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中级英语学习丛书

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

漫游美国

云 浦 编注

人民教育出版社

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《中级英语学习丛书》简介

目前,在我国的现代化的进程中,全国大学和中学学生以及许多已经走上工作岗位的青年同志都在努力学习外语,这是十分可喜的现象。为了帮助已有中等程度的英语学习者进一步学习英语,我们将有计划地编写和出版一些书籍,向他们提供读物,介绍有关英语的知识,总称《中级英语学习丛书》。

这套丛书还有一个重要目的:供广大的中学英语教师选作进修和教学的辅助材料。中学英语教师的工作是光荣的,因为他们为面向现代化、面向世界、面向未来的教育事业作出直接贡献。他们的工作又是艰巨的,因为在非英语的环境中,要使学生从完全不懂英语到打下一定的英语基础,确非易事。我们希望这套丛书能对他们的工作和进修略有帮助。

从内容上说,丛书分两大类:背景知识类和语言知识类。前者用平易的英语编写,介绍历史、地理、人物、名著等方面的知识,既可用作读物,又可供教师用作课堂上讲解有关知识的参考资料。后者用中文编写,联系教与学的实际需要,讨论语音、语法、基本词汇等方面的问题。

热忱希望全国各地的读者,尤其是中学英语教师同志们,关心、支持和协助这套丛书的编辑出版工作,欢迎你们提出建议和批评。让我们共同努力,把这项工作做好。

《中级英语学习丛书》编写组

前 言

本书是参考英美等国关于美国概况的英文资料编写的。全书采用游记体裁扼要地介绍了美国全国的地理环境、江河湖泊、气候气象、自然资源和工农业生产等状况，同时又分别描述了美国各州的地理、经济、社会、文化、风俗民情以及风景、名胜等情况。

本书的特点是：1. 采用游记体裁，引导读者游览美国各州，富有趣味性。2. 既介绍了美国全国的地理环境，又描述了美国各州的具体情况，富有知识性。3. 既有利于了解美国情况，又有助于培养英语阅读能力，有较大的实用性。4. 英语语言平易，对难点做了较详细的注释，便于阅读。5. 附有两幅美国地图。借助地图，可以更好地理解全书内容。

本书适合于具有中等英语程度的人员学习。

本书蒙张先怡同志仔细审阅，在此表示深切的谢意。

由于编者水平有限，书中可能有缺点错误，恳请大家指正。

编注者

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PART ONE

I. SURFACE FEATURES AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

SURFACE FEATURES

The United States has most of the physical features which are found in North America as a whole. The country may be divided into the following five main geographical divisions:

1. The Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain
2. The Appalachian Highland
3. The Interior Plain
4. The Cordilleran or Western Highland
5. The Pacific Slope

The Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain is low and generally flat near the shore. It rises gradually and becomes rolling as it reaches inland. In New England most of the plain is under water, and the Atlantic Ocean almost washes the foot of the uplands. The plain becomes wider toward the south, until it is more

than five hundred miles wide along parts of the Gulf of Mexico. Many hundreds of years ago this plain formed part of the ocean floor. Through the years it has gradually risen from the waters. The soil is mostly sand near the ocean, but contains more clay farther inland.

A "fall line" marks the inner edge of the coastal plain. Here the rivers drop from the older, harder, and higher rocks of the interior uplands to the softer and lower rocks of the plain. In their course they create a series of falls or rapids. The fall line creates water power, and in some cases forms a barrier beyond which river boats cannot travel. A row of important cities has grown up along the fall line. The row stretches from Trenton, New Jersey; in the north, through Philadelphia; Baltimore; Washington, D.C.; Richmond, Virginia; Raleigh, North Carolina; Columbia, South Carolina; and Macon, Georgia; to Montgomery, Alabama; in the south.

The Appalachian Highland is made up of four belts. They run roughly side by side in a north-south direction from New England to Alabama. The easternmost belt is a hilly district called "Piedmont", which means foot of the mountain. Much of eastern New England is a northeastern extension of this hilly

district. The region is fairly fertile except where the slope is so steep that rains have washed away most of the soil.

