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肖冉/等编著

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内容提要

本书聚焦英语的发源地——英国，涉及英国的地理地况、国家政治、教育文化、风土人情等各个方面。全书分十二个章节展开叙述，用最地道的英文和最精选的图片系统地介绍了英国文化，使读者足不出户便可以感受纯粹的英伦风情，并且于不知不觉中提高自己的英语水平。本书是既适用于英语初学者扩充自己的词汇量、了解英语文化背景，也适用于中高级英语水平学习者丰富自己的文化背景知识。

就让这本书带你踏上游历大不列颠的旅程吧！让它带你探寻这个美丽的国度，带你领略这个国家的历史、传统、经济、文化、社会……读完它，相信你能感受到一个全新的世界，你将触摸到隐藏在内敛外表下的英国文化更多彩的一面。

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前言

学习任何知识都是一个长期积累的过程。古话说得好：不积跬步，无以致千里；不积小流，无以成江河。而学习一门语言更是没有捷径可走，它需要学习者长期坚持积累，厚积而薄发。

这听起来有点令人沮丧，但是也不要泄气，因为学习语言是有诀窍的。众多学者已经证实，语言与文化不分家。二者都是一个民族历史的传承。在语言中可以找到文化的背影，而在文化中也能窥见语言的发展足迹。它们的相辅相成、相互渗透给我们提供了一个良好的学习英语的思路。

真正会学英语的人都知道，要想把英语学好，光靠机械地背大量单词其实并没有多大用处。我们需在脑海中储存大量原汁原味的英文文章；同时熟知相关英语国家的文化背景，以便了解各个单词的出处、各种句子的用法……，进而真正做到融会贯通；同时辅以不断地听与说。如此假以时日，我们的英语能力便会在潜移默化中得到质的飞跃。

纵观如今繁荣的图书市场，各种各样的英语课外阅读书籍可谓令人目不暇接。它们之中绝大多数是针对辅导不同阶段的英语学习者的，还有相当一部分则是为参加各种英语等级考试的考生而准备。然而真正令读者既能轻松阅读、提高自身英语水平又涉及英语文化背景的书籍则相对较少。《边品英国文化边学英文》正是应读者的这一需求而编写。

这本书聚焦英语的发源地——英国，涉及英国的地理概况、国家政治、教育文化、风土人情等各个方面。全书分十二个章节展开叙述，用最地道的英文和精选的图片系统地介绍了英国文化，使读者足不出户便可以感受地道的英伦风情，并且于不知不觉中提高自己的英语水平。

本书是一本不可多得的好书。它既适用于英语初学者扩充自己的词汇量、了解英语文化背景，也适用于中高级英语水平学习者丰富自己的文化知识。希望读者能够从中受益。希望所有英语学习者都能够不断进步，使自己的英语水平在阅读本书的过程中不断升华，打开修习英语的一个崭新篇章。

就让这本书带你踏上一段游历大不列颠的旅程吧！让它带你探寻这个美丽的国度，带你领略这个国家的历史、传统、经济、文化、社会……读完它，相信你能感受到一个全新的世界，你将看到英国人严肃外表下的诙谐与幽默。

