

American *Society and Culture*

美国社会与文化

□ 主 编 冷 慧 董广才

□ 副主编 李明心 [美] Stephen Keith



MEIGUO SHEHUI YU WENHUA

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前言

伴随着经济和科技的发展，“地球村”概念的出现，中美作为世界两个大国，多方面的交际和沟通日益深入。古语有云：“知己知彼，百战不殆”。中美文化交际中最重要的问题是什么？是标准的发音？是海量的词汇？是流利的表达？还是认知彼此文化中的底层代码？

语言是思维的载体，语言为表达思维而存在。由于中美两国语言和文化差异，常常使得一些学习者陷于一种不自觉的尴尬情境之中，不小心成为了“Sorry”先生/小姐，犯了跨文化交际中的忌讳，冒犯了朋友，损失了大笔订单，却不知错误在哪里。

跨文化交际中的文化差异一直是中国学生学习美国文化的重要内容。《美国社会与文化》是编著者根据自己多年在美国工作和生活的经历，结合近几年来为高校开设的“中美跨文化交际问题研究”课程的教案和讲义进行整理和撰写而成。本书编写的目的在于使学习英语的中国学生不仅能讲英语，更能通晓美国社会规范、文化习俗、生活方式、思维方式、交际方式，能有的放矢地与美国人进行交流，避免由于不同文化差异带来不必要的冲突与碰撞。

全书分为15个独立但又相互联系的模块。每个模块（**Modules**）都围绕着美国文化、经济、社会背景、生活方式等中国学生感兴趣的主题（**Themes**）展开。每个独立模块下设的三大任务（**Tasks**），其中的主题故事（**Feature Stories**）、话题（**Topics**）、人物（**Person of the Module**）、电影（**Movie of the Module**）等旨在深入浅出地引领英语学习者成为探究式学习的主体，摆脱对教师的习惯性依赖。

本书的编写首先遵循了探究式教学理念，这一理念意味着读者在阅读本书时，积极思考，主动探求，在完成任务的过程中品尝学习成果。

任务一：思考·分组·分享（**Think·Pair·Share**）。该任务依据合作学习的理念，启发英语学习者思考和讨论，自然地导入模块中的主题与话题。

任务二：与主题互动（**Interacting with the Theme**）。该任务以主题的形式，展示该模块的主要内容。每个模块的主题下设四个具体话题，循序渐进地引导英语学习者与主题内容之

间的互动。学习者依据自己的兴趣、话题相关性和时间安排，灵活择取话题内容。

任务三：研究跳板（Springboard for Research）。该任务以What? — So What? — Now What?问题图表的形式出现，充分体现探究性学习的本质，鼓励学习者挖掘已有的与该模块相关的背景知识，提出与个人兴趣相关、尚待解决的问题，在所学内容的基础上，利用课余时间完成一个与该模块相关的研究课题，对问题进行深入广泛地探究。

本书的编写主要遵循了探究式教学理念，此外还结合了“愉悦学习”、“授之以渔”、“合作学习”、“过程评价体系”等理念。

“愉悦学习”理念使学习者保持可持续的学习心态。课堂开心小活动（Fun in Class）为教师和英语学习者创设了真诚、友好以及和谐的互动环境，使教师能确定学习者的话题兴趣点，动态性地确定教学重点，满足学习者的学习需求，激发学习动机。网络搜索研究（Internet for Research）和视频搜索专题（Video for Research）使学习者不仅在课堂上与教师和其他同学互动，更能在业余时间，在学有所用的兴趣推动下，去图书馆、资料室、网络中心搜索资料、分析对比，延长和加深愉悦的学习体验，在解析美国文化的过程中体验成就感和满足感。

“授之以渔”是本书编写的另一个基本理念。在网络资源极大丰富的当今时代，教会学习者利用互联网和多媒体资源来获取、整理和分析与课程相关的信息是大学教师的新任务，也是新媒体时代大学生的必备素质。培养学习者养成正确索引的习惯是避免知识产权纠纷和不规范学术活动的基本要求。为树立健康的学术风范，我们身体力行，为每一篇从网络和报纸上改编的文章都提供了索引的出处，既尊重了原创者（报纸、网页）的知识产权，又方便了学习者查找原始出处，以便为他们进一步的学习和研究提供资料参考。

“合作学习”是本书编写的又一个理念。书中的双人活动、小组活动等学习形式，充分体现了这一新时代的学习理念。《美国社会与文化》内容浩瀚，而课堂授课时间少。在每周一次或两次的课堂上要完成有深度的美国文化问题的研究，一定需要学习者在课后的积极配合，分工协作。

最后，本书的编写还使用了“过程评价体系”（Portfolio）理念。“过程评价体系”在本

书的体例内更是“成长记录评价体系”。该体系与“以人为本”的教学理念相吻合，尊重学习者劳动，展示学习者成果，记录学习者成长过程。“成长记录评价体系”还是促进学习者自我反思，调整学习进程和目标，激励学习者取得更高成就的手段。

