



上册



英语国家 社会与文化概况

主编 胡海青 倪方 潘月洲

A SURVEY OF MAJOR
ENGLISH- COUNTRIES



中国宇航出版社

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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的成果之一。

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 innovation:

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》(上册)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蒋曙、石继刚、沈月辉、高鸣敏、胡存华、魏薇、周洁、姜龙等参加编写。

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

Contents

Unit One	Land and People	
	Lesson One General Information on the UK and the USA	2
	Lesson Two Further Reading	25
Unit Two	History	
	Lesson Three A Brief History of the UK and the USA	34
	Lesson Four Further Reading	57
Unit Three	Politics and Government	
	Lesson Five Politics and Government of the UK and the USA	62
	Lesson Six Further Reading	79
Unit Four	Tourism, Architecture and Transport	
	Lesson Seven Tourism, Architecture and Transport of the UK and the USA	86
	Lesson Eight Further Reading	104
Unit Five	Education and Sports	
	Lesson Nine Education and Sports in the UK and the USA	110
	Lesson Ten Further Reading	128

**Unit
Six**

Literature

Lesson Eleven Introduction to Some Writers and Their Writings of the UK and the USA 134

Lesson Twelve Further Reading 150

**Unit
Seven**

Movie and Music

Lesson Thirteen Movie and Music of the UK and the USA 156

Lesson Fourteen Further Reading 172

**Unit
Eight**

Holidays and Festivals

Lesson Fifteen Holidays and festivals of the UK and the USA 178

Lesson Sixteen Further Reading 196

Appendix

参考答案 201

Unit One Land and People

Learning Objectives

- ◆ Master the key facts of the UK and the USA.
- ◆ Make an oral presentation about the two countries according to the information from the texts.
- ◆ Research the geographical characteristics of the two nations.

Lesson One

General Information on the UK and the USA

Lesson Two

Further Reading

Lesson One

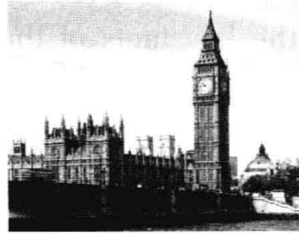
General Information on the UK and the USA

Starter

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



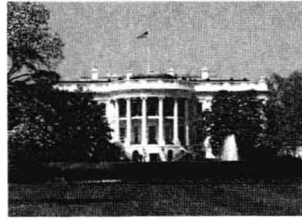
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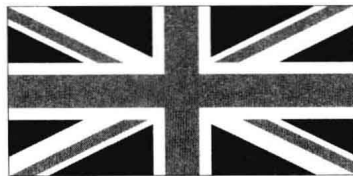
d



e



f



g

- ▶ () 1. London
- ▶ () 2. Washington
- ▶ () 3. New York
- ▶ () 4. The bald eagle, national bird of the United States
- ▶ () 5. The European Robin, national bird of the United Kingdom
- ▶ () 6. The Union Flag, or the Union Jack, national flag of the UK
- ▶ () 7. The Stars and Stripes, national flag of the USA
- ▶ () 8. The flag of Australia, national flag of Australia

2. Make a brief sketch of the location and geographical characteristics of the UK and the USA and their capital cities.

You may use the tips in the box as your guidance.

TIPS	UK	an island country surrounded by ocean and sea London England Great Britain
	USA	a continental country its neighboring countries Washington DC 50 stars on its national banner 50 states Alaska Hawaii New York the leading city of USA Uncle Sam

You may start like this: The United Kingdom is an island country, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. It consists of...

