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科学探索丛书

TRAVELS ACROSS AMERICA

美国之旅

The Midwest 中西部

ELSPETH LEACOCK (美) 著

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致读者

如果你希望读到地道的英语，在享受英语阅读乐趣的同时又能增长知识、开拓视野，这套由外语教学与研究出版社与美国国家地理学会合作出版的“国家地理科学探索丛书”正是你的选择。

“国家地理科学探索丛书”分为9个系列，内容涉及自然科学和社会研究，秉承《国家地理》杂志图文并茂的特色，书中配有大量精彩的图片，文字通俗易懂、深入浅出，将科学性和趣味性完美结合，称得上是一套精致的小百科。

这套丛书以英文注释形式出版，注释由国内重点中学教学经验丰富的英语教师完成。特别值得推荐的是本套丛书在提高青少年读者英语阅读能力的同时，还注重培养他们的科学探索精神、动手能力、逻辑思维能力和沟通能力。

本丛书既适合学生自学，又可用于课堂教学。丛书各个系列均配有一本教师用书，内容包括背景知识介绍、技能训练提示、评估测试、多项选择题及答案等详尽的教学指导，是对课堂教学的极好补充。

本系列丛书介绍了有关美国的地理、经济和文化等方面，不仅是一种可以增长知识的阅读材料，也提供了一种认识和了解美国的新视角。希望广大中学生及英语爱好者能以客观审慎的态度，通过阅读获取有益的帮助。

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Table of Contents

目 录

Introduction	Meet Will, Your Guide to the Midwest	4
引言	随威尔游览中西部	
Chapter 1	The Land	7
第一章	地形	
Chapter 2	The Economy	13
第二章	经济	
Chapter 3	The Culture	21
第三章	文化	
Almanac	28
州历		
Index	31
索引		

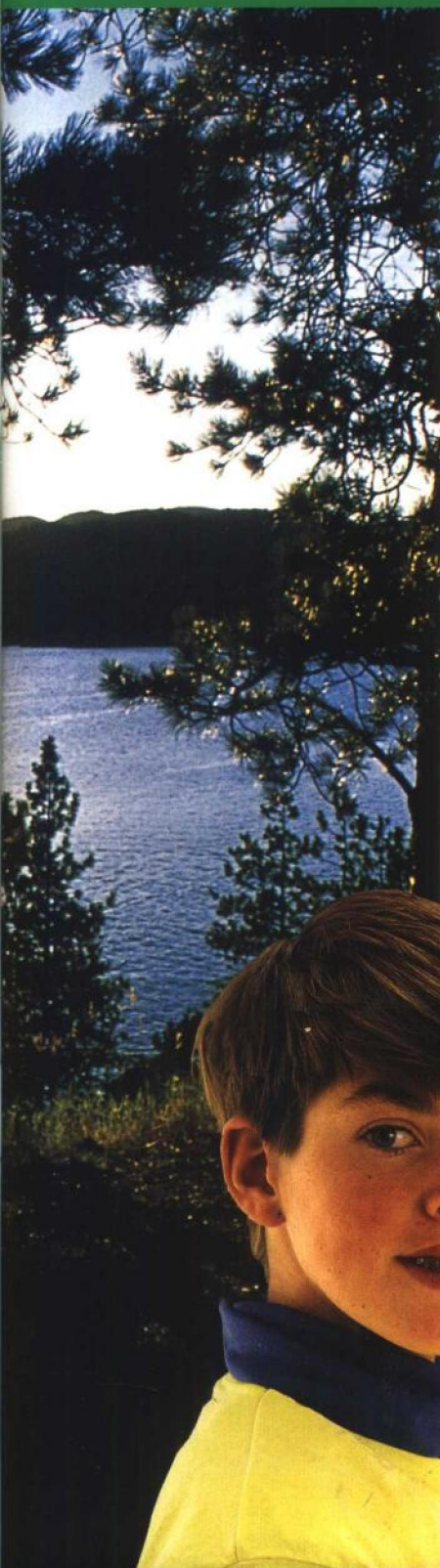


Meet Will, Your Guide to the Midwest

随威尔游览中西部

Lake in Black Hills¹ of South Dakota²

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1. Black Hills | 布莱克山 |
| 2. South Dakota | 南达科他州 |



Hi!

Welcome to the Midwest. My name is Will. I am going to show you around the region¹. We will visit the states of Minnesota², Wisconsin³, Michigan⁴, Ohio⁵, Indiana⁶, Illinois⁷, Missouri⁸, Iowa⁹, Kansas¹⁰, Nebraska¹¹, South Dakota, and North Dakota¹². That's a lot of states!