参与本书编写的人员有廖桂冬、沈琳、李金鑫、沈春杰、宋晓冬、胡庆、李月英、李璟瑜、杨永铎、董立新、王迪、幕鹏鹏、周彦冰、龙巍坚、肖冉等，在此一并致谢。

编者

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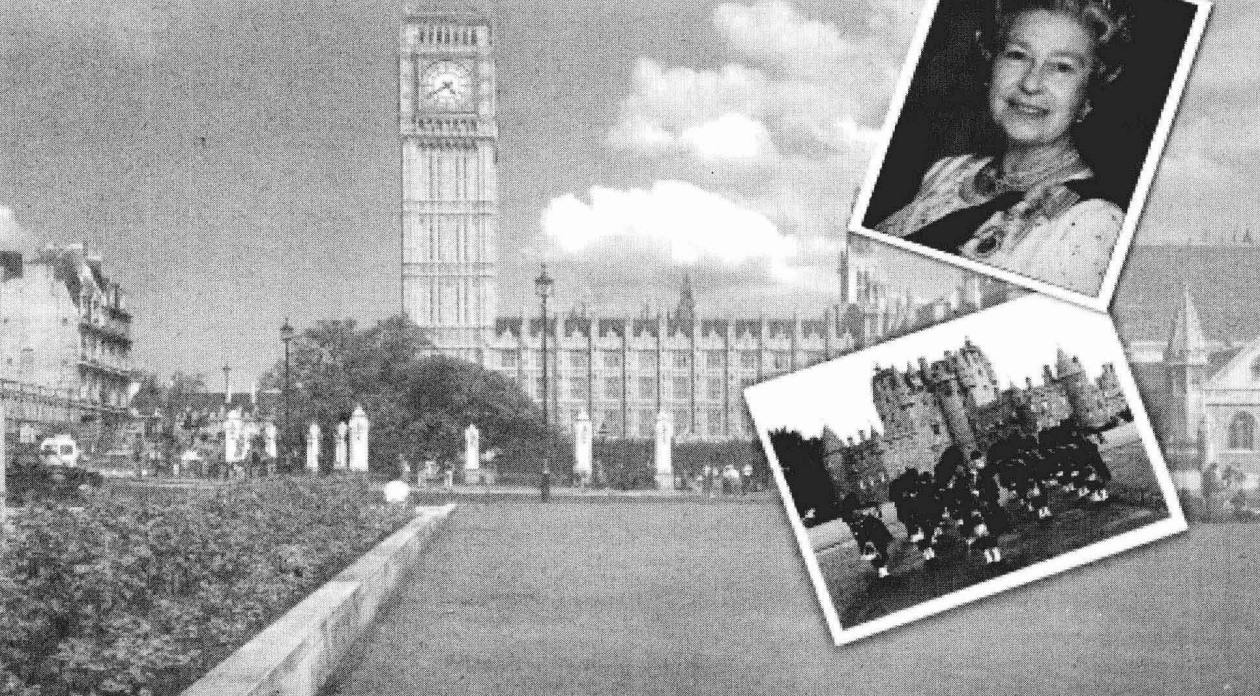
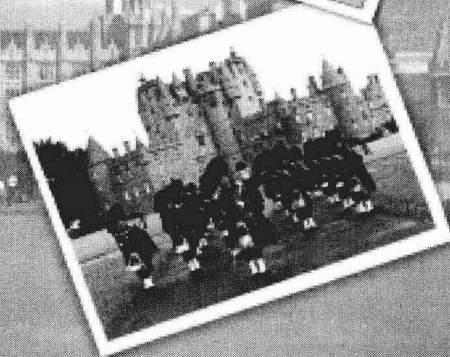
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Chapter One

An Introduction to the United Kingdom

英国全称大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国，是由英格兰、苏格兰、威尔士和北爱尔兰组成的联合王国，统一于一个中央政府和国家元首。英国位于欧洲大陆西北面的大不列颠群岛，被北海、英吉利海峡、凯尔特海、爱尔兰海和大西洋包围。国土面积 24.36 万平方公里，人口约 6000 万。英国是世界上第一个工业化国家，是一个具有多元文化和开放思想的社会。



1. The Territory of U.K.

英国全称大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国，是由英格兰、苏格兰、威尔士和北爱尔兰组成的联合王国，统于一个中央政府和国家元首。英国本土位于大不列颠群岛，国土面积 24.36 万平方公里。

18 世纪的工业革命给英国带来了巨大的发展机会，蒸汽机的发明与使用使英国一跃成为当时世界上的头号强国。英国积极对外建立殖民地，打造了一个日不落帝国。然而 20 世纪头 50 年，经历了两次世界大战的英国国力锐减。而在后半半个世纪中，这个庞大的殖民帝国土崩瓦解。殖民地纷纷独立或被原主权国夺回。

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (commonly known as the United Kingdom, the UK or Britain) is a **sovereign** state located off the northwestern coast of continental Europe. It is an island country, spanning an **archipelago** including Great Britain, the northeastern part of the island of Ireland, and many small islands. Northern Ireland 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, Great Britain, is linked to France by the Channel Tunnel.

