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# It's a Mystery

## 千古之谜

初二年级适用

荣获美国 2003 年非小说类图书 杰出成果奖

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# It's a Mystery!

## 千古之谜

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古往今来，不解之谜比比皆是。复活节岛上的巨石，百慕大三角地区飞机、轮船的神秘失踪，阿尔卑斯山上的冰人木乃伊……这一系列悬而未决的神秘事件引起了我们的好奇与猜想。让我们带着一个个问号体验阅读为我们带来的刺激与乐趣吧！

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# Contents



## Enter the World of the Unexplained ..... 4

Some mysteries may never be solved.

## Send It to Forensics ..... 12

Catching criminals is more exciting  
than being one!

## Murder on Ice ..... 20

How do you solve a 5,300-year-old murder?

## Fact File ..... 30

## Exercises ..... 31

## Glossary ..... 32

## Index ..... 34





# 目 录

|                |    |              |
|----------------|----|--------------|
| 进入不解之谜世界 ..... | 4  | → 高牛津版第18期已出 |
| 送到法医那儿去 .....  | 12 |              |
| 冰上谋杀 .....     | 20 |              |
| 小档案 .....      | 30 |              |
| 练习题 .....      | 31 |              |
| 词汇表 .....      | 32 |              |
| 索引 .....       | 34 |              |



# 前言

由于近年来在中考和高考的英语科目中,阅读部分都出现了一定比例的科普文章,广大师生在英语课外阅读的训练中越来越重视此类阅读材料。根据这一需求,中国电力出版社世纪东方外语部从美国著名的杂志社和教育出版公司引进出版了这套非小说类英语分级读物——**阅读空间·英汉双语主题阅读**。这套读物共58本,其中初中版18本,高中版40本。

本套丛书是“**阅读空间·英汉双语主题阅读**”的初中版,共18种,分为3个级别,每级6种。丛书原版荣获美国2003年非小说类图书“**杰出成果奖**”。这套趣味科普英语分级读物融知识性、趣味性、启发性为一体,循序渐进地引导学生在愉快的阅读、思考、练习的过程中逐步提高英语阅读能力和思维能力。其特点是以动物、植物、运动、探险、发明等专题百科知识为线索,兼具知识性和趣味性,让学生在探索知识的过程中掌握英语,在学习英语的同时开阔视野,提高学习英语的积极性。

与同类图书相比,本套丛书的特点是**文章篇幅短小精悍、行文轻松幽默**。由于对非英语国家的学习者,科普文章在单词上有一定的难度,所以丛书严格地控制了每本书的篇幅长度,约为1500-2000个单词,以尽量避免读者在阅读过程中产生挫折感。丛书采用**国际流行开本、彩色印刷、图文并茂,而且题材广泛,话题新奇有趣**,从爱迪生和达芬奇的伟大发明、古往今来人类对密码的应用,到神秘的百慕大三角、物种灭绝、灾难逃生、极限运动,等等。火星真的曾经登陆地球吗?谁在月亮上发现了蓝色独角兽?复活节岛上的巨型石像是从哪里来的?对所有这些疑问,读者都可以在书中找到答案。书中不仅配有大量真实的**照片**,还穿插了许多幽默的**卡通图画**,让读者在学习语言、掌握知识的过程中,感受绝对的**轻松和愉悦**!

这套出版物的目标是既要让读者体会到如何运用课堂学到的英语恰如其分地描述丰富多彩的大千世界,又要帮助读者避免在泛读中初次接触新鲜话题时被生僻的或专业的词汇所难倒。因此,我们在改编的过程中为全书配了**中译文**,并根据新课标的大纲词汇表对**超纲词汇**和**大纲词汇**作了**双语注释**,相信读者能够在循序渐进的阅读中迅速提高词汇量,有效地夯实英语语言基础,早日自如地用英语去交流。

为了促进中小学英语阅读教学,我们基于华中师范大学鲁子问教授提出的“**英语教育动态真实原则**”,设计了国家教育部专项任务项目“**中小学英语教育动态真实原则推广性实验**”的子课题——“**中小学英语真实阅读教学推广实验**”。课题组将基于中国电力出版社出版的、中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会推荐的“**阅读空间**”系列读物,组织各地中小学英语教研员和教师,全面参与课题实验,为探索适合我国中小学的英语阅读教学新途径而积极尝试。

**这是一套将英语、趣味和科普完美结合的优秀读物!**同学们,让我们一起开始这轻松、快乐的阅读之旅吧!



# Contents



## Enter the World of the Unexplained ..... 4

Some mysteries may never be solved.

