

Chinese
Culture
Reading
in English

中国文化阅读

2100 单词话中国



黄建滨 主编



浙江大学出版社
ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY PRESS



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黄建滨 主编

副主编 金忍冬
编者 熊婧

Maryam Banisaeid 阮丹夏杨露

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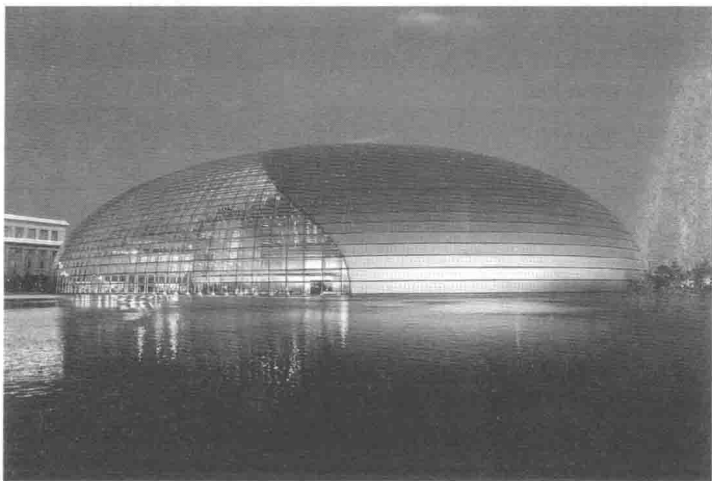
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1. The National Grand Theater of China (Part 1)

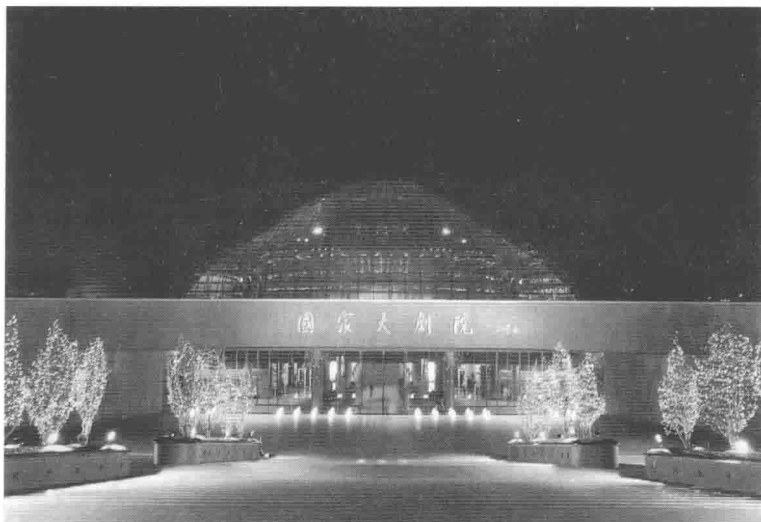
The National Grand Theater (国家大剧院) is on the west side of Tiananmen Square (天安门广场) and the Great Hall of the People (人民大会堂) on Chang'an Avenue (长安街), covering an area of 118,900 square meters, a total construction area of 219,400 square meters.

The outside of the building is a curved ellipsoid-shaped steel structure, 212.20 meters long from east to west, 143.64 meters wide from north to south, and 46.29 meters tall. The shell of the building is made up of more than 18,000 pieces of titanium plates with a total area of over 30,000 square meters. In the middle is the gradual-opening-type glass curtain wall, joining more than 1,200 pieces of super white glass. It has four performance auditoriums: the opera house, the concert hall, the drama house and the small theater.



New Words and Expressions

national	<i>a.</i>	国家的
grand	<i>a.</i>	巨大的
theater	<i>n.</i>	剧院
square	<i>n./a.</i>	广场; 平方的
avenue	<i>n.</i>	街道
area	<i>n.</i>	面积
construction	<i>n.</i>	建筑
curved	<i>a.</i>	弯曲的
ellipsoid-shaped	<i>a.</i>	椭球形的
shell	<i>n.</i>	壳
titanium	<i>n.</i>	钛
plate	<i>n.</i>	板
gradual	<i>a.</i>	逐渐的
curtain	<i>n.</i>	幕
super	<i>a.</i>	超级的
performance auditorium		演艺厅
the opera house		歌剧院
the concert hall		音乐厅
the drama house		戏剧场
the small theater		小剧场



Exercise One

Directions: Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. The National Grand Theater is built in the area of 219,400 square meters.
2. The main body of the National Grand Theater is ellipsoid-shaped.
3. The outside of the building of the National Grand Theater is 46.285 meters tall.
4. The shell of the building is made up of more than 30,000 pieces of titanium plates with a total area of over 18,000 square meters.
5. There are four performance auditoriums in the National Grand Theater.

Exercise Two

Directions: Answer the following questions.

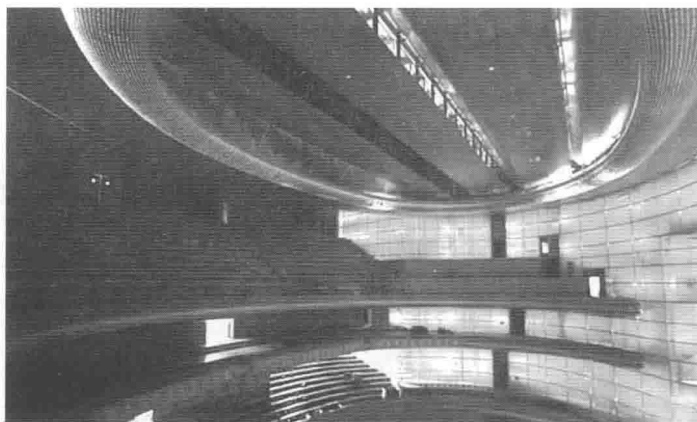
1. Where is the National Grand Theater situated?
2. What does the National Grand Theater look like outside?
3. How many auditoriums does the National Grand Theater have?