The United Kingdom is a **constitutional monarchy** and **unitary** state consisting of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is governed by a parliamentary system with its seat of government in London, the capital, but with three **devolved** national administrations of varying powers in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh, the capitals of Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland



respectively. The Channel Island bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey, and the Isle of Man are Crown Dependencies, which means they are constitutionally tied to the British monarch but are not part of the UK. The UK has fourteen overseas territories, all **remnants** of the British Empire, which at its height in 1922 **encompassed** almost a quarter of the world's land surface, the largest empire in history. British influence can still be observed in the language, culture and legal systems of many of its former colonies.

现在的英国是过去 1000 年中几次合并的结果。10 世纪到 13 世纪中晚期, 苏格兰和英格兰各自是独立的国家。1284 年威尔士被英格兰控制, 1535 年成为英格兰王国的一部分。1603 年, 英格兰和苏格兰两国共有一位君主, 1707 年正式合并为大不列颠王国。1800 年, 大不列颠王国和爱尔兰 (1169 年—1691 年逐步被英国控制) 合并, 组成大不列颠和爱尔兰联合王国。1922 年, 爱尔兰共和国独立, 爱尔兰北部仍留在联合王国内。

英国领土并不算大, 其海外领地却遍布世界。但其在国际政治舞台上占据着举足轻重的地位, 绝不仅仅是因为其领地的广泛。曾经的强盛给英国留下了丰富的遗产, 也留下了宝贵的政治地位。

★ Key words

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ◆ sovereign 主权的, 独立的; 君主, 统治 | ◆ archipelago 群岛 |
| ◆ surrounded 被……环绕着的 | ◆ constitutional monarchy 君主立宪 |
| ◆ unitary 一元的, 单一的, 整体的, 归一的 | ◆ devolve 传下, 转移; 被移交 |
| ◆ remnant 残余, 剩余, 零料, 残迹 | ◆ encompass 包围, 环绕 |

★ English Motto

Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

今天是你余生的第一天。

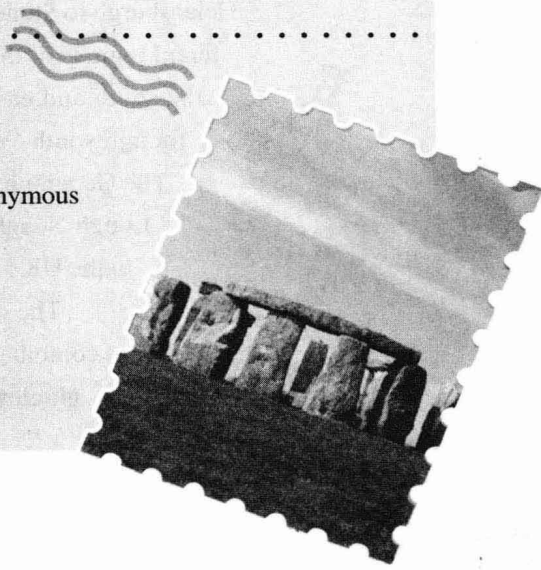
——Anonymous

Today is my first day at a new job.

今天是我新工作的第一天。

Today is your first day of a new life.

今天是你新生活的第一天。



2. The Geography of U.K.

英国本土位于不列颠群岛，被北海、英吉利海峡、凯尔特海、爱尔兰海和大西洋包围。其隔北海、多佛尔海峡、英吉利海峡与欧洲大陆相望，陆界与爱尔兰共和国接壤。海岸线总长11450公里。

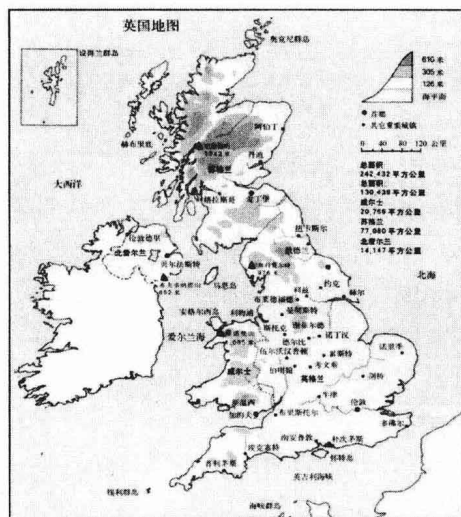
英国全境分为四部分：英格兰东南部平原、中西部山区、苏格兰山区、北爱尔兰高原和山区。英格兰面积13.04万平方公里，苏格兰面积7.88万平方公里，威尔士面积2.08万平方公里，北爱尔兰面积1.42万平方公里。

The total area of the United Kingdom is **approximately** 245,000 square kilometers comprising of the island of Great Britain, the northeastern one-sixth of the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland) and smaller islands. England is the largest country of the United Kingdom, at 130,410 square kilometers accounting for just over half the total area of the UK. Scotland at 78,772 square kilometers is second largest, accounting for about a third of the area of the UK. Wales and Northern Ireland are much smaller, covering 20,758 square kilometers and 14,160 square kilometers respectively.

