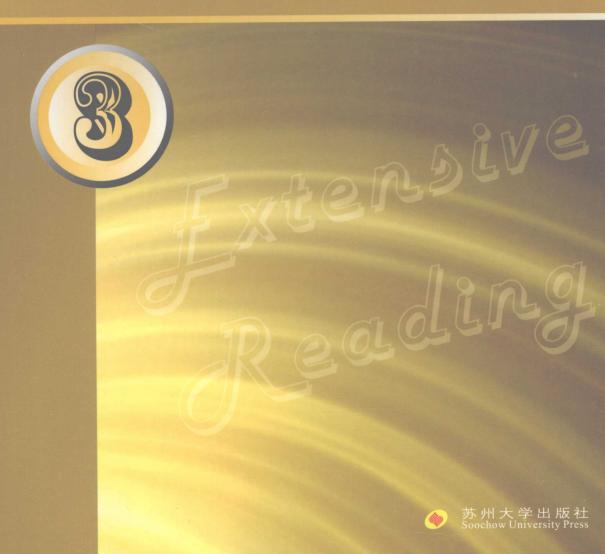


高等院校特色课程英语系列教材

英语泛读教程





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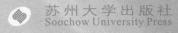
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前言

根据教育部 2006 年颁布的《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》,我们编写了这套《英语泛读教程》系列教材,本教材适用于高等学校英语专业一、二年级泛读(阅读)课教学,也适用于同等程度的英语自学者。

本教材编写的目的在于传授学生有关的阅读理论与技巧,提升学生的英语阅读 水平与理解能力,扩大词汇量,增加英语国家文化背景知识,为参加英语专业四、八级 考试及其他形式英语考试奠定良好的基础。

本教材编写有如下几个主要特点。

第一,题材广泛,内容丰富,体裁多样。本系列教材的题材既关注了大学生活的有关方面,也涵盖了英语国家社会与文化的方方面面;既有人文知识方面的文献,也不乏科普常识方面的文章。教材选材注重时代感,集思想性、知识性、实用性和趣味性为一体,涉及历史、地理、政治、军事、法律、经济、科技、金融、宗教、体育、环保、能源、医药、食品、艺术、娱乐、休闲、旅游、风俗等各方面的内容。

第二,文章注重长度与难度的适切性,阅读量较适中。本系列教材的编写注重学习的规律性,所选文章由易到难,由浅入深,由短到长。而在阅读量的安排方面,遵循适中的原则,既不因太少而让学生感到吃不饱,也不因过量而使得学生产生厌烦情绪。文章长度从第1册的550至600词(每分钟阅读量为60词至80词)逐渐增加到第四册的1,500词左右(每分钟阅读量为180词)。

第三,读与写结合,读与说结合。每个单元的 Text A 与 Text D 部分除了安排阅读理解的练习之外,还适当地融入了写与说的训练,以期达到充分利用所学材料进行写与说等综合技能训练的目的。

第四,借助技巧指导阅读,通过实践强化理论。每册安排4个阅读技巧,每4个单元呈现1个阅读技巧,使得学生在理论与技巧的指导下进行实践。每4个单元话题与技巧的呈现顺序为:感性认识(非呈现技巧)→理性认识(呈现技巧)→训练与巩固(运用技巧进行训练与巩固)。第1册、第2册及第3册前半部分安排的是关于阅

读方面的基本技巧,第3册以训练英语专业四、八级考试的应试技巧为主,第4册前半部分也以综合技巧的训练为主,后半部分安排了大学英语六级考试仔细阅读与快速阅读题型的训练,可为参加大学英语六级考试的学生提供强化训练。

《英语泛读教程》全套共 4 册,每册 16 单元,每单元由 Text A, Text B, Text C与 Text D组成。其中 Text A 为主课文, Text B, Text C与 Text D用于快速阅读训练。

本系列教材的编写与出版得到了苏州大学出版社的大力支持,苏州科技学院外 国语学院宋更宇副教授、苏州大学外国语学院莫俊华博士等为此教材付出了辛劳,在 此,我们谨致以诚挚的谢意!