West of the Piedmont is a belt of mountain ranges. The general term for the region is the Blue Ridge Mountains, although the ranges include the Highlands in New Jersey, the Blue Ridge in Virginia, and the Great Smoky and Unakas ranges in the Carolinas and Georgia. The Green Mountains of Vermont and the White Mountains of New Hampshire are a northeastern extension of the Blue Ridge. The mountains in this belt of the Appalachian Highland are not high, but most of them are steep, especially in the south. Many rivers cut through the mountains to form water gaps. These gaps are very important because they furnish low-level routes for highways and railroads. Most of this area is covered with forests because the soils are too thin and poor to grow crops.

West of the Blue Ridge is a belt of land made up of long, narrow, north-south mountain ridges separated by equally long, narrow valleys. Prosperous farms and important cities take up much of the valley floors, but the ridges are forested and have few people living on them.

West of these valley floors is a great plateau

which slopes down gradually as it reaches westward toward the Mississippi lowlands of inland United States. Many rivers cut deeply into the plateau and give it a rugged surface. The hills and valleys are steep and the region looks like a low-mountain district.

Most of the plateau is covered with thin, sandy soil which washes away easily and which is not good for crops. A few of the valleys and certain areas of richer soil support prosperous farms. Some cities and towns have grown up where coal and oil are mined, or where factories have been established. But most of the region has few persons living in it, and, away from the large towns, this district is one of the most backward in the country.

The Interior Plain is the chief agricultural section of the country. It stretches from the Appalachian Highland westward to the edge of the Rocky Mountains. It extends north to the southern boundary of Canada, and south to the inland margin of the Gulf Coastal Plain in western Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Texas. The Great Plains just east of the Rockies are part of the Interior Plain. The plain is broken by several highland areas. These include the uplands on the shores of Lake Superior, the Ozark Plateau and Ouachita Mountains in southern Missouri and northern

Arkansas, the Interior Low Plateaus of western Kentucky and central Tennessee, and the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The Interior Plain has a generally fertile soil, except in the highland areas. Some parts of the northern plain, which were once covered by the North American ice sheets, are too rough and rocky, or too sandy or swampy, for good farming land. In the western part of the plain the land rises toward the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Here the rolling surface and the deep river valleys are not so easily farmed as most of the Interior Plain.

The Cordilleran or Western Highland extends westward from the Interior Plain through the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges in the western United States, to the Pacific Slope. The Highland includes three separate subdivisions.

The Rocky Mountains make up the first subdivision of the Cordilleran Highland. They form the continental water divide. The streams on one side of this divide flow into the Atlantic. Those on the other flow to the Pacific. The Rockies include some of the highest and most rugged mountains in the country.

Scattered settlements have developed on occasional small areas of level valley land and around mineral

deposits. But most of the region is thinly settled because of the wild high mountains.

The second subdivision of the **Cordilleran Highland** is made up of high plateaus, topped by scattered mountain ranges that lie between the Rockies and Sierra Nevada-Cascade ranges.

This second subdivision of the **Cordilleran Highland** is generally dry and rugged. There are not many streams, and plant life is scanty. The region is thinly settled because of the rough land and lack of rainfall.

The third subdivision of the **Cordilleran Highland** is the Sierra Nevada-Cascade range, which extends from the Canadian boundary southward through Washington, Oregon, and California almost to the Mexican border. This region is almost as high and rugged as the Rocky Mountains. It forms an almost unbroken mountain wall between inland United States and the Pacific coast lands. The only easy route from the interior to the coast is at the point where the Columbia River cuts through the mountains in a wide pass. The region is not good for growing crops because of the steep, high mountains and valleys. But there are great forests in the Cascades and large gold deposits in the Sierra Nevadas. Important lumbering and mining industries have developed here.

The Pacific Slope includes the Pacific valleys and the coast ranges. The Pacific valleys take in the broad, fertile San Joaquin-Sacramento river valleys in California, the Willamette River valley in Oregon, and the lowlands around Puget Sound in Washington. The valleys are made up of rich, flat plains where some of the chief cities of the western coast have developed. These include Seattle and Tacoma, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and Sacramento and Fresno, California.