## Send It to Forensics ..... 12

Catching criminals is more exciting  
than being one!

## Murder on Ice ..... 20

How do you solve a 5,300-year-old murder?

## Fact File ..... 30

## Exercises ..... 31

## Glossary ..... 32

## Index ..... 34





# 目 录

|                |    |              |
|----------------|----|--------------|
| 进入不解之谜世界 ..... | 4  | → 高牛津版第18期已毕 |
| 送到法医那儿去 .....  | 12 |              |
| 冰上谋杀 .....     | 20 |              |
| 小档案 .....      | 30 |              |
| 练习题 .....      | 31 |              |
| 词汇表 .....      | 32 |              |
| 索引 .....       | 34 |              |









# Enter the World of the Unexplained

In 1872, a ship called the *Mary Celeste* was found drifting in the North Atlantic Ocean—with no-one on board.

The crew of the *Mary Celeste* had disappeared! Some people thought that the ship was attacked by a giant octopus. Or that the crew drowned when an island rose from the sea and then sank again. Or that a whirlwind **sucked** the crew off the decks. Or that everyone fell overboard into the mouths of hungry sharks.

## 进入不解之谜世界

1872年，人们发现一艘叫做玛丽·塞莱斯特号的船漂流在北大西洋上——船上空无一人。

玛丽·塞莱斯特号船上人员失踪了！有人认为这条船受到一头巨大章鱼的攻击；或许船撞上了海上岛屿，船上人员落水沉没；或许旋风把船上人员从甲板上卷走了；或许他们都掉下船，落入了饥饿的鲨鱼之口。

### Notes

**drift:** be carried along gently by a current of water. 漂流

**board:** on or in (a ship or a vehicle). 在(船或交通工具)上

**crew:** all personnel operating or serving aboard a ship. 全体船员

**suck:** draw sb. or sth. 吸



# The Mystery of the Ship that Sailed Herself

Ten people had set sail on the *Mary Celeste*: the captain, his wife and young daughter, and seven crewmen. They were never seen again—and the mystery of what happened to them has never been solved.

The official **explanation** of the *Mary Celeste* mystery was that the crew **murdered** the captain and his family, and then escaped onto another ship. But if this theory is correct, why was there no sign of a struggle on the ship? And why were the valuables still on board? Read the case notes on the next page. What do you think happened?


## 自动行驶的船之谜

出发时玛丽·塞莱斯特号上有十个人：船长、船长夫人、他们的小女儿和七名船员。没有人再见到他们——至于到底发生了什么事情，没有人能解开这个谜。

官方对玛丽·塞莱斯特号之谜的解释是：船员们谋杀了船长和他的家人后，逃到了另一艘船上。如果是这样的话，为什么船上没有任何搏斗的痕迹？为什么贵重物品仍在船上？读一读下一页的案件记录。你认为这到底是怎么回事？



The *Mary Celeste* was found between the Azores and Portugal.  
人们在亚速尔群岛和葡萄牙之间发现了玛丽·塞莱斯特号。



**Q: Who sailed the ghost ship?**

**A: The skeleton crew!**

问：谁驾驶着那艘鬼船？

答：骷髅！

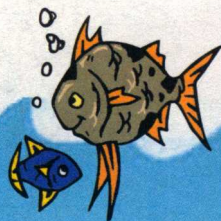
### Notes

**mystery:** thing of which the cause or origin is impossible to explain. 神秘的事物；奥秘

**murder:** kill (another human being) unlawfully. 凶杀；谋杀

**explanation:** the act or process of explaining. 解释





## Chronometer

天文钟

Chronometers keep highly accurate time. They are used to work out a ship's longitude.