Text A

Vocabulary

sovereign/'sɒvərɪn/n. 君主; 主权

surround/sə'raʊnd/vt. 围绕; 包围

Atlantic/ət'læntɪk/adj. 大西洋的

isle/aɪl/n. 岛

constitutional/ˌkɒnstɪ'tju:ʃənəl/adj. 宪法的

monarchy/'mɒnəki/n. 君主制; 君主国

monarch/'mɒnək/n. 君主, 帝王; 最高统治者

unitary/'ju:nɪtəri/adj. 统一的; 单位的; 单一的

- parliamentary/ˌpɑːlə'mentəri/*adj.* 议会的;国会的;议会制度的
- parliament/'pɑːləmənt/*n.* 议会,国会
- density/'densəti/*n.* 密度;浓度
- predominant/ˌpri'dɒmɪnənt/*adj.* 支配的;主要的;有影响的
- predominantly *adv.* 居支配地位地;主导地;大多数地
- subject/'sʌbdʒɪkt/*adj.* 服从的;受制于……的
- subject to 易受……的;受制于……的
- invasion/in'veɪʒən/*n.* 侵犯;入侵,侵略;侵袭
- migration/maɪ'greɪʃən/*n.* 移民;移动;迁移
- occupation/ˌɒkjʊ'peɪʃən/*n.* (军事)占领,占据;职业
- descend/di'send/*v.* 遗传,世代相传;下降;下来
- varied/'veəriəd/*adj.* 各种各样的,不同的,形形色色的
- variation/ˌvɛəri'eɪʃən/*n.* 变化;差异;波动
- ethnic/'eθnik/*adj.* 种族的;人种的
- ethnic stock 民族;种族
- latitude/'lætɪtjuːd/*n.* 纬度
- mid-latitude oceanic climate 中纬度海洋气候
- precipitation/priˌsɪpɪ'teɪʃən/*n.* (雨、雪、冰雹等)降落;降雨量
- arid/'æriəd/*adj.* (地区、气候等)干燥的;干旱的
- proximity/prɒk'sɪmɪti/*n.* 亲近,接近;邻近
- convergence/kən'vɜːdʒəns/*n.* 会聚,集合;集中点,会合点
- notorious/nəu'tɔːriəs/*adj.* 著名的;众所周知的;臭名昭著的,声名狼藉的
- notoriously *adv.* 众所周知地
- daffodil/'dæfədɪl/*n.* 水仙花
- Britannia/bri'tænjə/*n.* 不列颠尼亚
- personification/pəˌsɒnɪfɪ'keɪʃən/*n.* 拟人法;人格化;化身;象征
- symbolize/'sɪmbəlaɪz/*vt.* 象征,标志;作为……的象征
- Corinthian/kə'rɪnθiən/*adj.* 科林斯的;科林斯人的;科林斯式的
- helmet/'helmit/*n.* 钢盔,头盔
- Poseidon/pə'saɪdən/*n.* 波塞冬(希腊神话中的海神)
- prong/prɒŋ/*n.* 叉子;耙子
- trident/'traɪdənt/*n.* (古罗马斗士用的)三叉戟
- three-pronged trident 三叉戟
- depict/dɪ'pɪkt/*vt.* 描绘;描画;描述

stout/staut/*adj.* 结实的;矮胖的;粗壮的;肥厚的

bulldog/'buldɔ:g/*n.* 牛头犬

Christianity/,kristi'ænəti/*n.* 基督教

representation/,reprizen'teɪʃən/*n.* 代表;代理;表现;陈述;表示法

bishop/'bɪʃəp/*n.* 主教

Buddhism/'budizəm/*n.* 佛教

Hinduism/'hinduizəm/*n.* 印度教

Judaism/'ʒu:deɪizəm/*n.* 犹太教;犹太主义

Islam/'izlɑ:m/*n.* 伊斯兰教;回教

Sikhism/'si:kizəm/*n.* 锡克教

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

England Scotland Wales Northern Ireland Atlantic Ocean North Sea

British Isles London the River Thames Manchester English Channel

Newton Darwin Shakespeare the Beatles Harry Potter Christianity

The UK

Location and Area

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland¹ (commonly known as the United Kingdom, the UK, or as Britain) is a^{sovereign} state located off the northwestern coast of continental Europe. It is an island country, including Great Britain and many small islands. Northern Ireland² is the only part of the UK with a land border, sharing it with the Republic of Ireland. Apart from this land border, the UK is^{surrounded} by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the English Channel and the Irish Sea. The largest island of the British^{Isles}³, Great Britain, is linked to France by the Channel Tunnel.