2. The National Grand Theater of China (Part 2)

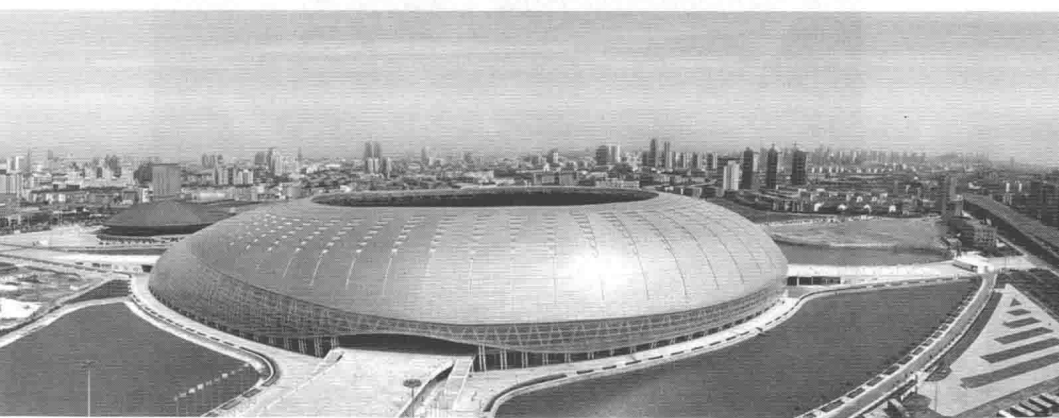
At the center is the opera house, which is the most majestic architecture in the National Grand Theater, concentrating on opera, dance dramas, ballet and large-scale theatrical performances, with the concert hall at the east, the theater at the west, the small theater at the western side of the south gate.

The opera house is covered with a gold-plated metal mesh. It is dim over the walls in the dark areas behind it, but it becomes half-transparent when there is light in such a way that makes it known what is there while creating a distance. The audience enters the opera house through one of the two big doorways in the gilt ring wall.



New Words and Expressions

majestic	<i>a.</i>	雄伟的
architecture	<i>n.</i>	建筑
concentrate	<i>v.</i>	集中
large-scale	<i>a.</i>	大规模的
theatrical	<i>a.</i>	戏剧的
cover	<i>v.</i>	覆盖
gold-plated	<i>a.</i>	镀金的
metal	<i>n.</i>	金属
mesh	<i>n.</i>	网
dim	<i>a.</i>	不透明的
half-transparent	<i>a.</i>	半透明的
gilt	<i>a.</i>	镀金的
ring	<i>n.</i>	环形



Exercise One

Directions: Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. The concert hall and the drama house are situated on either side of the opera house.
2. The main color of the opera house is grey.
3. The small theater is at the north gate.
4. The opera house is non-transparent when there is light.
5. The audience enters the opera house by the drama house.

Exercise Two

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. What does the opera house concentrate on?
2. What is the opera house covered with?
3. How does the audience enter the opera house?



3. The Mongolian Nationality

The Mongolian Nationality (蒙古族) is one of China's ethnic minorities of over 7 million (as of 2010). The Mongolians live mainly in Inner Mongolia (内蒙古) and Xinjiang. Some are scattered in Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang and some other provinces.

Since ancient times, the Mongolians have been good at riding horses and hunting, and are called "the people on horseback". The Mongolians live a nomadic life, which influences their personality greatly. They are brave, enthusiastic, frank, loyal and resolute. This has much to do with the vast grassland where they live. In order to face the living need of nomadic life, the Mongolians live in a special building called ger. Consisting of a circular wooden frame and a felt cover, it is convenient to be taken apart and rebuilt on another site.



The Mongolians have their own unique language. Their traditional festival “Naadam” (那达慕) means “entertainment” or “game” in their language. It is held between July and August every year. During the festival, there are three traditional sports—wrestling, archery and horse racing. The Mongolians will enjoy the sports with their featured and delicious food—kumis and roast whole lamb.

New Words and Expressions

Mongolian	<i>n./a.</i>	蒙古人 (的)
nationality	<i>n.</i>	民族
ethnic minority		少数民族
scatter	<i>v.</i>	散布
horseback	<i>n.</i>	马背
nomadic	<i>a.</i>	游牧的
personality	<i>n.</i>	性格
enthusiastic	<i>a.</i>	热情的
loyal	<i>a.</i>	忠诚的
resolute	<i>a.</i>	果敢的
ger	<i>n.</i>	蒙古包
circular	<i>a.</i>	圆形的
frame	<i>n.</i>	框架
felt	<i>n.</i>	毡
entertainment	<i>n.</i>	娱乐
wrestling	<i>n.</i>	摔跤
archery	<i>n.</i>	射箭
kumis	<i>n.</i>	马奶酒
roast whole lamb		烤全羊



Exercise One

Directions: Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. All Mongolians live in Inner Mongolia.
2. The Mongolians are loyal.
3. The Mongolians live in normal buildings as Han people do.
4. Kumis is a traditional Mongolian wine.
5. The Mongolians live a nomadic life.