The physical geography of the UK **varies** greatly. The Geography of England **consists of** lowland **terrain**, with mountainous terrain north-west of the Tees-Exe line including the Cumbrian Mountains of the Lake District, the Pennines and limestone hills of the Peak District, Exmoor and Dartmoor. The Geography of Scotland **is distinguished by** the Highland Boundary Fault — a geological **rock fracture** — which traverses the Scottish mainland from Helensburgh to Stonehaven. The faultline separates the two distinctively different regions of the Highlands to the north and west and the lowlands to the south and east. The Geography of Wales is mostly mountainous, though south Wales is less mountainous than north and mid Wales. The Geography of Ireland includes the Mourne Mountains as well as Lough Neagh, at 388 square kilometres, the largest body of water in the UK and Ireland.

The overall **geomorphology** of the UK was shaped by the combined forces of **tectonics** and climate change, in particular **glaciations**.





The exact centre of the island of Great Britain is disputed. Depending upon how it is calculated it can be either Halt whistle in Northumberland, or Dunlop Bridge in Lancashire.

The **geology** of the United Kingdom is varied and **diverse**. This gives up to the wide variety of landscapes found across the UK. This variety, coupled with the early efforts of UK based scientists and geologists to understand it, has influenced the naming of many geological concepts, including many of the geological periods (for example, the Ordovician period is named after the Ordovices, a people of early Britain; the Devonian

period is named after the county of Devon in south-west England).

英国地貌变化多样, 从多佛的悬崖峭壁、灌木篱墙围绕的农田、威尔士的起伏丘陵到苏格兰地区多山的高地。苏格兰和威尔士层峦叠嶂, 奔宁山脉横穿北英格兰。许多沿海地区地势较低, 尤其是英格兰东南部, 其中就包括萨默塞特湿地, 雨季一到便洪水泛滥。英国大部分山脉都是比较缓和的, 如英格兰西南部的达特穆尔山及北爱尔兰的摩恩山。



★ Key words

- ◆ approximately 近似的, 大约的
- ◆ consist of 由……组成
- ◆ be distinguished by 以……为特征
- ◆ geomorphology 地形学
- ◆ glaciation 冻结成冰, 冰河作用
- ◆ diverse 不同的, 多种多样的

- ◆ vary 改变
- ◆ terrain 地形, 地面, 地域, 地带
- ◆ rock fracture 岩石裂隙
- ◆ tectonics 建筑构造学
- ◆ geology 地质学; 地质情况

3. Rivers and Lakes

英国河网密布。塞文河 (the Severn) 是英国第一大河流, 全长 338 公里, 它同西岸的克莱德河 (the Clyde)、默塞河 (the Mersey) 一同承载着将工业原材料运输至内陆工业城市的使命。而东岸的特维德河 (the Tweeds)、泰恩河 (the Tyne)、蒂斯河 (the Tees) 以及长 336 公里的英国第二大河, 著名的泰晤士河 (the Thames) 河口不仅面向北海的各大欧洲大陆港口, 并且形成了富饶的渔场。

英国最大的湖泊是位于北爱尔兰的内伊湖 (Lough Neagh); 而位处英格兰西北部、威尔士北部的湖区 (the Lake District) 则因其 15 个湖泊的秀丽风光成为著名的旅游胜地, 那里还诞生了 19 世纪英国著名的湖畔诗人 (the Lake poets)。

● The River Thames

The River Thames is the second longest river in the United Kingdom and the longest river entirely in England, rising at Thames Head in Gloucestershire, and flowing into the North Sea at the Thames Estuary. It has a special significance in flowing through London, the capital of the United Kingdom, although London only in part of its course. The river is **tidal** in London with a rise and fall of 7 metres and becomes non-tidal at Teddington Lock. The **catchment** area covers a large part of Eastern and Western England and the river contains over 80 islands, and water and freshwater stretches supports wildlife.