The United Kingdom is a^{constitutional monarchy}⁴ and^{unitary} state consisting of four parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is governed by a^{parliamentary} system⁵ with its seat of government in London, the capital city through which the River Thames⁶ flows.

The total area of the United Kingdom is approximately 245,000 square kilometres (94,600 sq miles) comprising of the island of Great Britain, the northeastern one-sixth of the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland) and smaller islands. Britain is about 1,000 km from north to south, and 500 km across in the widest part.

Population

According to the 2001 census, the total population of the United Kingdom was 58,789,194—the third-largest in the European Union⁷ (behind Germany and France) and the 21st-largest in the world. Its overall population density is one of the highest in the world, due to the particularly high population density in England. Almost one-third of the population lives in England's southeast and is predominantly urban and suburban, with about 8.2 million in the capital of London.

The UK's population is predominantly White British. Being located close to continental Europe, the United Kingdom were subject to many invasions and migrations, including Roman occupation⁸ for several centuries and Norman conquest⁹ in 1066. Historically, British people were thought to be descended mainly from the varied ethnic stocks that settled there before the 11th century, the pre-Celtic, Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Norse and the Normans¹⁰.

Climate

The climate of the United Kingdom is classified as a mid-latitude oceanic climate with warm summers, cool winters and plentiful precipitation throughout the year. However, some parts of East & South-East England actually have a semi-arid climate through virtue of having less than 500 mm average annual rainfall. The principal factors that influence the country's climate include its northerly latitude (which ranges from 50° to 60° N), the close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, and the warming of the surrounding waters by the Gulf Stream. The weather can be notoriously changeable from one day to the next but temperature variations throughout the year are relatively small.

The boundary of convergence between the warm tropical air and the cold polar air lies over the United Kingdom. As a result, the large temperature variation creates instability and this is a major factor that influences the often unsettled weather the country experiences, where many types of weather can be experienced in a single day.

Regional climates in the United Kingdom are influenced by the Atlantic Ocean and latitude. Northern Ireland, Wales and western parts of England and Scotland, being closest to the Atlantic, are generally the mildest, wettest and windiest regions of the UK, and temperature ranges here are seldom extreme. Eastern areas are drier, cooler, less windy and also experience the greatest daily and seasonal temperature variations. Northern areas are generally cooler, wetter and have a smaller temperature range than southern areas.

National Symbols and Famous Figures

The national flag of the UK is the Union Flag (Union Jack)¹¹, and the national anthem is God Save the King, with “King” replaced with “Queen” in the lyrics whenever the monarch is a woman. The government is constitutional monarchy, in which the Queen is recognized as Head of State, and the Prime Minister is the head of government. Different parts of Britain have different national flowers; rose for England, daffodil for Wales. The European robin¹² is the national bird of Britain.

Britannia¹³ is a national personification of the United Kingdom, originating from Roman Britain. Britannia is symbolised as a young woman with brown or golden hair, wearing a Corinthian helmet and white robes. She holds Poseidon’s three-pronged trident and a shield, bearing the Union Flag. Sometimes she is depicted as riding the back of a lion.

John Bull¹⁴ is a national personification of Great Britain in general and England in particular, especially in political cartoons and similar graphic works. He is usually depicted as a stout, middle-aged man, often wearing a Union Flag waistcoat.

The bulldog is sometimes used as a symbol of the United Kingdom and has been associated with Winston Churchill’s defiance of Nazi Germany.

Britain is the birthplace of Sir Issac Newton, Charles Darwin, William Shakespeare and the Beatles¹⁵, home of the world’s largest foreign exchange market, the world’s richest football club—Manchester United, the inventor of the hovercraft—Christopher Cockerrell, and the author of the *Harry Potter* books—J. K. Rowling¹⁶.

Religions and Beliefs

Christianity¹⁷ is the main religion in England¹⁸ with the Church of England. It retains representation in the UK Parliament¹⁹ with the churches 26 bishops sitting in the House of Lords as Lords Spiritual²⁰, and the British monarch is a member of the church as well as its Supreme Governor²¹. The Roman Catholic Church²² in England and Wales is the second largest Christian church across England and Wales. Most British people are Christian, although all other religions including Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam and Sikhism are freely practiced. The most popular festivals are religion-related such as Christmas²³, Easter²⁴, Whit Sunday²⁵, etc.