由于编者水平与经验有限,书中一定会有许多不足之处,欢迎同行与广大读者批评指正。

编 者 2009年7月 Contents 1 exec

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Unit One •••••Geography

Text A

History of Geography

Traditionally, geographers have been viewed the same way as cartographers^[1] and people who study place names and numbers. Although many geographers are trained in toponymy and cartology, this is not their main preoccupation. Geographers study the spatial and temporal distribution of phenomena, processes and feature as well as the interaction of humans and their environment. As space and place affect a variety of topics such as economics, health, climate, plants and animals, geography is highly interdisciplinary^[2].

"Mere names of places ... are not geography ... know by heart a whole gazetteer full of them would not, in itself, constitute



Self portrait of Alexander von Humboldt, one of the early pioneers of geography

anyone a geographer. Geography has higher aims than this: it seeks to classify phenomena (alike of the natural and of the political world, in so far as it treats of the latter), to compare, to generalize, to ascend from effects to causes, and, in doing so, to trace out the great laws of nature and to mark their influences upon man. This is 'a description of the world'—that is Geography. In a word Geography is a Science—a thing not of mere names but of argument and reason, of cause and effect."

-William Hughes, 1863

Geography as a discipline can be split broadly into two main sub fields; human geography and physical geography. The former focuses largely on the built environment and how space is created, viewed and managed by humans as well as the influence humans have on the space they occupy. The latter examines the natural environment and how the climate, vegetation and life, soil, water, and landforms are produced and interact. As a result of the two subfields using different approaches a third field has emerged, which is environmental geography. Environmental geography combines physical and human geography and looks at the interactions between the environment and humans.

History of Geography

The ideas of Anaximander of Miletus (c. 610 BC – c. 545 BC), considered by later Greek writers to be the true founder of geography, come to us through fragments quoted by his successors. Anaximander is credited with the invention of the gnomon, the simple yet efficient Greek instrument that allowed the early measurement of latitude. Thales, Anaximander is also credited with the prediction of eclipses. The foundations of geography can be traced to the ancient cultures, such as the ancient, medieval, and early modern Chinese. The Greeks, who were the first to explore geography as both art and science, achieved this through Cartography, Philosophy, and Literature, or through Mathematics. There is some debate about who was the first person to assert that the earth is spherical in shape, with the credit going either to Parmenides^[3] or Pythagoras^[4]. Anaxagoras was able to demonstrate that the profile of the earth was circular by explaining eclipses. However, he still believed that the earth was a flat disk, as did many of his contemporaries. One of the first estimates of the radius of the earth was made by Eratosthenes.

The first rigorous system of latitude and longitude lines is credited to Hipparchus^[5]. He employed a sexagesimal^[6] system that was derived from Babylonian mathematics. The parallels and meridians were sub-divided into 360°, with each degree further subdivided 60′ (minutes). To measure the longitude at different location on the earth, he suggested using eclipses to determine the relative difference in time. The extensive mapping by the Romans as they explored new lands would later provide a high level of information for Ptolemy^[7] to construct detailed atlases. He extended the work of Hipparchus, using a grid system on his maps and adopting a length of 56.5 miles for a degree.

From the 3rd century onwards, Chinese methods of geographical study and writing of geographical literature became much more complex than what was found

in Europe at the time (until the 13th century). Chinese geographers such as Liu An, Pei Xiu, Jia Dan, Shen Kuo, Fan Chengda, Zhou Daguan, and Xu Xiake wrote important treatises, yet by the 17th century, advanced ideas and methods of Western-style geography were adopted in China.

During the Middle Ages, the fall of the Roman empire led to a shift in the evolution of geography from Europe to the Islamic world. Geographers such as Al-Idrisi produced detailed world maps (such as Tabula Rogeriana), while other geographers such as Yaqut al-Hamawi, Al-Biruni, Ibn Battuta and Ibn Khaldun provided detailed accounts of their journeys and the geography of the regions they visited. Turkish geographer, Mahmud al-Kashgari drew a world map on a linguistic basis, and later so did Piri Reis (Piri Reis map). Further, Islamic scholars translated and interpreted the earlier works of the Romans and Greeks and established the House of Wisdom in Baghdad for this purpose. Abū Zayd al-Balkhī, originally from Balkh, founded the "Balkhī School" of terrestrial mapping in Baghdad. Suhrāb, a late tenth century geographer, accompanied a book of geographical coordinates with instructions for making a rectangular world map, with equirectangular projection or cylindrical equidistant projection. In the early 11th century, Avicenna hypothesized on the geological causes of mountains in *The Book of Healing* (1027).