cludes a short don with a rise at Teddington part of South is fed by over 20. having both sea-a variety of

The river has supported human activity from its source to its mouth for thousands of years providing **habitation**, water power, food and drink. It has also acted as a major highway both for international trade through the Port of London, and internally along its length and connecting to the British canal system. The river's strategic position has seen it at the centre of many events and fashions in British history, earning it a description by John Burns as "Liquid History". It has been a physical and political boundary over the centuries and generated a range of river crossings. In more recent time the river has become a major leisure area supporting tourism and pleasure outings as well as the sports of rowing, sailing, skiffing, kayaking, and punting.

The river has had a special **appeal to** writers, artists, musicians and film-makers and is well represented in the arts. It is still the subject of various debates about its course, nomenclature and history.

● Severn River

The River Severn is the longest river in Great Britain, at about 354 kilometres. It rises at an altitude of 610 metres on Plynlimon near Llanidloes, Powys, in the Cambrian Mountains of mid Wales. It then flows through Shropshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, with the county towns of Shrewsbury, Worcester, and Gloucester on its banks. With an average **discharge** of 107 m³/s at Apperley, Gloucestershire, the Severn is England's greatest river **in terms of** water flow.

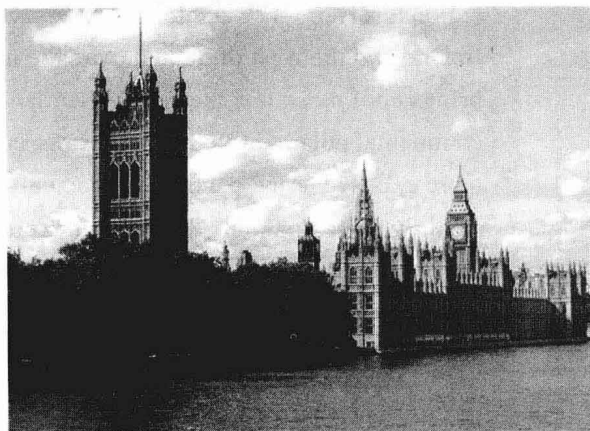
The river is usually considered to become the Severn Estuary after the Second Severn Crossing between Severn Beach, South Gloucestershire and Sudbrook, Monmouthshire. The river then discharges into the Bristol Channel which in turn discharges into the Celtic Sea and the wider Atlantic Ocean. The Severn's drainage basin area is 11,420 square kilometres, excluding the River Wye and Bristol Avon which flow into the Bristol Channel. The major tributaries to the Severn are the Vyrnwy, Teme, Warwickshire Avon and Stour.

泰晤士河是英国著名的“母亲”河。它发源于英格兰西南部的科茨沃尔德希尔斯，全长 402 公里，横贯英国首都伦敦与沿河的 10 多座城市，流域面积 13000 平方公里，在伦敦下游河面变宽，形成一个宽度为 29 千米的河口，注入北海。

塞文河是英国最长河流，全长 354 千米。它源出威尔士普林利蒙(Plynlimon)东北坡，注入大西洋布里斯托海峡，流域面积 11,420 平方公里。

★ Key words

- ◆ tidal 潮汐的；有潮的；受潮汐影响的
- ◆ catchment 集水，集水处
- ◆ tributary 支流
- ◆ habitation 住宅，家
- ◆ canal 运河，管道
- ◆ appeal to 对……有吸引力
- ◆ discharge 流水量
- ◆ in terms of 就……而言，从……方面说来



4. *Climate and Weather*

英国因受北大西洋暖流影响，冬暖夏凉，四季寒暑变化不大，属温带海洋性气候。英国位于温带阔叶林带，终年温和湿润。通常最高气温不超过 32℃，最低气温不低于 -10℃，平均气温 1 月 4~7℃，7 月 13~17℃。

虽然这个岛国的气候温和，但天气多变。英国人常说：“国外有气候，在英国只有天气”，以此来表明这里天气的变化莫测。的确，在一日之内，忽晴忽阴又忽雨的情况并不少见。多变的天气也为人们提供了日常话题，在英国甚至最沉默寡言的人也喜欢谈论天气。

