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英语国家 社会与文化概况

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A SURVEY OF MAJOR
ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES



中国宇航出版社

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英语国家社会与文化概况

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前 言

语言是人类思维和交流的工具,是文化的载体。语言与文化相互依存。没有文化内容,语言只是没有实际意义的符号和声音。具体到英语教学来说,英语教和学不仅是单纯的语言教学,也应该是文化的教学。在学生具备了一定的英语语言基础后,如何帮助其拓展视野,了解英语国家的文化背景,如社会制度的发展和演变、重大历史事件和著名人物、民族性格和风俗习惯、文化和科学技术等知识对培养具有国际视野,善于学习和吸收其他民族的优秀文化的高素质人才具有重要意义。

有鉴于此,我们在大学英语教学中积极推进英语课堂教学内容的改革。在学生具备一定的英语语言基础后,开始尝试推进英语语言教学与英语文化知识教学并重的教学模式。本教材即为教学改革成果之一。

在本教材的编写过程中,我们始终秉承“读者友好”的理念,以创立“特色教材”作为编写工作的出发点,语言教学和文化知识教学相辅相成,使学生既能学到英语语言知识,又能了解和掌握英语国家文化背景知识。具体编写体例上兼顾“广博”、“精专”两个方面,每单元由两课组成:第一课采用“拼图”、“全景”式的编写方法,主要介绍英语国家地理环境、文化、历史、文学等方面的知识;第二课由 A 和 B 两篇“专题”式选文组成。

本教材体现了以下几个方面特点和创新:

1. 导入部分:图文并茂

该部分提示学生识别一些典型图片,讨论相关话题,配有提示,引导学生表达相关话题。

2. 主体课文:专博结合

该部分是教材的主体,包括生词注释、选文、选文的文化背景和知识注释。选文长度和难度适合学生的英语水平,既有广度,又有深度,注重语言知识和文化知识的培养。课后注释详细,知识面略有拓展,单词注释充分考虑基础阶段的词汇量。

3. 课后任务:丰富多样

课后任务既有词汇练习,又有篇章理解练习。题型以考试的常见题型设计,形式多样,有助于提高学生的语篇理解能力和表达能力。题型多样,难度适中,帮助学生提高自信心,增强成就感。

4. 全课回顾:简洁全面

在回顾部分,我们以表格形式回顾本课学过的知识点,既简洁明了,又“面面俱到”。

本教材是长期在大学英语教学第一线任教、具有丰富英语教学经验的教师集体智慧的结晶。《英语国家社会与文化概况》(下册)由南京交通职业技术学院胡海青、倪方,南京工业职业技术学院潘月洲担任主编,南京交通职业技术学院程东英、郭成静、焦圣华、周佳聪、滕兆纬、尹亮宇、王秀芬、苏晓婕等参加编写。

限于编者的水平,加之时间仓促,本教材难免有疏漏和不足之处。我们恳请读者批评指正,以便今后修改,使之日臻完善。

编者

2010年6月23日

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Unit One Land and People

Learning Objectives

- ◆ Master the key facts of Canada and Australia.
- ◆ Make an oral representation about the two nations according to the information from the texts.
- ◆ Make a comparison of the geographical characteristics between the two nations.

Lesson One

General Information on Canada and Australia

Lesson Two

Further Reading

Lesson One

General Information on Canada and Australia

Starter

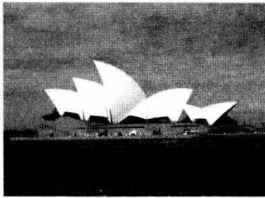
1. Look at the following pictures, match them with the items in the box and present what you know about them.



a



b



c



d



e



f



g

- ▶() 1. the koala
- ▶() 2. the kangaroo
- ▶() 3. Sydney
- ▶() 4. the Great Lakes
- ▶() 5. maple
- ▶() 6. the Australian National Flag
- ▶() 7. the Maple Leaf Flag, national flag of the Canada

2. Make a brief sketch of the location and geographical characteristics of the Canada and the Australia and their capital cities. You may use the tips in the box as your guidance.

TIPS	Canada	a big country surrounded by ocean and sea	Ottawa	Toronto
	Australia	a continental country	Canberra	

You may start like this: Canada is a big country, surrounded by...

