紧扣语言的重点、难点。但考虑到我国读者学英语的习惯和实际需要,我们将练习部分的写作、讨论和研究练习删掉,只保留了词汇、阅读理解和语法三种练习,目的是帮助读者在理解文章内容的基础上进行语言盘练。每篇文章开头加上内容简介,帮助读者理解文章大意。

基于以上三种认识,我们引进了这套书并进行了编辑加工,相信这套书面世后会受到读者的喜爱。对这套书有什么意见和建议敬请函告。

山东科学技术出版社  
外语图书工作室



# INTRODUCTION

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*A First Look At The USA* is a beginning reader for students of English as a Second Language. Its seven parts introduce general-knowledge topics about the United States such as U.S. Inventions and Inventors, Holidays and Special Days, and the Story of America. Three chapter readings elaborate on specific topics in each part. The readings are primarily written in the present tense, and the vocabulary and structures have been carefully controlled at a beginning level, while every effort has been made to keep the language natural.

Each part consists of an illustrated presentation of the general knowledge area and three units, each based on a short reading passage related to the part theme. Each unit contains:

- A short reading passage
- Topic-related vocabulary work
- Comprehension and Looking for Details
- Activity

The reading of each passage should, ideally, first be done individually by

## INTRODUCTION

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skimming for a general feel for content. The teacher may wish to deal with some of the vocabulary at this point. A second, more detailed individual reading could be done while working through the vocabulary exercise. Further reading(s) could be done aloud with the teacher or with the class.

The VOCABULARY exercise is designed to help students become more self-reliant by encouraging them to work out the meaning from context. As in all exercise sections, a variety of exercise types is used.

There are two COMPREHENSION exercises: In the first one students are asked to confirm the basic content of the text. This takes a variety of forms, such as *Understanding the Main Idea* and *Following the Sequence*. This exercise should be used in conjunction with the text to help students develop their reading skills, and not as a test of memory. Students can do this exercise individually, in pairs, in small groups, or as a class. The second exercise, *Looking for Details*, expands the students' exploration of the text, concentrating on the skimming and scanning skills necessary to derive maximum value from reading.

ACTIVITY personalizes a theme related to the reading, encouraging students to share their own ideas or knowledge with their classmates.

Introducing The USA is a beginning reader for students of English as a Second Language. Twenty-eight units introduce typically American people, places, and things. A host of facts presented in the units will not only provide students with information about the USA, but will also stimulate cross-cultural exchange. The vocabulary and structures used in the text have been carefully controlled at a beginning level, while every effort has been made to keep the language natural.

Each unit contains:

- A short reading passage
- Topic-related vocabulary work
- Comprehension of main ideas

- Comprehension of details
- Grammar

The reading of each passage should, ideally, first be done individually by skimming for a general feel for content. The teacher may wish to deal with some of the vocabulary at this point. A second, more detailed individual reading could be done while working through the vocabulary exercise. Further reading(s) could be done aloud with the teacher or with the class.

The VOCABULARY exercise is designed to help students become more self-reliant by encouraging them to work out the meaning from context. As suggested previously, this section can be done during the reading phase or afterward or both. As in all exercise sections, a variety of exercise types is used.

There are two groups of COMPREHENSION exercises. *Looking for Main Ideas* should be used in conjunction with the text to help students develop their reading skills, and not as a test of memory. In each case, the students are asked to confirm the basic content of the text, which they can do individually, in pairs, in small groups, or as a whole class. The second comprehension exercise, *Looking for Details*, expands the students' exploration of the text, concentrating on the skimming and scanning skills necessary to derive maximum value from reading.

GRAMMAR focuses on aspects of the language suggested by the reading passage itself. The emphasis is on practice and reinforcement rather than teaching, while indirectly building on the comprehension phase.