We have a whole lot of traveling ahead. First, we will explore¹³ what the land of the Midwest is like. I'll show you some of the biggest lakes and darkest caves¹⁴ that you've ever seen. Then we'll see what kinds of jobs people have in the Midwest. We'll meet some special Midwesterners and see how they live and have fun. I hope you enjoy the trip. Let's go!

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--------|
| 1. region | <i>n.</i> | 地区 |
| 2. Minnesota | | 明尼苏达州 |
| 3. Wisconsin | | 威斯康星州 |
| 4. Michigan | | 密歇根州 |
| 5. Ohio | | 俄亥俄州 |
| 6. Indiana | | 印第安纳州 |
| 7. Illinois | | 伊利诺伊州 |
| 8. Missouri | | 密苏里州 |
| 9. Iowa | | 艾奥瓦州 |
| 10. Kansas | | 堪萨斯州 |
| 11. Nebraska | | 内布拉斯加州 |
| 12. North Dakota | | 北达科他州 |
| 13. explore | <i>v.</i> | 探险; 探索 |
| 14. cave | <i>n.</i> | 洞穴 |

Chicago¹, Illinois, on Lake Michigan²

1. Chicago 芝加哥
2. Lake Michigan 密歇根湖



The Land

地形

The Flattest

The Midwest is the flattest region in the United States. It is the only one with no mountain ranges¹.

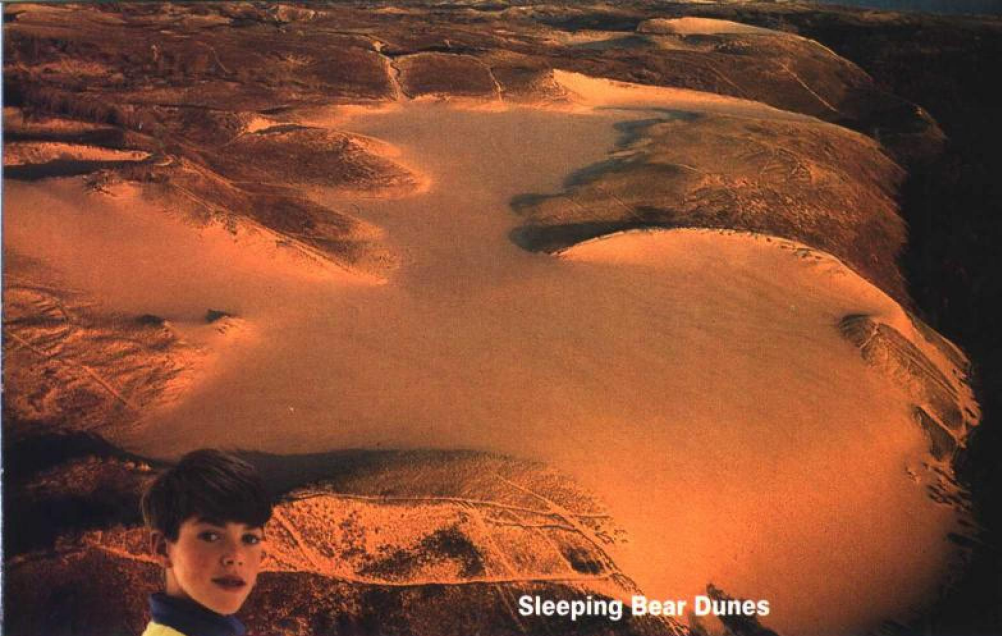
The Biggest

Nebraska has the biggest area of sand dunes² in North America. The dunes are usually covered with grass. But in dry times the grass dies. Then the wind moves the sand dunes, slowly burying³ anything in their path⁴!

The Wettest

The Midwest has more lakes than any other region in the country. Minnesota has about 22,000 lakes. Michigan has about 11,000 lakes. Wisconsin has about 15,000 lakes.

- | | |
|--------------|----|
| 1. range | 山脉 |
| 2. sand dune | 沙丘 |
| 3. bury | 掩埋 |
| 4. path | 道路 |



Sleeping Bear Dunes



Will's Picks

A Really Big Sandpile¹¹

A great place to visit is Sleeping Bear Dunes¹² by Lake Michigan. The glaciers left enormous¹³ heaps¹⁴ of sand and gravel¹⁵ here. Long ago, one really big sand dune was shaped like a sleeping bear! That's how the park got its name.