Abu Rayhan al-Biruni (976-1048) first described a polar equi-azimuthal equidistant projection of the celestial sphere. He was regarded as the most skilled when it came to mapping cities and measuring the distances between them, which he did for many cities in the Middle East and Indian subcontinent. He often combined astronomical readings and mathematical equations, in order to develop methods of pinpointing locations by recording degrees of latitude and longitude. He also developed similar techniques when it came to measuring the heights of mountains, depths of valleys, and expanse of the horizon. He also discussed human geography and the planetary habitability of the earth. He hypothesized that roughly a quarter of the earth's surface is habitable by humans. He also calculated the latitude of Kath, Khwarazm, using the maximum altitude of the sun, and solved a complex geodesic equation in order to accurately compute the earth's circumference^[8], which were close to modern values of the earth's circumference. His estimate of 6,339.9 km for the earth radius was only 16.8 km less than the modern value of 6,356.7 km. In contrast to his predecessors who measured the earth's circumference by sighting the sun simultaneously from two different locations, al-Biruni developed a new method of using trigonometric calculations

based on the angle between a plain and mountain top which yielded more accurate measurements of the earth's circumference and made it possible for it to be measured by a single person from a single location. He also published a study of map projections, *Cartography*, which included a method for projecting a hemisphere on a plane.

The 18th and 19th centuries were the times when geography became recognized as a discrete academic discipline and became part of a typical university curriculum in Europe (especially Paris and Berlin). The development of many geographic societies also occurred during the 19th century with the foundations of the Société de Géographie in 1821, the Royal Geographical Society in 1830, Russian Geographical Society in 1845, American Geographical Society in 1851, and the National Geographic Society in 1888. The influence of Immanuel Kant, Alexander von Humbolt^[9], Carl Ritter^[10] and Paul Vidal de la Blache^[11] can be seen as a major turning point in geography from a philosophy to an academic subject.

Over the past two centuries the advancements in technology such as computers, have led to the development of geomatics and new practices such as participant observation and geostatistics^[12] being incorporated into geography's portfolio of tools. In the West during the 20th century, the discipline of geography went through four major phases: environmental determinism, regional geography, the quantitative revolution, and critical geography. The strong interdisciplinary links between geography and the sciences of geology and botany, as well as economics, sociology and demographics have also grown greatly especially as a result of Earth System Science that seeks to understand the world in a holistic view.

(1,309 words)

From: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



- [1] cartographer: 地图制作者,制图师。
- [2] interdisciplinary: 跨领域,科际整合,各学科间的。
- [3] Parmenides: 巴门尼德,公元前5世纪古希腊哲学家。
- [4] Pythagoras: 毕达哥拉斯, 古希腊哲学家、数学家。
- [5] Hipparchus: 喜帕恰斯,亦译伊巴谷,古希腊天文学家。他是方位天文学的创始人,还发明以经纬度表示地理位置及投影制图的方法。

- [6] sexagesimal: 六十进制的。
- [7] Ptolemy: 托勒密,公元2世纪古希腊天文学家、地理学家、数学家,地心说的创立者。
- [8] circumference: 圆周,周围。
- [9] Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859): 洪堡特,德国自然科学家、自然地理学家,近代地质学、气候学、地磁学、生态学创始人之一。
- [10] Carl Ritter (1779-1859): 卡尔·李特尔(1779—1859),德国地理学家,为人文地理学之父。1796年入哈雷大学,广读自然科学及文史等课程。1819年任法兰克福大学历史学教授。1820年任柏林大学首任地理学教授,直到1859年9月28日去世。
- [11] Paul Vidal de la Blache (1845-1918): 保罗·维达尔-白兰士,法 国地理学家,法国近代地理学的创建人。1866 年毕业于巴黎高等师范学 校。1872 年获博士学位。1872 年起先后任南锡大学(1872—1877)、 巴黎高等师范学校(1877—1898)、巴黎大学(1898—1918) 教授。 1891 年创办《地理年鉴》。
- [12] geostatistics: 统计地质学, 地质统计学。



I. Understanding of the main idea of the text.

What is the main idea of the text?