Text A

Vocabulary

ecology/ɪˈkɒlədʒi/n. 生态学

vegetation/ˌvedʒɪˈteɪʃən/n. 植物, 草木; 植被

ethnic/ˈeθnɪk/adj. 种族的

immigration/ˌɪmɪˈɡreɪʃən/n. 移民

proportion/prəʊˈpɔːʃən/n. 份额

census/ˈsensus/n. 人口普查, 人口调查

density/ˈdensəti/n. 密度

respondent/riˈspɒndənt/n. 被调查者

prominent/ˈprɒmɪnənt/adj. 突出的, 显著的

Pre-reading: Tell as much as you know about the followings.

Toronto Ottawa Montréal Vancouver

Canada

Location and Area

Canada is a country occupying most of northern North America, extending from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west and northward into the Arctic Ocean. It is the world's second largest country by total area 997,061 square kilometers and its common border with the United States to the south and northwest is the world's longest one.

By total area (including its waters), Canada is the second-largest country in the world—after Russia—and the largest on the continent. By land area, it also ranks second. Canada has an extensive coastline on its north, east, and west, and since the last ice age it has consisted of eight distinct forest regions. The vastness and variety of Canada's geography, ecology, vegetation and landforms have given rise to a wide variety of climates throughout the country. Also because of its vast size, Canada has more lakes than any other country. The Great Lakes¹—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario—and their connecting channels form the largest fresh surface water system on earth. The Great Lakes are located in eastern North America, on the Canada—United States border.

The capital of Canada is City of Ottawa. And Toronto is the biggest city.

Population

According to the 2009 census, the total population of Canada was 33,610,000—the 36th-largest in the world. Population growth is from immigration and, to a lesser extent, natural growth. About three-quarters of Canada's population live within 150 kilometers of the United States border. A similar proportion live in urban areas concentrated in the Quebec City—Windsor Corridor (notably the Greater Golden Horseshoe, including Toronto and area, Montreal, and Ottawa), the BC Lower Mainland (consisting of the region surrounding Vancouver), and the Calgary—Edmonton Corridor in Alberta. The population density, 3.5 inhabitants per square kilometre, is among the lowest in the world. The most densely populated part of the country is the Quebec City—Windsor Corridor, (situated in Southern Quebec and Southern Ontario) along the Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence River in the southeast.

According to the 2006 census, there are 43 ethnicities claimed by at least 100,000 people in Canada.

The largest ethnic group is English (21%), followed by French (15.8%), Scottish (15.2%), Irish (13.9%), German (10.2%), Italian (5%), Chinese (3.9%), Ukrainian (3.6%), and First Nations (3.5%). Approximately one third of respondents identified their ethnicity as “Canadian”. Canada’s aboriginal population is growing at almost twice the national average, and 3.8% of Canada’s population claimed aboriginal identity in 2006. Another 16.2% of the population belonged to non-aboriginal visible minorities. The largest visible minority (少数民族) groups in Canada are South Asian (4%), Chinese (3.9%) and Black (2.5%).

In 2006, 51.0% of Vancouver’s population and 46.9% of Toronto’s population were visible minorities. In March 2005, the visible minority population rose by 27.2%. Statistics Canada projected that people of non-European origins will constitute a majority in both Toronto and Vancouver by 2012. According to a 2005 forecast by Statistics Canada, the proportion of visible minorities in Canada could rise as high as 23% by 2017. A survey released in 2007 reveals that almost one in five Canadians (19.8%) are foreign born. Nearly 60% of new immigrants hail from Asia (including the Middle East).

Climate

The climate of Canada is changeable. Average winter and summer high temperatures across Canada vary according to the location. Winters can be harsh in many regions of the country, particularly in the interior and Prairie provinces, which experience a continental climate, where daily average temperatures are near -15°C , but can drop below -40°C with severe wind chills. In noncoastal regions, snow can cover the ground almost six months of the year (more in the north). Coastal British Columbia is an exception; it enjoys a temperate climate, with a mild and rainy winter.

On the east and west coasts, average high temperatures are generally in the low 20°C , while between the coasts, the average summer high temperature ranges from 25 to 30°C , with occasional extreme heat in some interior locations exceeding 40°C .

