

4
Grade

● 理工科英语分级读物

Oceans and Navigation

海洋与航海

吴德懋 选注



高等教育出版社

第4级

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主编者例言

- 一、这套读物主要供高等院校理工科各专业学生英语课外阅读之用，也可供自学英语的工程技术人员选用，以提高英语阅读与理解能力。
- 二、全套读物共分四级，按词汇量和语言难度分级。词汇量以 Thorndike 和 Lorge 所编 *The Teacher's Wordbook of 30,000* 为依据，但按我国具体教学情况作适当调整。每级读物分若干册。第一级到第三级为一般科普文章，包括科普知识、科学家传记和轶事、科技珍闻、科学幻想等。第四级读物中一部分为一般科普文章，亦即一、二、三级的继续；另一部分为分大类读物，如：机械动力、电子电工、土建水利、交通运输等。
- 三、全套读物都选自英美原文。在编选过程中力求选文题材新颖、内容有趣、语言生动。
- 四、每册内容包括选文、注释和理解练习三个部分。书后附有该册词汇总表和练习答案，可供查阅。

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理工科英语分级读物主编组

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一九八三年十二月

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Appendix I

Key to Exercises

Appendix II

Vocabulary

1. Crossing the Sea

People must live where there is water. They must have water to drink.

A long time ago, people found that they could also swim in the water. They found that they could move even faster in the water if they made rafts and boats and used paddles.

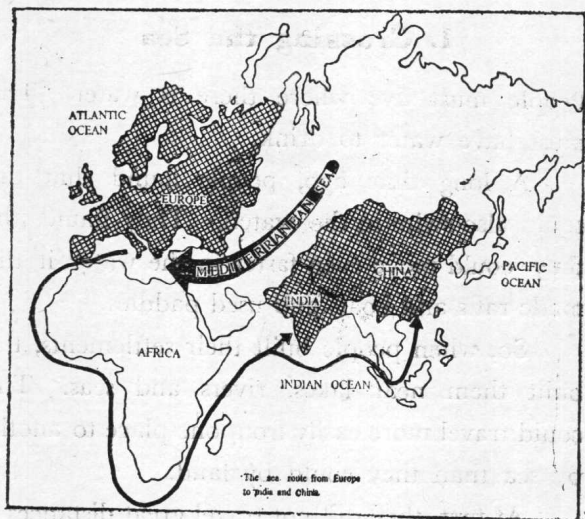
So, when people built their settlements, they built them near lakes, rivers and seas. They could travel more easily from one place to another by sea than they could by land.

At first, they did not travel great distances by sea. Their boats were not very strong. They tipped over¹ easily in storms. So they sailed only where they were not very far from land.

But people began to trade more and more with each other. The people who lived in Europe wanted things that came from India and China. At first they went to India and China by land. It was a long, hard trip. It was very dangerous, too.

But travel by sea became safer. So people began to think of getting to India and China by sea. Why couldn't they get there by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean? Perhaps it would take less time.

1. tip over: 翻倒。



Christopher Columbus² was one of the men who thought he could reach India by sailing west. After 40 days at sea, he did reach land. But it was not India. He had found America.

A few years later, people did reach India and China by sea. The map shows the route they took.

Thirty years later a sailing ship travelled round the earth for the first time. The captain of the ship was a man named Magellan³. On the way he found a new ocean. He called it the

2. Christopher Columbus: 克里斯托弗·哥伦布 (1451?—1506), 西班牙人, 航海家, 1492年发现美洲。 3. Magellan: 麦哲伦 (1480?—1521). 全名为 Ferdinand Magellan. 出生于波兰, 是第一个发现麦哲伦海峡与菲律宾群岛的欧洲航海家。

Pacific Ocean. The word “pacific” means quiet, and the new ocean was calm when he first saw it.

Since the time of Columbus and Magellan, men have built great ships that can travel very fast. The ships of today do not have sails. They get their power from coal, oil or the atom.

Men have even built ships that can travel under the sea. Such ships are called submarines. Submarines with atomic power can stay under the water for more than 80 days. They can travel under the ice of the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans⁴. They can travel round the world, under the sea, without stopping.

from *Oceans*

Underline the correct ending for each of the following sentences:

1. A long time ago, people found that they could
 - (a) swim faster in the water than the rafts and boats could move.
 - (b) move faster on rafts and in boats than they could swim.
 - (c) move faster on rafts than in boats in the water.

4. the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans: 北冰洋与南冰洋.

