

Chinese
Culture
Reading
in English

300 单词话中国

中国
文化
阅读



黄建滨
主编



浙江
大学
出版
社
ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY PRESS



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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

中国文化阅读. 300单词话中国 : 英文 / 黄建滨主编.
—杭州 : 浙江大学出版社, 2014.10
ISBN 978-7-308-13695-2

I. ①中… II. ①黄… III. ①英语-语言读物②中
华文化-英文 IV. ①H319.4: K

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2014) 第186766号

中国 文化 阅 读 : 300 单 词 话 中 国

黄建滨 主编

丛书策划 张琛

责任编辑 诸葛勤 (zhugeq@126.com)

责任校对 韦伟

封面设计 续设计

出版发行 浙江大学出版社

(杭州市天目山路148号 邮政编码 310007)

(网址 : <http://www.zjupress.com>)

排 版 杭州金旭广告有限公司

印 刷 富阳市育才印刷有限公司

开 本 880mm × 1230mm 1/32

印 张 6.25

字 数 150千

版 印 次 2014年10月第1版 2014年10月第1次印刷

书 号 ISBN 978-7-308-13695-2

定 价 25.00元

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浙江大学出版社发行部联系方式 (0571) 88925591; <http://zjdxcbbs.tmall.com>

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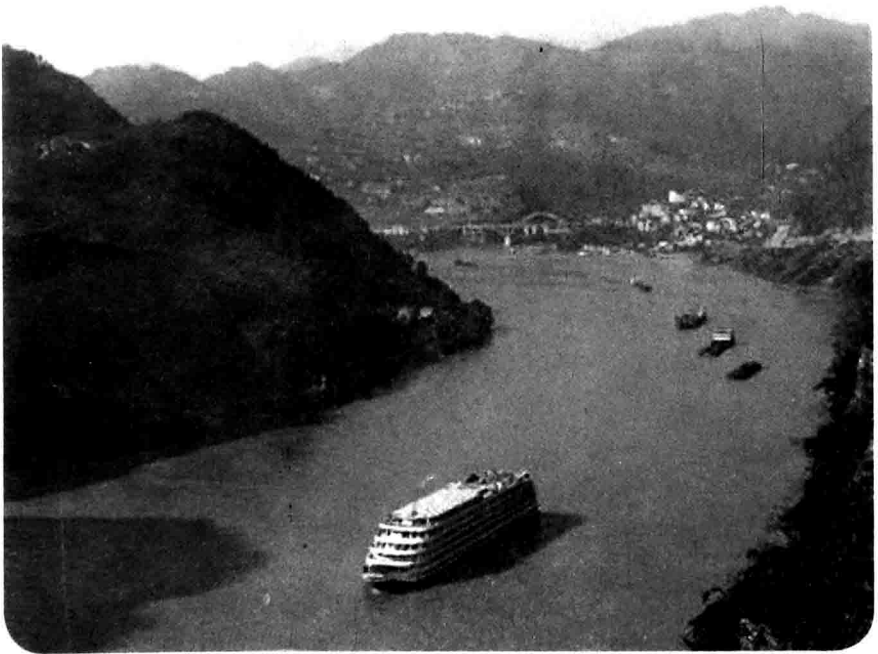
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1. The Changjiang River

The Changjiang River is the longest river in Asia. It is also the third longest river in the world. The river is 6,397 kilometers long. It flows from its source in Qinghai Province and flows to the East China Sea at Shanghai. Although the Qinling-Huaihe River (秦岭—淮河) is the official dividing line between the north and south China, the Changjiang River has been traditionally seen as the dividing line by Chinese people. It is very important for the Chinese economy, culture, and so on. In China, the Changjiang River, together with the Huanghe River, is called the “Mother River”.