Sextants are used to measure the position of the sun. Sailors use chronometers and sextants to help them find their way at sea.

天文钟记时十分精确，用来测量船只所在的纬度。六分仪用来测量太阳的位置。船员们借助天文钟和六分仪在海中寻找道路。



## Sextant

六分仪



Boiled egg

煮鸡蛋



top sliced off

切下来的顶部

## Unsolved Case File 1

Case description: On 5 December 1872, the *Mary Celeste* was found without a crew in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Clues: The ship was not damaged. The lifeboat was still in place. Jewellery and money were locked in a safe. The cargo was fine, except for a barrel of alcohol that had burst open. A table was laid for breakfast. The top of a boiled egg had been sliced off. An open bottle of cough medicine was next to a plate. On a desk lay a piece of paper with unfinished writing. All seemed eerily **normal**... except for three missing things—the ship's chronometer, sextant and cargo documents.



Lifeboat and provisions

救生船和给养

## 不解之谜档案之一

案情描述：1872年12月5日，人们在北大西洋上发现玛丽·塞莱斯特号，没有找到一位船上人员。

线索：船未受到破坏，救生船仍然放在原来的位置。珠宝和金钱锁在保险箱里。除了一大桶酒爆裂开，其他货物完好无损。桌子已放好，好像人们正准备吃早餐。煮鸡蛋的顶部被削掉，一瓶打开的治咳嗽药放在盘子旁边。书桌上放着一张纸，上面有尚未写完的字迹。一切都正常得让人感到害怕……船上只少了三样东西：天文钟、六分仪和有关所运货物的文件。

## Notes

**measure:** ascertain the dimensions, quantity, or capacity of. 测量

**slice sth. off:** cut sth. from a larger piece. 将某物切下

**normal:** conforming with, adhering to, or constituting a norm,

standard, pattern, level, or type. 正常的



# Secrets in Stone

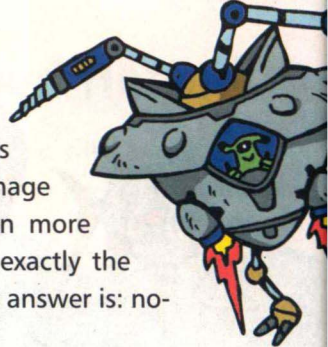
Stonehenge is a group of huge stones in England. It was probably built about 5,000 years ago. So how did its makers manage to **transport**, shape, raise and connect the giant stones? Even more mysterious, how did they know how to position the stones in exactly the right spots to measure the movements of the sun and moon? The answer is: no-one knows.

There are megaliths, or big stones, all over the world. On Easter Island there are about 900 giant stone heads. The statues are from 3 to 12 metres high. Some **weigh** over 45 tonnes. That's more than the weight of seven elephants! How did the statues get on Easter Island? A **legend** says they walked there. The mystery is still waiting to be solved.

## 石头里的秘密

巨石柱群是指英国的一些巨石，这些巨石可能建于5000年前。那么它的制造者是如何将这些巨石搬运、塑造、抬起并拼凑在一起的呢？更神秘的是他们怎么知道如何把这些石头放置在一个准确的位置以测量太阳和月亮的运行呢？答案是：不得而知。

世界各地都有巨石。复活节岛上有大约900个巨型的头形石头。这些雕塑高达3米到12米。有些重达45吨多，比7头大象还要重！这些雕塑是怎么到复活节岛上的呢？传说它们是走到那里的。这个谜一直等着人们去解开。



ry

### Stonehenge 巨石柱群

The stones are arranged in a series of three rings with an altar stone in the middle. The stones in the outside ring stand about 4.1 m high.