2. At first, people did not travel great distances by sea because
 - (a) their boats were not strong enough.
 - (b) they feared that they might lose their way.
 - (c) they could not store enough food.
3. At first, people in Europe didn't like to travel to India and China by land because
 - (a) they felt very lonely.
 - (b) they couldn't take their families with them.
 - (c) it was hard and dangerous.
4. Columbus believed that he could reach India by sailing west, and after 40 days at sea he reached
 - (a) America.
 - (b) India.
 - (c) China.
5. The first man who travelled round the world by sea was
 - (a) Columbus.
 - (b) Cook.
 - (c) Magellan.

2. Columbus

It is hard to believe that a poor Italian boy who had few lessons in school could find a new land

three thousand miles from his home. Yet, the world knows that the discovery of America was made by Christopher Columbus.

Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy¹, about 1450. He grew up by the sea. He spent most of his time watching ships come in from distant places. He loved to smell the sea air; he listened to the music of waves rolling upon the shore. And he dreamed of one day sailing to far-away places in his own ship.

His first voyage was on a ship that sailed around the Mediterranean Sea and along the coasts of Europe and Africa. He drew maps of the places he went to, and he began to wonder about the shape of the earth on which he lived.

Columbus had read the stories of Marco Polo's² travels to the East; he also believed great riches would be found there. But Polo, and men after him, always travelled by land to reach the East. "I'm sure a ship is faster, so I shall go to the East by sailing West," he decided. "Then I can prove that the earth is really round!"

Living in Portugal³ at the time, he told the King of Portugal about his plan. But King John

1. Genoa, Italy: 意大利的热那亚(港市). 2. Marco Polo: 马可孛罗(1254? —1324), 意大利旅行家. 3. Portugal: 葡萄牙.

II⁴ only laughed at him. “Silly man,” he said, “don’t you know that the earth is flat? Why⁵, you and your ships will fall off the edge⁶ if you go too far away from land.”

But Columbus did not give up. He studied more books and maps. He asked for help from England and France, for he had no money. Then he went to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain⁷. It took many years to make them understand, but at last they said yes to his wild plan!

On August 3, 1492, three small Spanish ships—the *Pinta*, the *Nina* and the *Santa Maria*—set out westward across the Atlantic Ocean. Columbus was sure that land was quite near; his band of about a hundred men was much less certain.

On and on they sailed⁸ without any sight of land. Days turned into weeks. The men became very tired and angry with their captain. They told Columbus to turn back because they were afraid of never seeing Spain or any other land again.

Over two months had passed when they

4. King John II: 国王约翰二世。5. why: int (表示惊奇、不耐烦等)啊唷! 嗨! 6. fall off the edge: 从边上掉下去。7. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain: 西班牙弗迪南德王与伊沙白王后。8. on and on they sailed: 他们继续不断地航行着。

noticed birds flying over their heads. A few days later, on October 12, someone saw land! The ships stopped at an island which Columbus named San Salvador⁹. Then they went farther and found the islands of Cuba and Haiti¹⁰.

The men expected to find gold and rich treasures, but instead they saw beautiful green land and poor people with dark skins and painted faces. Columbus called them Indians, because he thought he had discovered the islands east of India. But India was really thousands of miles away.

Columbus returned to Spain with good news. He reported all that he had seen, and promised to bring back riches to the king and queen.

He sailed west three more times, discovering the islands of Puerto Rico and Jamaica¹¹. He also reached the coast of South America. But in all his travels Christopher Columbus never found the rich cities of China that Marco Polo described. He died a poor man¹² in 1506, not knowing that he had discovered the New World of the West.

from *Thirty Short Stories*

9. San Salvador: 圣·萨尔瓦多。 10. Cuba and Haiti: 古巴与海地。 11. Puerto Rico and Jamaica: 波多黎各与牙买加。
12. He died a poor man: 他死时很贫穷。

Are these statements true or false, according to the passage?

1. The discovery of America was made by Columbus, a rich Italian young man who had graduated from a well-known college.
2. Columbus dreamed of sailing to far-away places one day because he grew up by the sea and loved the sea.
3. Having read the stories of Marco Polo's travels to the East by land, Columbus decided to reach the East by travelling West by sea to prove that the earth was round.
4. The King of Portugal thought that Columbus was silly to make such a wild plan, but he granted him a sum of money for his journey.
5. On their first voyage, his crew was as sure as Columbus that land was quite near and they could find gold and rich treasures.
6. After more than two months, they reached some of the islands east of India and called the local people Indians.
7. Though he did not find the rich cities of China that Marco Polo described, Columbus found America.
8. Though he died a poor man, Columbus felt quite contented because he knew he had discovered the New World of the West.

3. The Men Before Columbus

Dawn broke on the west coast of Iceland¹ shortly after midnight. There was no true darkness, since it was spring, when the northern days are long. The year was 981.