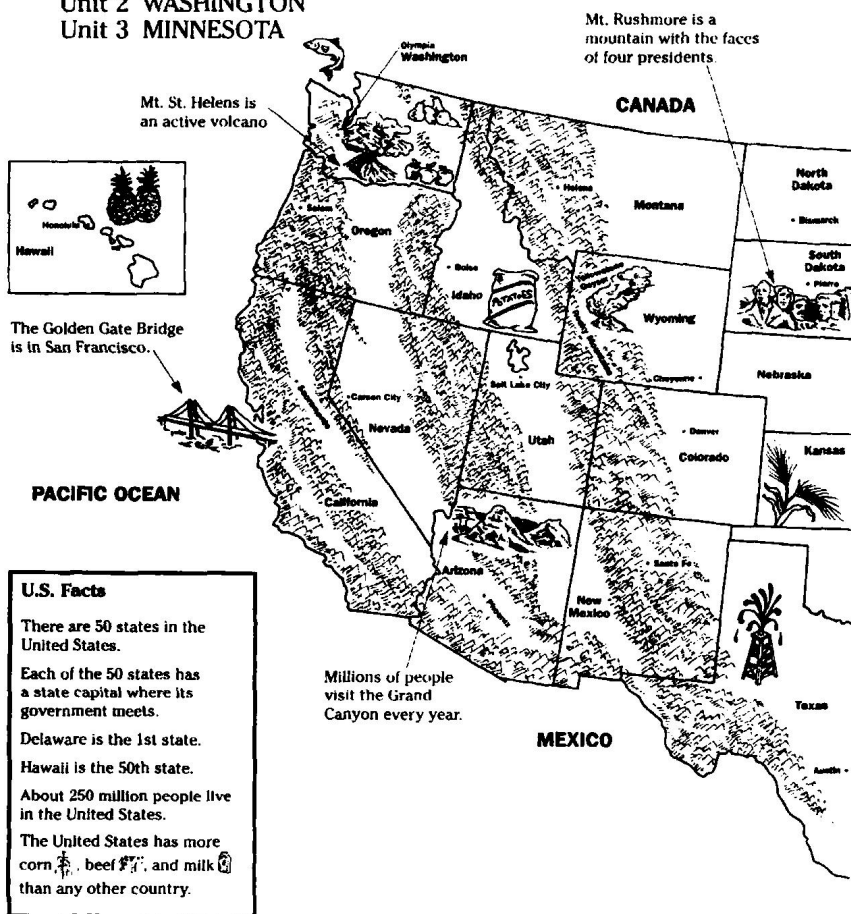


# Volume I

## Part 1

# THE UNITED STATES

Unit 1 FLORIDA  
Unit 2 WASHINGTON  
Unit 3 MINNESOTA





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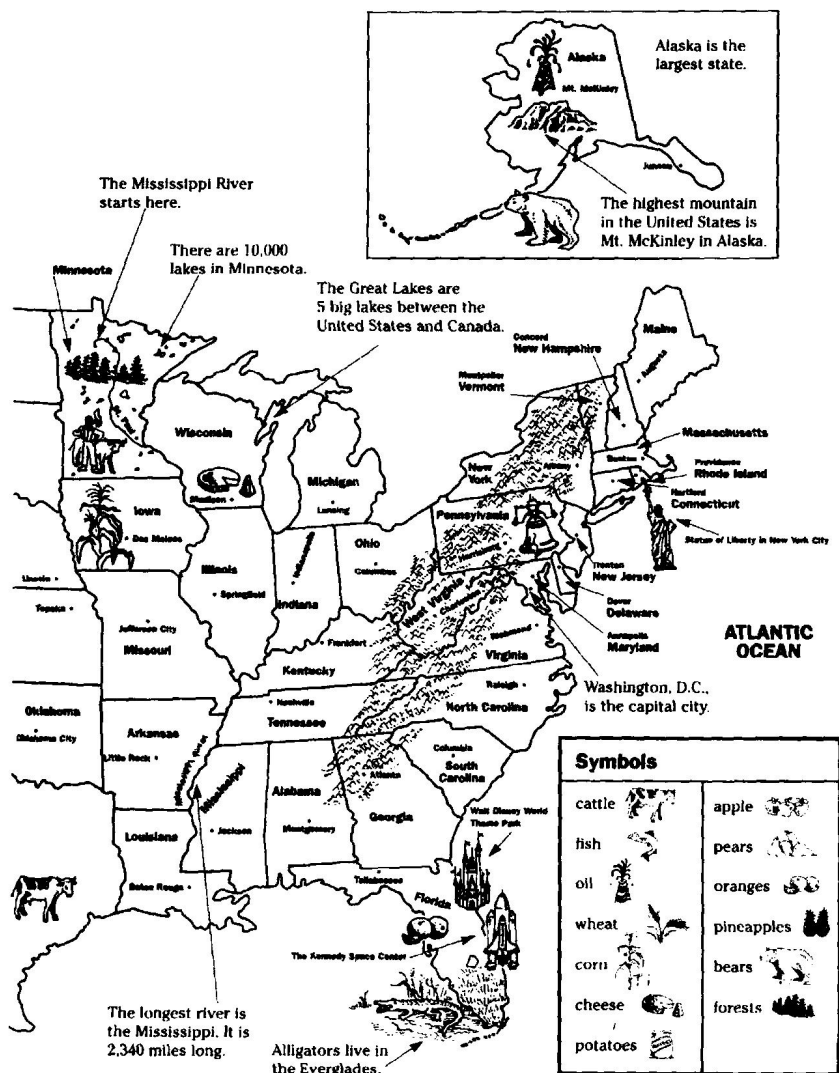
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# The Map of USA