National Symbols and Famous Figures

The national flag of Canada is the Maple Leaf flag, and the national anthem is *O Canada*².

Canada’s National symbols are influenced by natural, historical, and First Nations sources. The use of the maple leaf as a Canadian symbol dates to the early 18th century. The maple leaf is depicted on Canada’s current and previous flags, on the penny, and on

the Coat of Arms. Other prominent symbols include the beaver, Canada Goose, Common Loon, the Crown, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and more recently, the totem pole and Inukshuk.

Doctor Bethune joined the Chinese revolution and is always remembered in Chinese history. Mark Rowswell³ is another Canadian who is familiar with Chinese people.

Religions

Support for religious pluralism is an important part of Canada's political culture. According to the 2001 census, 77.0% of Canadians identify as being Christians; of this, Catholics make up the largest group (43.6% of Canadians). The largest Protestant denomination is the United Church of Canada (9.5% of Canadians), followed by the Anglicans (6.8%), Baptists (2.4%), Lutherans (2%), and other Christians (4.4%). About 16.5% of Canadians declare no religious affiliation, and the remaining 6.3% are affiliated with non-Christian religions, the largest of which is Islam (1.9%), followed by Judaism 犹太教 (1.1%).

Religion	Percent
Christianity ⁴	77.0%
No religion	16.2%
Islam ⁵	2.0%
Judaism	1.1%
Buddhism ⁶	1.0%
Hinduism (印度教)	1.0%
Sikhism (锡克教)	0.9%

Cultural Notes

1. the Great Lakes: 在加拿大和美国交界处,有闻名世界的五大淡水湖。它们按大小分别为苏必利尔湖、休伦湖、密歇根湖、伊利湖和安大略湖。五大湖总面积约 245 660 平方公里,是世界上最大的淡水水域。也是最大的淡水湖群,有美洲大陆的地中海之称。

2. *O Canada*: 《哦! 加拿大》,是加拿大的国歌。英语歌词如下:

O Canada! Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

中文翻译如下:

啊! 加拿大!
我们的家园与故土!
你的儿女, 忠诚爱国。
雄心万丈, 国势昌盛,
强大、自由的北方之邦!
万众一心, 啊! 加拿大!
我们挺立护防!
上苍祝幸, 国泰民安。
啊! 加拿大, 我们挺立护防!
啊! 加拿大, 我们挺立护防!

3. Mark Rowswell: 马克·罗斯韦尔, 加拿大人。中文名字大山。1989年冬, 大山正式成为中国第一位外籍相声演员。
4. Christianity: 基督教。信仰耶稣基督为救世主的宗教。天主教、新教、东正教、基督教马龙派等统称基督教。目前基督教在全世界有约 21.4 亿信徒, 为拥有信徒最多的宗教。基督教发源于公元一世纪巴勒斯坦的耶路撒冷地区犹太人社会。
5. Islam: 伊斯兰教。在阿拉伯语有顺从、和平和安宁之意, 指顺从真主安拉的旨意。信奉伊斯兰教的人统称为“穆斯林”(Muslim, 意为“顺从者”)。7 世纪初兴起于阿拉伯半岛, 由麦加人穆罕默德所创传。伊斯兰教是世界三大宗教之一, 伊斯兰教世界的国家遍布亚、非两个大洲。截止到 2008 年底, 伊斯兰教穆斯林约有 15 亿。
6. Buddhism: 佛教, 世界三大宗教之一, 由公元前六世纪至公元前五世纪古印度的迦毗罗卫国(今尼泊尔境内)王子所创, 人们又称他为释迦牟尼, 意思是释迦族的圣人。广泛流传于亚洲的许多国家。佛教与基督教、伊斯兰教并称为世界三大宗教。

Tasks after reading

I. Short-answer questions

Answer the following questions. Write no more than three words for each answer.

1. Which is the capital city of Canada? _____
2. Which is the biggest city in Canada? _____
3. What type of climate is that of Canada classified as? _____
4. What's the largest visible minority groups in Canada? _____
5. How many Canadians are identified as being Christians? _____

II. True/False/Not Given

Decide the following statements true, false or not given in the passage.