The United Kingdom **straddles** the geographic mid-latitudes between 50-60N from the **equator**. It is also positioned on the western seaboard of **Eurasia**, the world's largest land mass. These boundary conditions allow **convergence** between moist maritime air and dry continental air. In this area, 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. Though the UK is mostly under the influence of the maritime tropical air mass from the south-west, different regions are more susceptible than others when different air masses affect the country: Northern Ireland and the west of Scotland are the most exposed to the maritime **polar** air mass which brings cool moist air; the east of Scotland and north-east England are more exposed to the continental polar air mass which brings cold dry air; the south and south-east of England are more exposed to the continental tropical air mass which brings warm dry air; Wales and the south-west of England are the most exposed to the maritime tropical air mass which brings warm moist air.

The Atlantic Ocean has a significant effect on Britain's climate. Although the British Isles are as far north in latitude as Labrador in Canada, they have a mild climate throughout the

year. This is due to the Gulf Stream, a current of warm water that flows up from the Caribbean past Britain. Prevailing southwesterly winds moving across this warmer water bring moisture and moderating temperatures to the British Isles. The surrounding waters moderate temperatures year-round, making the UK warmer in winter and cooler in summer than other areas at the same latitude. Great Britain's western coast tends to be warmer than the eastern coast, and the southern regions tend to be warmer than the northern regions. The mean annual temperature in the far north of Scotland is 6°C (43°F), and in warmer southwestern England it is 11°C (52°F). In general, temperatures are ordinarily around 15°C (60°F) in the summer and around 5°C (40°F) in the winter. Temperatures rarely ever exceed 32°C (90°F) or drop below -10°C (14°F) anywhere in the British Isles. In general, **frosts**, when the temperature dips below 0°C (32°F), are rare.

Winds blowing off the Atlantic Ocean bring clouds and large amounts of moisture to the British Isles. Average annual **precipitation** is more than 1000 mm (40 in), varying from the extremes of 5000 mm (196 in) in the western Highlands of Scotland to less than 500 mm (20 in) in the driest parts of East Anglia in England. The western part of Britain receives much more moisture than the eastern areas. It rains year-round, and in the winter the rain may change to snow, particularly in the north. It snows infrequently in the south, and when it



does it is likely to be wet, **slushy**, and short-lived. Southern Britain has experienced episodes of drought in recent years, although historically these are rare occurrences. Some regard these episodes as indicators of global climatic changes.

The climate has affected settlement and development in Britain for thousands of years. The mild, wet climate ensured that thick forests rich in game, as well as rivers and streams **abundant** with fish, were available to prehistoric hunters and gatherers. Britain was regarded as a cold, remote, and distant part of the ancient Roman Empire in the first few centuries AD, so relatively few Romans were motivated to move there for trade, administrative, or military reasons. Pre-industrial settlements clustered in southern England, where the climate was milder, the growing season longer, and the rich soil and steady rainfall produced bountiful harvests. **Successive** waves of invaders made the plains of southern England their primary objective. After the Industrial Revolution began in the 18th century, populations grew enormously in areas with rich resources beneath the ground, particularly coal, even though these resources were sometimes located in the colder, harsher northern regions of England or the western Lowlands of Scotland.

英国年平均降水量约 1000 毫米。北部和西部山区的年降水量超过 2000 毫米，中部和东部则少于 800 毫米。每年二月至三月最为干燥，十月至来年一月最为湿润。

英国的雾气较重，在夏季晴和的好天中，还有薄薄的烟霭；冬季则经常飞雾迷漫，似雨非雨，若烟非烟，这主要是岛国的潮气所致。至于伦敦过去常见的浓雾，并不完全是自然现象。由于重视环境保护，那里出现浓雾的次数已大大减少。

★ Key words

- ◆ straddle 横跨……的两边；跨越……的两边
- ◆ Eurasia 欧亚大陆
- ◆ equator 赤道
- ◆ convergence 集中，收敛；集合
- ◆ polar (近) 北[南]极的
- ◆ frost 霜；霜冻
- ◆ precipitation 匆促，仓促，(雨) 降落
- ◆ slushy 泥泞的
- ◆ abundant 大量的，充足的
- ◆ successive 连续的，相继的