II. Comprehension of the text.

Directions: Choose the best answer.

- 1. What does human geography focus on largely?
 - A. It focuses on the natural environment and how the climate, vegetation and life, soil, water, and landforms are produced and interact.
 - B. It focuses on the built environment and how space is created, viewed and managed by humans as well as the influence humans have on the space they occupy.
 - C. It focuses on the first rigorous system of latitude and longitude lines.
 - D. It focuses on measuring the heights of mountains, depths of valleys, and expanse of the horizon.
- 2. Who was considered by later Greek writers to be the true founder of geography?

- A. Anaximander of Miletus.
- B. Abu Rayhan al-Biruni.
- C. Christopher Columbus.
- D. Marco Polo.
- 3. What is credited to Hipparchus?
 - A. A polar equi-azimuthal equidistant projection of the celestial sphere.
 - B. The parallels and meridians were sub-divided into 360°, with each degree further subdivided 60' (minutes).
 - C. The first rigorous system of latitude and longitude lines.
 - D. Human geography and the planetary habitability of the earth.
- 4. When were the times when geography became recognized as a discrete academic discipline?
 - A. In the 16th and 17th centuries.
 - B. In the Middle Ages.
 - C. In the 3rd century.
 - D. In the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 5. In the West during the 20th century, the discipline of geography went through four major phases: ______.
 - A. environmental determinism, regional geography, the quantitative revolution, and critical geography
 - B. economics, sociology, geology, and demographics
 - C. human geography, physical geography, and environmental geography
 - D. life, soil, water, and landforms

III. Topics for discussion.

- 1. Describe the history of geography briefly.
- 2. Do you know other Chinese geographers? Try to talk about them with your classmates.
- IV. Summary of the text.



Ancient Geography

Ancient Greeks environment influenced on the ways people met their needs and the way their culture develops. The ancient Greeks saw the poet Homer as the founder of geography. His works the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* are works of literature,

but both contain a great deal of geographical information. Homer describes a circular world ringed by a single massive ocean. The works show that the Greeks by the 8th century BC had considerable knowledge of the geography of the eastern Mediterranean. The poems contain a large number of place names and descriptions, but for many of these it is uncertain what real location, if it exists, is actually being referred to.

Thales of Miletus^[1] is one of the first known philosophers known to have wondered about the shape of the world. He proposed that the world was based on water, and that all things grew out of it. He also laid down many of the astronomical and mathematical rules that would allow geography to be studied scientifically. His successor Anaximander is the first person known to have attempted to create a scale map of the known world and to have introduced the gnomon to Ancient Greece.

Hecataeus of Miletus initiated a different form of geography, avoiding the mathematical calculations of Thales and Anaximander he learnt about the world by gathering previous works and speaking to the sailors who came through the busy port of Miletus. From these accounts he wrote a detailed prose account of what was known of the world. A similar work, and one that mostly survives today, is Herodotus' *Histories*. While primarily a work of history, the book contains a wealth of geographic descriptions covering much of the known world. Egypt, Scythia, Persia, and Asia Minor are all described in great detail. Little is known about areas further a field, and descriptions of areas such as India are almost wholly fanciful. Herodotus also made important observations about geography. He is the first to have noted the process by which large rivers, such as the Nile, build up deltas, and is also the first recorded as observing that winds tend to blow from colder regions to warmer ones.

Pythagoras was perhaps the first to propose a spherical world, arguing that the sphere was the most perfect form. This idea was embraced by Plato and Aristotle presented empirical evidence to verify this. He noted that the earth's shadow during an eclipse is curved, and also that stars increase in height as one moves north. Eudoxus of Cnidus used the idea of a sphere to explain how the sun created differing climatic zones based on latitude. This led the Greeks to believe in a division of the world into five regions. At each of the poles was an uncharitably cold region. While extrapolating from the heat of the Sahara it was deduced that the area around the equator was unbearably hot. Between these extreme regions both the northern and southern hemispheres had a temperate belt suitable for human habitation.