New Words and Expressions

Asia	<i>n.</i>	亚洲
kilometer	<i>n.</i>	千米
flow	<i>v.</i>	流动
source	<i>n.</i>	源头
province	<i>n.</i>	省
official	<i>a.</i>	官方的
dividing	<i>a.</i>	区分的
traditionally	<i>ad.</i>	传统地
economy	<i>n.</i>	经济
culture	<i>n.</i>	文化



Exercise One

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

1. The Changjiang River is the longest river in the world.
2. The source of Changjiang River is in Qinghai Province.
3. The Changjiang River flows to the East China Sea at Shanghai.
4. People consider the Qinling-Huaihe River as the dividing line between the north and south of China.
5. The Changjiang River is a very important river in China.

Exercise Two

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. Where does the Changjiang River flow to?
2. Which river is the official dividing line between the north and south of China?
3. Why is the Changjiang River considered as one of the “Mother Rivers” of China?



2. The Huanghe River

The Huanghe River is 5,464 kilometers long. It is the second longest river in China and the fifth longest in the world. It flows from the west to the east. The Huanghe River flows through nine provinces, such as Qinghai, Inner Mongolia (内蒙古), Shaanxi, Henan and Shandong. It flows to the Bohai Sea in the end. Because the river flows through the Loess Plateau region, there are many slits in the water. So the Huanghe River is the most slit-filled river in the world.

Besides, there are many places for visitors to enjoy along the Huanghe River. For example, the Hukou Waterfall (壶口瀑布) is a famous one. It is the second largest waterfall in China and the largest yellow waterfall in the world. Except for the tourism resources along the river, the Huanghe River also has great effect on Chinese civilization. Like the Changjiang River, it is called the "Mother River".



New Words and Expressions

west	<i>n.</i>	西部
east	<i>n.</i>	东部
loess plateau		黄土高原
region	<i>n.</i>	区域
slit	<i>n.</i>	泥沙
fill	<i>v.</i>	充满
besides	<i>ad.</i>	除此之外
visitor	<i>n.</i>	参观者
waterfall	<i>n.</i>	瀑布
famous	<i>a.</i>	著名的
except for		除了
tourism	<i>n.</i>	旅游
resource	<i>n.</i>	资源
effect	<i>n.</i>	影响
civilization	<i>n.</i>	文明



Exercise One

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

1. The Huanghe River is the second longest river in China.
2. The Huanghe River flows through Shaanxi Province.
3. The water of the Huanghe River is very clear.
4. The Hukou Waterfall is the largest waterfall in China.
5. The Huanghe River has great influence on Chinese civilization.

Exercise Two

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. Please name four of the provinces that the Huanghe River flows through.
2. Why does the Huanghe River have so many slits?
3. What do you know about the Hukou Waterfall?



3. A Lesson for Mencius

When Mencius (孟子) was a small boy, his father died. So Mencius and his mother were quite poor. One day Mencius returned home from the school and found his mother making some cloth. It was very beautiful and expensive.

“How much have you read today?” Mencius’s mother asked him.

Mencius threw down his book. “I haven’t read any of it,” he replied. “I played with some friends in the fields.”

When his mother heard this, she picked a pair of scissors and cut the cloth up.

“Why did you cut up your cloth?” Mencius asked. “It was so beautiful and now you’ve wasted it.”

“You have wasted your time,” his mother said. “Now I have wasted mine. Look at the terrible thing we have done.”

Mencius learnt a lot from this lesson. After this, he always studied hard.



New Words and Expressions

quite	<i>ad.</i>	相当, 很
return	<i>v.</i>	返回
cloth	<i>n.</i>	布
expensive	<i>a.</i>	贵的
reply	<i>v.</i>	回答
scissors	<i>n.</i>	剪刀
cut up		剪碎
waste	<i>v.</i>	浪费
terrible	<i>a.</i>	可怕的

Exercise One

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

1. Mencius lived with his parents when he was very young.
2. Mencius lived a poor life when he was a small boy.
3. One day Mencius returned home from the school and found his mother washing clothes.
4. Mencius read a lot that day.
5. Mencius's mother was angry at his reply.



Exercise Two

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Mencius's mother cut the cloth up?
2. What did Mencius do after that incident?
3. What does the story tell us?