Cultural Notes

1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: 大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国, 通常简称为“联合王国”(United Kingdom)、“UK”或“不列颠”(Britain)。我们常用 England 来指代“英格兰”, 有时可以借指“联合王国”或“英国”。但中文语境中的“英国”一词, 在英语中并无完全对应的词汇, 可指历史上的英格兰王国, 现代多指大不列颠和北爱尔兰联合王国。中文中独有的“英伦三岛”一词, 对英格兰、苏格兰和威尔士三个地区的称呼, 其范围和意义与大不列颠无明显差别, 有时会用来泛指联合王国。
2. Northern Ireland: 北爱尔兰, 联合王国的一个地区, 位于爱尔兰岛东北部, 首府是贝尔法斯特。1921 年, 爱尔兰独立, 北部阿尔斯特省中的六郡组成北爱尔兰, 留在联合王国之内。
3. the British Isles: 不列颠群岛, 是由大不列颠岛屿、爱尔兰岛和周边许多小岛组成的群岛。大不列颠岛屿(Great Britain), 有时简称为不列颠(Britain), 是不列颠群岛中最大的岛屿, 由英格兰、苏格兰和威尔士三部分组成。
4. a constitutional monarchy: 君主立宪制。
英国采用的是君主立宪政体, 现任君主是伊丽莎白二世女王。英国君主是英国、英联邦国家及英国海外领地的国家元首。男性君主称为国王(King), 女性君主称为女王(Queen), 故英国的国歌 *God Save the King* (天佑吾王), 当君主是女王时, 就改称 *God Save the Queen*。
5. a parliamentary system: 议会制。
英国国会, 是英国的最高立法机关, 包括上议院(The House of Lords)和下议院(The House of Commons)。英国国会的首领为英国君主。
6. the River Thames(读作/temz/): 泰晤士河, 为英格兰最长之河流, 流经牛津、伦敦等城市。需要注意的是, 英国有一份在全国发行的、对全球政治、经济、文化发挥巨大影响力的报纸——《泰晤士报》, 其英语名称是 *The Times*。也要注意后者与美国《时代》周刊(*TIME*)的区别。
7. the European Union: 欧洲联盟, 简称欧盟或 EU, 现有 27 个成员国, 总部设在比利时首都布鲁塞尔。
8. Roman occupation: 罗马帝国征服不列颠。
公元前 55 年, 时任罗马高卢总督的凯撒, 带领数万军队, 对不列颠群岛发动了两次武力侵略, 却困于不列颠人的战术无功而返。公元 43 年, 罗马第三任皇帝克劳狄终于征服了不列颠地区, 纳为行省, 同时对不列颠进行军事统治和军事移民。