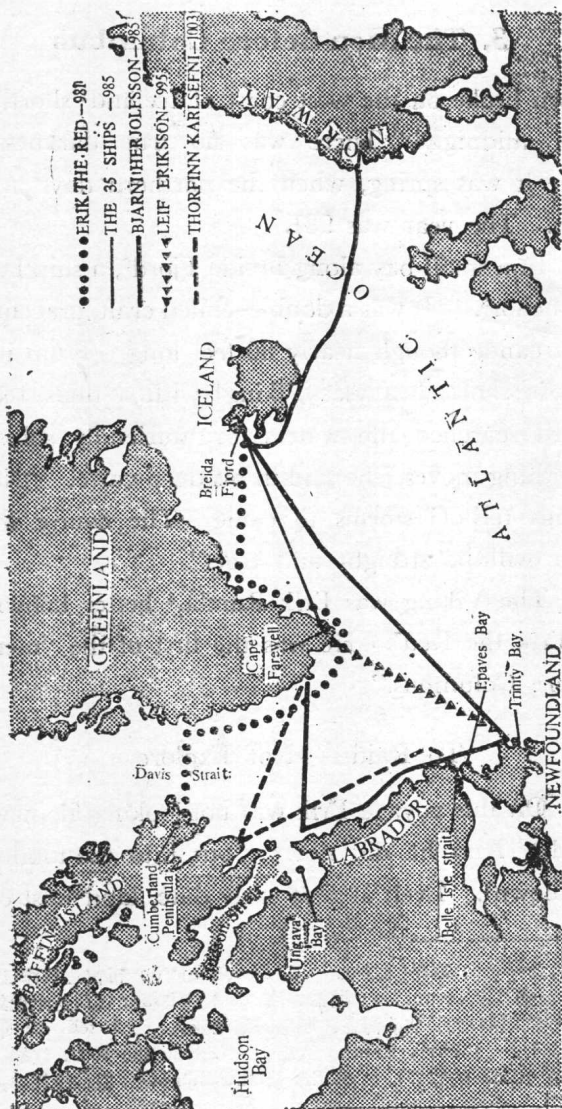
In a small bay along Breida Fjord², a ship lay at anchor³. It was a double-ended craft, graceful as a canoe though nearly 80 feet long. From its bow a short, heavysset Viking⁴ with a thick red beard searched the waters for unfriendly ships. "Nothing moves," he said in his deep voice. "No clouds tell of⁵ storms to come. The course we steer will be straight and true."

The Viking was Erik Rauda,⁶ better known as Erik the Red⁷. He was the first of the "men before Columbus."

To Raid——Not Explore

On this voyage Erik was not looking for new lands. And he did not set out into the totally unknown⁸. Even at that early date, land west of

1. Iceland: 冰岛(欧洲)。 2. Breida Fjord: 布雷达峡湾(冰岛)。 3. lay at anchor: 抛锚停泊。 4. Viking: (八至十世纪时劫掠欧洲海岸的)北欧海盗; 斯堪的纳维亚人。 5. tell of: 表明, 说明。 6. Erik Rauda: 人名。 7. Erik the Red: 红胡子埃里克(Erik 的绰号)。 8. the totally unknown: 根本没探查过的地方。



Iceland⁹, what we call Greenland¹⁰, had been explored. And people called *Westmanni*¹¹, whom the Norse¹² had driven out of Iceland, had settled along its southwestern inlets. So when Erik sailed out of Breida Fjord, he knew where he was going and what he expected to find. He was looking, not for new lands, but for *Westmanni* settlements to raid.

The crossing to Greenland was an easy matter. But the *Westmanni* whom Erik expected to find near the southwestern tip were gone. Only their rotting sod houses remained. Erik waited out¹³ the long winter, then set out in the spring again in search of the vanished *Westmanni*. He figured they had made a new settlement—and he and his Vikings would find it.

Making use of the long days, Erik worked his way up¹⁴ along the west coast of Greenland. Some 500 miles north of what is now Cape Farewell he reached a giant mountain standing with its feet in the sea¹⁵. The Vikings used the mountain as an observation tower. To the north they

9. land west of Iceland: 冰岛西面的陆地。 10. Greenland: 格陵兰(岛)。 11. *Westmanni*: 韦斯特曼尼人。 12. the Norse: 斯塔的纳维亚人; 挪威人。 13. wait out: 等到...结束。 14. work his way up: 艰难地向北行进。 15. Some 500 miles... in the sea: 他在现在的费尔韦尔角以北约500哩处抵达一座山脚伸向海中的大山。 what is now 为插入语; Cape Farewell 是介词 of 的宾语。