这些石头呈三个环形结构，中间有块祭祀石，外环的那些石头高约4.1米。

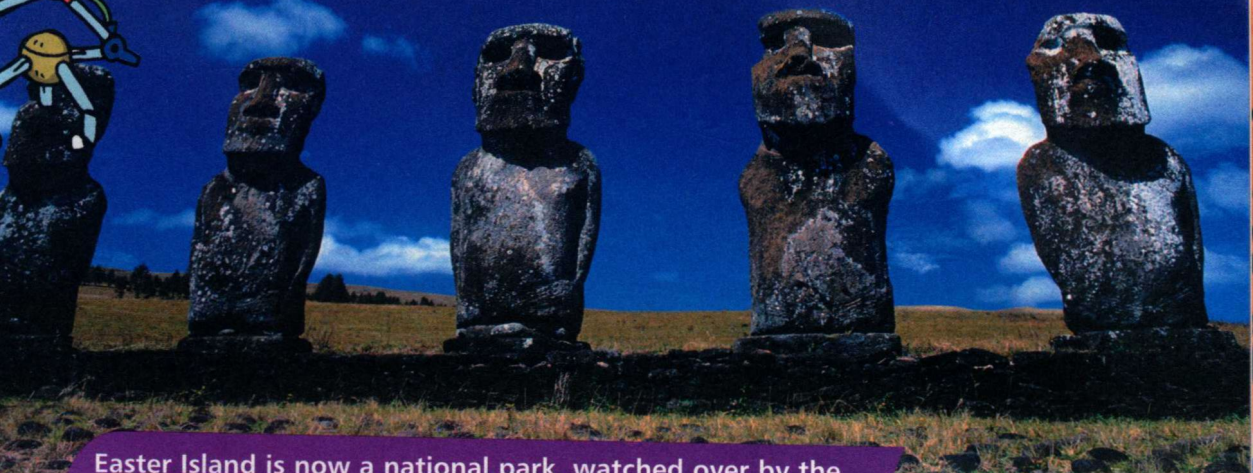
#### Notes

**transport:** carry from one place to another. 运输

**weigh:** determine the weight of. 称……重量

**legend:** a story handed down by tradition. 传说





Easter Island is now a national park, watched over by the stern-looking stone heads.

复活节岛现在是一个国家公园，一些表情严肃的头形石头守卫着它。

## Unsolved Case File 2

Case description: A legend says Stonehenge was built by giants. It was once called the Giants' Dance. In the legend, mysterious giants lifted the huge stones ... but why?

Theories to investigate:

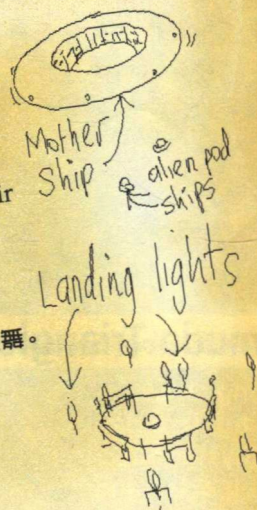
- It was a great stone-age computer.
- It was a temple to worship the sun.
- It was built by aliens as a landing area for their spaceships.

### 不解之谜档案之二

案情描述：传说巨石群是巨人们建造的，曾被人们叫做巨人舞蹈。神秘的巨人们抬起了巨石……可他们为什么要这样做呢？

需要调查的推测：

- \*那是一台伟大的石器时期的计算机。
- \*那是一座用来祭祀太阳的庙宇。
- \*那是外星人为自己的宇宙飞船建造的登陆地。



### Notes

**stern:** serious and grim. 严肃的；不苟言笑的

**temple:** building used for the worship of a god or gods. 庙；寺；神殿

**alien:** being from another world. 从另一个世界来的生物

**spaceship:** a vehicle intended to be launched into space. 宇宙飞船



# Beware the Bermuda Triangle!

For centuries, people have reported strange things happening in a triangle-shaped area of the Atlantic Ocean. As Christopher Columbus' ships sailed through in 1492, his compass **went haywire**. The crew saw great flames of fire crashing into the ocean.

But the area really became famous in 1945. One sunny afternoon, five bomber planes, with 14 men on board, took off into the clear sky. The flight leader radioed that something was wrong with his compass. Then the planes **vanished** without trace. And so did the **rescue** plane sent to search for them! Nothing was ever found. No oil slick, no floating wreckage, no bodies. Nothing . . .