Lakes Great and Small

We'll begin our travels in Minnesota. We can see lakes everywhere. But it doesn't rain much here. Do you know where all this water came from? Think ice! About 18,000 years ago, all of Minnesota and most of the rest of the Midwest was covered with ice almost two miles thick! If you stood on top of that much ice, you would be about 10,000 feet above sea level¹!

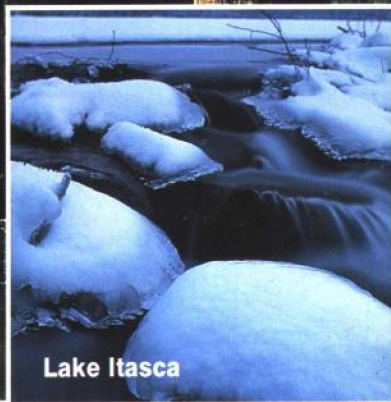
A huge mass of ice like that is called a glacier². The glaciers were 10,000 feet thick and thousands of miles across. Imagine³ all that ice melting⁴! All of these lakes are what's left of those glaciers.

The Great Lakes⁵ are the largest group of freshwater⁶ lakes in the world. They were once even bigger, back when the glaciers were melting. There are five Great Lakes in all. From largest to smallest they are Lake Superior⁷, Lake Huron⁸, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie⁹, and Lake Ontario¹⁰. The biggest one, Lake Superior, is the largest freshwater lake in the world.

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. sea level | | 海平面 | 9. Lake Erie | 伊利湖 |
| 2. glacier | <i>n.</i> | 冰川; 冰河 | 10. Lake Ontario | 安大略湖 |
| 3. imagine | <i>v.</i> | 想像 | 11. sandpile | <i>n.</i> 沙堆 |
| 4. melt | <i>v.</i> | 融化 | 12. Sleeping Bear Dunes | 睡熊沙丘 |
| 5. Great Lakes | | 北美五大湖区 | 13. enormous | <i>adj.</i> 巨大的 |
| 6. freshwater | <i>adj.</i> | 淡水的 | 14. heap | <i>n.</i> 堆 |
| 7. Lake Superior | | 苏必利尔湖 | 15. gravel | <i>n.</i> 砂砾; 砂砾层 |
| 8. Lake Huron | | 休伦湖 | | |



Missouri River



Lake Itasca

Flat Plains¹ and Big Rivers

Today, most of the Midwest is flat. But the region wasn't always this flat. Can you guess what scraped² and squashed³ it as flat as a pancake⁴? The glaciers, of course! Glaciers flattened⁵ the hills and filled in the valleys. Farmers here thank those glaciers because flat land is easy to farm. The glaciers left behind lots of good soil, too.

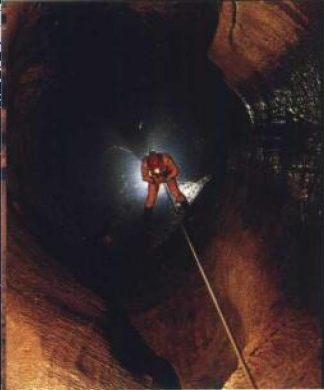
Look at the map on page 6. You'll see that many big rivers flow through the Midwest. The Ohio River forms a boundary⁶ between the Midwest and the Southeast. It flows by the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The Ohio River flows into an even bigger river, the Mississippi. When a smaller river flows into a bigger river, it is called a tributary⁷. The Ohio River is a tributary of the Mississippi River⁸.

The biggest tributary of them all is the Missouri River. People around here call it the "Big Muddy."⁹ It is thick with mud—bits of rock carried all the way from the Rocky Mountains¹⁰ out west.

Fun Facts

The place where a river begins is called its source¹¹. The source of the Mississippi River is Lake Itasca¹² in Minnesota. The lake was named by Henry Schoolcraft back in the days when explorers¹³ could name places whatever they chose. The name is short for veritas caput, which means "true head or source" in Latin¹⁴!

1. plain	n.	平原	8. Mississippi River	密西西比河
2. scrape	v.	刮磨	9. Big Muddy	大泥河
3. squash	v.	把……压扁	10. Rocky Mountains	落基山脉
4. pancake	n.	薄饼	11. source	n. 源头
5. flatten	v.	夷平	12. Lake Itasca	艾塔斯卡湖
6. boundary	n.	分界线, 边界	13. explorer	n. 探险家
7. tributary	n.	支流	14. Latin	n. 拉丁文



Will's Picks

Spelunking²¹

If you like exploring caves, you'll like spelunking. To go spelunking means to go exploring underground in a cave! It can be very exciting crawling²² through mysterious passageways and finding new chambers²³. However, always go with an experienced group.