9. Norman conquest: 诺曼征服是指 1066 年法国诺曼底公爵威廉对英格兰的入侵和征服。这次征服改变了英格兰的走向。英国盎格鲁——撒克逊时代结束,诺曼底王朝建立,从此英格兰受到欧洲大陆的影响加深。诺曼征服改变了英格兰的文化,包括语言,古英语的发展进入中古英语阶段。
10. the pre-Celtic, Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Norse and the Normans;
pre-Celtic 指凯尔特人迁入不列颠和爱尔兰前,居住在不列颠群岛的早期居民。
Celtic 指凯尔特人,今天凯尔特人主要指不列颠群岛和法国布列塔尼地区。
Roman 指罗马人。
Anglo-Saxon 指盎格鲁——撒克逊人,居住在不列颠南部的种群。
Norse 指(古代)斯堪的纳维亚人。
Norman 指诺曼人,是指在中世纪时居住在法国北部的一个族群。
11. the Union Flag: 英国国旗,是大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国的国旗,英文俗称“联合杰克”(The Union Jack),中文又俗称米字旗。
12. The European robin: 欧洲知更鸟。
知更鸟的标准名称是欧亚鸫(Erithacus rubecula),又叫红襟鸟、知更雀。在英国、爱尔兰等地的花园,知更鸟很常见。1960 年代《泰晤士报》的读者票选出知更鸟为最受欢迎鸟类。后来,知更鸟曾被用作护鸟协会的一个标志。
13. Britannia: 不列颠尼亚,英帝国的拟人化称呼。不列颠尼亚是罗马帝国对于大不列颠岛的拉丁文称呼。后来,罗马人将不列颠尼亚神化,称不列颠女神。随着英国国力的上升和大英帝国的不断扩张,不列颠尼亚逐渐成为大不列颠的化身。这位不列颠女神被描绘成有着褐色或金色头发的年轻女子,穿戴着古罗马的头盔和宽袍,手持海神波塞冬的三叉戟,手中拿着绘有英国米字旗的希腊圆木盾,身边常有代表英国的狮子。
14. John Bull: 约翰牛,是英国的拟人化形象。
约翰牛来源于 1727 年,由苏格兰作家约翰·阿布斯诺特的讽刺小说《约翰牛的生平》,主人公约翰牛是一个头戴高帽、足蹬长靴、手持雨伞的矮胖绅士。随着该小说的风靡一时,逐渐成为英国人自嘲的形象。
15. Sir Issac Newton, Charles Darwin, William Shakespeare and the Beatles;
艾萨克·牛顿爵士(1643 ~ 1727),英国物理学家、数学家、天文学家、自然哲学家和炼金术士。创立微积分。1687 年发表了著作《自然哲学中的数学原理》,对万有引力和三大运动定律进行了描述。奠定了现代物理和现代工程学的基础。
查尔斯·达尔文(1809 ~ 1882),英国著名的生物学家、博物学家。早期因地质学

研究而著名,而后又研究物种演化。1859年出版著作《物种起源》。

威廉·莎士比亚(1564~1616),是英国文学史和戏剧史上最杰出的诗人和剧作家。他的作品包括38部剧本、154首十四行诗、两首长叙事诗和其他诗作。他的剧本被翻译成所有主要的语言,并且表演次数远远超过其他任何剧作家。华人社会常尊称其为莎翁。

披头士(又译甲壳虫),英国乐队,于1960年成立于利物浦,1970年解散。成员为约翰·列侬(节奏吉他、主音、作词作曲)、保罗·麦卡特尼(贝斯、主音、作词作曲)、乔治·哈里森(主音吉他)

及林格·斯塔(鼓手)。披头士常被认为是流行乐坛历史上,无论在商业方面还是在人气方面最成功与最伟大的乐队,成功地使摇滚乐成为各年龄段、各阶层人士都喜欢的音乐形式。



16. Manchester United, Christopher Cockerrell, J. K. Rowling;

曼联队,英文全名是 Manchester United Football Club,多次获得英超联赛(Premier League)冠军。

克里斯多夫·考克若尔于1956年发明了气垫飞行器(hovercraft)。

罗琳是哈利·波特系列小说作者,是历史上第一个收入超过十亿美元的作家。

17. Christianity: 基督教(包括天主教、新教及东正教)。

基督教,是一个相信耶稣基督为救世主的一神论宗教,与佛教和伊斯兰教一起并称世界三大宗教,在全球共有15亿至21亿信徒。最早期的基督教只有一个教会,但在基督教的历史进程中却分化为许多派别,主要有天主教(中文也可译为公教、罗马公教)、东正教、新教(中文又常称为基督教)三大派别,以及其他一些影响较小的派别。中文的“基督教”一词有时被用于专指基督新教。基督教基本经典是《圣经》,由《旧约圣经》和《新约圣经》两大部分构成。

18. the Church of England: 英国国教。

英国国教,在英语中又称为 the Established Church。由英格兰君主亨利八世创始并作为英格兰的国教,由英格兰君主担任教会最高首脑。教会的辖区是今天英国的英格兰和威尔斯地区。英国国教的最高主教是坎特伯里大主教,副手是约克大主教。