The coast ranges lie west of the Pacific valleys, at the edge of the Pacific Ocean. Except at their southernmost end, the mountains drop so sharply to the sea that they leave no room for a coastal plain at their base. One of the few coastal plains of the West is taken up by the city of Los Angeles and surrounding towns and cultivated lands. In central California, a break in the coast ranges furnishes an easy route into the San Joaquin-Sacramento River valley. Here the great cities of San Francisco and Oakland have developed. Elsewhere in the coast ranges, small fertile valleys and wide stretches of forest land have led to the development of farming and lumbering industries.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Chief mountain ranges: Rocky Mountains, Sierra

Nevada Mountains, Cascade Ranges, Appalachian Mountains and Mckinley Mountains.

Chief peaks: Mount Whitney, California (14,496 feet); Mount Rainier, the State of Washington (14,400 feet); Mount Elbert, Colorado, (14,431 feet); Mount Shasta, California (14,380 feet); Mount Harvard (14,399 feet), Blanca Peak (14,390 feet), and Pike's Peak (14,108 feet), all in Colorado, and Mckinley Mountain, Alaska (20,320 feet).

Chief rivers: Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Colorado, Arkansas, Rio Grande, Snake, Columbia, Sacramento, Willamette, Hudson and Yukon River.

Chief lakes: Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, Ontario, Great Salt Lake

Chief bays: Chesapeake, Raleigh, Florida, Matagorda, Monterey, Humboldt, Long Island Sound.

II. RIVERS, LAKES, AND BAYS

RIVERS

The United States has many thousands of streams that have helped to carve the land surface into its present outlines. Some of these are mighty rivers which cross state and even international boundaries. Others are tiny streamlets that rise in springs and wander across a few green fields to disappear in the waters of a local creek. Some rivers flow lazily through many channels that spread across wide, flat valleys. Others rush swiftly down deep canyons and steep gorges which they have carved out for their paths.

The Mississippi River system is the greatest in the United States and one of the most important in the world. This mighty river has branches in every part of the vast central lowlands of the country. It drains the area from the Appalachian Highlands on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the west, and from near the Canadian border in the north to the Gulf of Mexico in the south. The "Father of Waters", as the Mississippi River is often called, rises in small Lake Itasca in

northern Minnesota. It flows southward for more than 2,500 miles to empty into the Gulf of Mexico below New Orleans. Great branch rivers enter the Mississippi from the east and west throughout the length of its course. One of these, the Missouri River, is longer than the Mississippi itself.

The Atlantic coastal area is drained by a series of fairly short rivers, including the Hudson, Delaware, Susquehanna, Potomac, Fear, Savannah, and Altamaha. The largest eastern rivers are only from 100 to 300 miles long. All flow east, southeast, or south into the Atlantic Ocean, except the Saint Johns River in Florida. This stream flows north to empty into the ocean.

The Gulf coastal area which lies outside the drainage basin of the Mississippi River is also drained by a number of fairly short rivers. The largest of these rivers are from two hundred to six hundred miles long except for the Rio Grande. The long Rio Grande, which forms most of the border between the United States and Mexico, drains southeast into the Gulf of Mexico. The streams along the western Gulf Coast, including the Rio Grande, are shallow during much of the year. The Trinity River in Texas is the only western Gulf stream deep enough to be of any commercial importance. The Tombigbee and its branch, the Black Warrior, in

Alabama, are perhaps the most important eastern Gulf streams.

Three great river systems drain that part of the United States which lies west of the Rocky Mountains. All three systems empty into the Pacific Ocean. In the north, the Columbia River and its chief branch, the Snake River, drain parts of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. The Sacramento River and its chief branch, the San Joaquin, drain the great interior valley of central and northern California. The Colorado River and its many branches drain much of southwestern United States.

A large area in southwestern United States has no surface drainage to the sea. This desert area is known as the Great Basin. It makes up parts of Oregon, California, Idaho, and Utah, and all of Nevada. In the Great Basin the normally dry stream beds fill with water after occasional violent thunder showers. For a little while the streams run full and wild, but they empty into mountain-enclosed desert flats called playas. There the water soon sinks into the ground or evaporates.

LAKES

The United States has thousands of lakes of all