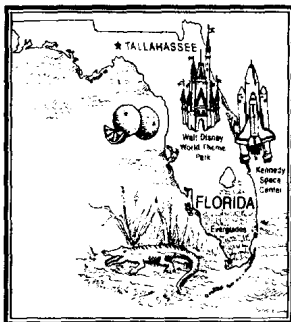


# Florida

## Unit 1

佛罗里达州别名“阳光州”，位于美国最南端。该州以肯尼迪航天中心，埃弗格莱兹沼泽，主题公园而著称于世。每年，特别是冬季，大批美国人来这里旅游度假。

Welcome to Florida, the “Sunshine State.” If you like warm weather, Florida is the best place for a vacation. Millions of visitors come to Florida each year. They like its sandy<sup>①</sup> beaches, theme parks, and natural beauty.



Miami is a big tourist<sup>②</sup> city. People love its beautiful beaches. There are many coconut<sup>③</sup> palm trees along the streets and beaches in Miami. They are very pretty. But they are also dangerous! People have jobs as coconut watchers. They make sure that coconuts

① sandy /'sændi/ a.  
沙质的，多沙的

② tourist /'tuərist/  
n. 观光者，游览者

③ coconut  
/'kəukənʌt/ n.  
椰子果



do not fall on the tourists' heads!

Florida is famous for its theme parks. The world's largest theme park<sup>①</sup> is Walt Disney World<sup>⑤</sup>, near Orlando<sup>⑥</sup>. A train takes people around Disney World. One part, called EPCOT Center, is all about the future. You can see life, food, and transportation<sup>⑦</sup> in the future.

Florida has other things to see, too. You can go to the Kennedy Space Center<sup>⑧</sup>. This is where astronauts go up into space. You can see how astronauts learn about space. If you go south, you can see wild-life in the Everglades<sup>⑨</sup>. The Everglades is an area of some land and a lot of water. Grass grows in the water. Many wild animals such as alligators<sup>⑩</sup> live in this swamp.

Millions of tourists come to Florida for a vacation. But many people come to Florida to live, too. Many older people from cold states come to relax<sup>⑪</sup> in the Florida sunshine. But young people come to Florida, too. Florida has many new kinds of jobs. Florida has something for everyone.

### 注释:

①theme park 主题游乐园(围绕诸如野生动物、水生物、幻想世界、亚非文化等一个或数个主题而安排布置的)

⑤Walt Disney World 华特迪斯尼世界

⑧Kennedy Space Center 肯尼迪航天中心

⑥Orlando

/ɔ: 'ləndəu/

(地名)奥兰多(佛罗里达州城市)

⑦transportation

/,træns'pɔ: 'teɪʃən/ n.

运输,运送

⑨everglade

/'evə,gleɪd/ n.

沼泽地,湿地

⑩alligator

/'ælɪgeɪtə/ n.

短鼻鳄鱼

⑪relax /rɪ'ləks/ v.

(使)松弛,放松

## VOCABULARY

Match the words and the pictures. Write your answer on the line.

astronauts

swamp

palm trees

theme park

alligator





1. swamp

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPREHENSION

### Understanding the Main Idea

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. People like to visit Florida because
  - a. there are many things to see and do.
  - b. there are many jobs for young people.
  - c. visitors can learn how to become astronauts.
2. Many older people live in Florida because
  - a. there are theme parks to visit.
  - b. the weather is warm.
  - c. there are many kinds of fruits to eat.

### Looking for Details

Complete each sentence with the correct word or words. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

1. Florida is famous for its g a. astronauts
2. Florida is called the "Sunshine State" because of its \_\_\_\_\_. b. relax
3. The EPCOT Center is all about the \_\_\_\_\_. c. future
4. At the Kennedy Space Center, you can see how learn \_\_\_\_\_ about space. d. warm weather
5. There are \_\_\_\_\_ in the Everglades. e. coconut palm trees
6. Many older people go to Florida to \_\_\_\_\_. f. alligators
7. Many \_\_\_\_\_ grow along the streets in Miami. g. theme parks