The Badlands¹

What do you think a place called the "badlands" might be like? We're now in South Dakota's big Badlands. The landforms² here are sharp and jagged³. Deep gullies⁴, or long, narrow ditches⁵, have been cut into the landscape⁶. The badlands are very dry. You have to search to find a plant or an animal here. The Native Americans and trappers⁷ of long ago named this area "badlands" because it was so hard to cross.

This area did not always look like this. Once, lots of animals lived here. There were large cats with enormous fangs⁸ called saber-toothed cats⁹. Camels lived here too, but they were about the size of dogs. Do you know how I know all this? I've seen these animals' fossils¹⁰. Fossils are the skeletons¹¹ or remains¹² of ancient plants and animals pressed into rock. You can find fossils of all kinds of plants and animals here.

Caves

Next we're going to visit Wind Cave¹³. You will need to put on a jacket because it's always a nice cool 53° in here. Don't explore here alone. It is one of the bewildering¹⁴ "maze¹⁵ caves." It's easy to get lost in it. Over 90 miles of passageways¹⁶ have been explored in this cave.

When you explore the cave, hang on to your hats¹⁷! The wind coming in and going out of the cave can reach 70 miles an hour! Do you know how to whistle¹⁸? Wind Cave does. The wind going in and out of the mouth of the cave whistles!

If you like Wind Cave, you'll like touring nearby Jewel Cave¹⁹. It contains one of the longest cave systems (over 110 miles) in the United States. You'll especially like the crystal²⁰ "jewels" that decorate the cave's walls. It's the "jewels" that gave the cave its name.

This visit to the caves ends our tour of the land. Let's now travel the highways to see how Midwesterners use the land and the region's many resources.

1. badlands	n.	恶地(受流水刻蚀及风蚀而成)	12. remains	n.	遗体; 遗迹
2. landform	n.	地貌	13. Wind Cave		风洞
3. jagged	adj.	参差不齐的; 有缺口的	14. bewildering	adj.	令人无所适从的
4. gully	n.	小峡谷; 沟渠	15. maze	n.	迷宫
5. ditch	n.	沟渠; 渠道	16. passageway	n.	通道
6. landscape	n.	风景; 景色	17. hang on to your hat		当心
7. trapper	n.	设陷阱捕兽的人	18. whistle	v.	吹口哨
8. fang	n.	尖牙	19. Jewel Cave		朱厄尔洞穴
9. saber-toothed cat		剑齿虎	20. crystal	adj.	水晶一般的
10. fossil	n.	化石	21. spelunking	n.	洞穴探险
11. skeleton	n.	骨骼; 骨骼	22. crawl	v.	爬行; 徐徐行进
			23. chamber	n.	房间; 室



Onondaga Cave¹, Missouri

Saber-toothed cat



Badlands National Park², South Dakota

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 1. Onondaga Cave | 奥农多加洞穴 |
| 2. Badlands National Park | 巴德兰兹国家公园 |

**Pouring¹ molten² iron into a
steelmaking furnace³ at
Bethlehem Steel⁴ in Indiana**

1. pour	v.	倾倒
2. molten	adj.	熔化的
3. furnace	n.	熔炉
4. Bethlehem Steel		伯利恒钢铁公司

The Economy

经济



The Biggest

One of the world's largest open pit¹ iron mines operates² near Hibbing³, Minnesota. It is nearly 5 miles long, 1 mile wide, and 500 feet deep.

The Tallest

The tallest building in the United States is in Chicago⁴. It is the Sears Tower⁵, 110 stories or 1,454 feet tall.

The Most

- More cars and trucks are made in Michigan cities, such as Detroit⁶ and Flint⁷, than in any other state.
- Because Kansas is the nation's top wheat-growing state, it has been called the "Breadbasket⁸ of America."



- | | | |
|----------------|----|---------------|
| 1. pit | n. | 矿坑 |
| 2. operate | v. | 运转; 经营 |
| 3. Hibbing | | 希宾 |
| 4. Chicago | | 芝加哥 |
| 5. Sears Tower | | 西尔斯塔 |
| 6. Detroit | | 底特律 |
| 7. Flint | | 夫林特 |
| 8. breadbasket | n. | 重要的谷物
生产地区 |

Soo Canals¹

(注释见第 15 页)