1. Canada lies in North America. _____
2. Canada is the world's largest country. _____
3. Canada has a long coastline. _____
4. The use of the maple leaf as a Canadian symbol dates to the early 10th century. _____
5. The largest ethnic group in Canada is French. _____

III. Complete the following sentences with appropriate words in the correct form.

general vary influence locate follow cover range total consist occupy

1. Canada is a country _____ most of northern North America.
2. Canada's National symbols are _____ by natural, historical, and First Nations sources.
3. The Great Lakes are _____ in eastern North America.
4. Average winter and summer high temperatures across Canada _____ according to the location.
5. On the east and west coasts, average high temperatures are _____ in the low 20°C.
6. Between the coasts, the average summer high temperature _____ from 25 to 30°C.
7. Snow can _____ the ground almost six months of the year.
8. According to the 2009 census, the _____ population of Canada was 33,610,000.
9. The largest of which is Islam (1.9%), _____ by Judaism (1.1%).
10. Since the last ice age, it has _____ of eight distinct forest regions.

Text B

Vocabulary

territory/'teritəri/*n.* 领土

semi-arid/'sem(a)i//ærid/*adj.* 半干旱的

denomination/di,nəmi'neifən/*n.* 宗派, 教派

hemisphere/'hemi,sfiə/*n.* 半球

Pre-reading: Tell as much as you know about the followings.

New South Wales Queensland South Australia Tasmania Victoria
Western Australia

Australia

Location and Area

Australia, officially the Commonwealth of Australia¹, is a country in the Southern Hemisphere comprising the continental mainland (the world's smallest), the island of Tasmania (塔斯马尼亚岛), and numerous smaller islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Neighboring countries include Indonesia, East Timor, and Papua New Guinea to the north, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia to the north-east, and New Zealand to the southeast.

Australia's landmass of 7,617,930 square kilometres is on the Indo-Australian Plate. Surrounded by the Indian and Pacific oceans, Australia is separated from Asia by the Arafura and Timor seas. The world's smallest continent and sixth largest country by total area, Australia—owing to its size and isolation—is often dubbed the “island continent” and variably considered the world's largest island. Australia has 34,218 kilometres of coastline (excluding all offshore islands) and claims an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone of 8,148,250 square kilometres. This exclusive economic zone does not include the Australian Antarctic Territory.

Australia has six states—New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia—and two major mainland territories—the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT)². In most respects these two territories function as states, but the Commonwealth Parliament can override any legislation of their

parliaments. By contrast, federal legislation only overrides state legislation in certain areas that are set out in Section 51 of the Australian Constitution; state parliaments retain all residual legislative powers, including powers over education, police, the judiciary, roads, public transport, and local government.

The nation's capital city is Canberra, located in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Population

Most of the estimated 22 million Australians are descended from colonial-era (殖民地时期) settlers and post-Federation immigrants from Europe, with almost 90% of the population being of European descent. For generations, the vast majority of both colonial-era settlers and post-Federation immigrants came almost exclusively from the British Isles, and the people of Australia are still mainly of British or Irish ethnic origin. In the 2006 Australian Census, the most commonly nominated ancestry was Australian (37.13%), followed by English (31.65%), Irish (9.08%), Scottish (7.56%), Italian (4.29%), German (4.09%), Chinese (3.37%), and Greek (1.84%).

Australia's population has quadrupled (四倍的) since the end of World War I, spurred by an ambitious immigration program. Following World War II and through to 2000, almost 5.9 million of the total population settled in the country as new immigrants, meaning that nearly two out of every seven Australians were born overseas. Most immigrants are skilled, but the immigration quota includes categories for family members and refugees.

In 2001, the five largest groups of the 23.1% of Australians who were born overseas were from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Italy, Vietnam, and China. Following the abolition of the White Australia policy in 1973, numerous government initiatives have been established to encourage and promote racial harmony based on a policy of multiculturalism. In 2005 ~ 2006, more than 131,000 people emigrated to Australia, mainly from Asia and Oceania. The migration target for 2006 ~ 2007 was 144,000. The total immigration quota for 2008 ~ 2009 is around 300,000—its highest level since the Immigration Department was created after World War II.

In common with many other developed countries, Australia is experiencing a demographic shift towards an older population, with more retirees and fewer people of working age. In 2004, the average age of the civilian population was 38.8 years. A large number of Australians (759,849 for the period 2002 ~ 2003) live outside their home country.