## 小心百慕大三角!

多年来,人们报道了这个大西洋上的一个三角形地区发生的许多奇异的事情。1492年克里斯特夫·哥伦布的船只行驶到这里时,指南针失灵,船员们看见巨型的火焰猛冲入水中。

但1945年这个地区真的出了名。一个阳光灿烂的下午,五架轰炸机上载着14个人飞上了晴朗的天空。飞行领队通过无线电发送信息说他的指南针出了问题,接着那些飞机便消失得无影无踪,就连派去救援的飞机也是如此!人们什么都没有找到,没有找到海面浮油,没有找到飘浮的残骸,没有找到尸体,什么都没有找到。

## Bermuda Triangle Timeline 百慕大三角活动时间表

Vanishing ships.  
Vanishing aeroplanes.  
These mysterious  
vanishing acts—and  
many, many more—have  
never been explained.

船只失踪,飞机失踪,这些神秘的失踪事件,还有许多目的谜从来就没有解开。

The *Atlanta*, a British ship, vanishes with 290 people on board.

一艘名为亚特兰大号的英国轮船失踪,船上有290人。

A British passenger plane disappears with 29 people on board.

一架载着29名乘客的英国客机失踪。

1880

1945

1948

### Notes

go haywire: out of control. 失去控制  
vanish: disappear completely and suddenly.

突然完全消失

rescue: set free, as from danger or imprisonment; save. 营救; 搭救

Flight 19 (five torpedo bomber planes, and their crews) disappears.

第19飞行队(包括五架鱼雷轰炸机和机组人员)失踪。



# Unsolved Case File 3

Case description: If you don't want to vanish, don't fly a plane or sail a ship in the area known as the Bermuda Triangle!

## Theories to investigate:

- A deadly laser beam pointing up from the bottom of the ocean destroys passing boats and planes.
- Giant sea monsters pull boats under the water.
- Ships and planes are hit by falling meteors.
- The magnetic field in the area makes compasses go haywire so that craft become lost.

Need to buy!  
• One pair of flippers  
• One snorkel

## 不解之谜档案之三

案情描述: 如果你不想失踪, 就不要坐飞机或船穿过那个叫百慕大三角的地方。

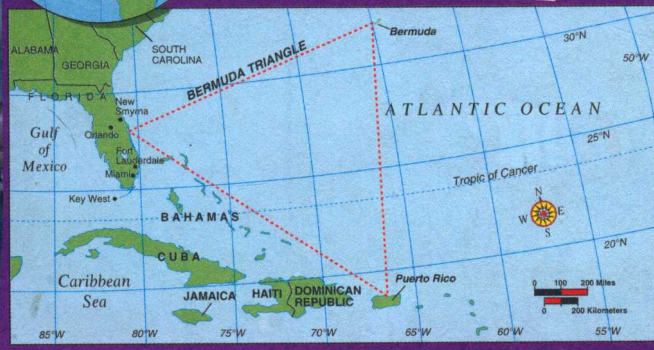
需要调查的推测:

- \* 一种从海底照射上来的致命激光射线损毁了过往船只和飞机。
- \* 巨大的海洋怪物把船只拖到水下。
- \* 船只和飞机被下落的流星击中。
- \* 这个地区的磁场使指南针失灵, 轮船和飞机因此迷失方向。



The Bermuda Triangle's exact location is not clear. Many believe that it covers the area shown below.

百慕大三角地区的准确位置不详, 许多人认为它就位于下图所示的位置。



The ship *Marine Sulphur Queen* disappears with 39 people on board.  
海上硫磺王后号失踪, 船上有39人。

The ship *Marques* disappears with 18 people on board.  
马奎斯号失踪, 船上有18人。

1954

1963

1967

1984

A US Navy plane vanishes with 42 people on board.  
一架美国海军飞机失踪, 机上有42人。

A cargo plane lost with 4 people on board.  
一架货机失踪, 机上有4人。

## Notes

destroy: ruin. 破坏  
location: place or position.  
位置或地点