本书通过15个模块展示出美国文化中的主要内容，也为学习者们搭建一个研究中美跨文化交际问题的平台。本书的语言通俗易懂、结构合理、条理清晰，有很强的可读性。学习者在了解美国文化的同时，也能提高跨文化交际意识，培养跨文化交际能力，更能加深对博大精深的中国文化的理解与认同。

本书的读者为大学本科生、研究生、英语教师及广大从事跨文化交际工作的涉外人员。本书也很适合即将奔赴美国和其他国家留学和工作的朋友们。阅读这本书，本质上就是一次中美跨文化交际的经历。

编著者

写于美国俄亥俄州牛津市

2013年感恩节

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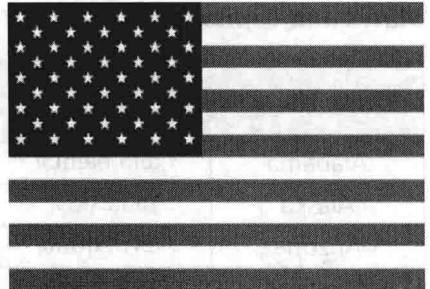
Fast Facts about the United States of America

Task One: Think • Pair • Share

1. What comes to your mind when the word "America" is mentioned? Why?
2. What does "District of Columbia" mean to you?
3. What do the stars and stripes mean in the American flag?

The Story of the American Flag

Betsy Ross was a seamstress who went to the same church as George Washington. She had previously embroidered ruffles for Washington's shirt bosoms and cuffs. One day, late in May 1776, George Washington came to her home asked her to sew the first flag. George Washington was then the head of the Continental Army. According to Ross, General Washington showed her a rough design of the flag that included a six-pointed star. Betsy, a standout with the scissors, demonstrated how to cut a five-pointed star in a single snip. Impressed, Washington entrusted her with the job of making America's first flag.



The American flag consists of 13 equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white; there is a blue rectangle in the upper left-side corner containing 50 small, white, five-pointed stars. The 50 stars represent the 50 states; the 13 stripes represent the 13 original colonies. If the U.S. were to add another state, another star would have to be added to the flag. The flag is known as "Old Glory" or "The Stars and Stripes". The National Anthem of the United States is about the flag and is called "The Star Spangled Banner". The design and colors have been the basis for a number of other flags, including Chile, Liberia, Malaysia, and Puerto Rico.

Task Two: Interacting with the Theme

Topic 1 What and Where is the U.S.A.?

America's official name is the United States of America. America consists of fifty states and the nation's capital — the District of Columbia — referred to as Washington D.C. Two states, Alaska and Hawaii, are not a part of the continental United States, which are sometimes referred to as the "Lower 48" (since Alaska is north of the 48 contiguous states). In addition to the 50 states, the U.S. also has a number of island territories in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are the most notable.

The chart below is an alphabetical listing of the 50 states and their capitals. Note that one of the states is also called Washington, which is on the West Coast. The nation's capital, Washington D.C. is on the East Coast. Each state has an official postal abbreviation that consists of two letters as shown in the chart column headed USPS (United States Postal Service).

States and Capitals of the United States

State Name	Pronunciation	USPS	Population	Capital	Most Populous City
Alabama	/ˌæləˈbæmə/	AL	4,822,023	Montgomery	Birmingham
Alaska	/əˈlæskə/	AK	731,449	Juneau	Anchorage
Arizona	/ˈærɪˈzoʊnə/	AZ	6,553,255	Phoenix	Phoenix
Arkansas	/ˈɑrkənsɑː/	AR	2,949,131	Little Rock	Little Rock
California	/ˌkælɪˈfɔrnjə/	CA	38,041,430	Sacramento	Los Angeles
Colorado	/ˈkɒləˈrædoʊ/	CO	5,187,582	Denver	Denver
Connecticut	/kəˈnetɪkət/	CT	3,590,347	Hartford	Bridgeport
Delaware	/ˈdeləweər/	DE	917,092	Dover	Wilmington
Florida	/ˈflɒrɪdə/	FL	19,317,568	Tallahassee	Jacksonville
Georgia	/ˈdʒɔrdʒə/	GA	9,919,945	Atlanta	Atlanta
Hawaii	/həˈwaɪ/	HI	1,392,313	Honolulu	Honolulu
Idaho	/ˈaɪdəhoʊ/	ID	1,595,728	Boise	Boise
Illinois	/ɪlˈnoɪ/	IL	12,875,255	Springfield	Chicago
Indiana	/ˌɪndiˈænə/	IN	6,537,334	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Iowa	/ˈaɪəwə/	IA	3,074,186	Des Moines	Des Moines
Kansas	/ˈkænzəs/	KS	2,885,905	Topeka	Wichita

(continued)

State Name	Pronunciation	USPS	Population	Capital	Most Populous City
Kentucky	/kən'tʌki/	KY	4,380,415	Frankfort	Louisville
Louisiana	/lu,ɪzɪ'ænə/	LA	4,601,893	Baton Rouge	New Orleans
Maine	/'meɪn/	ME	1,329,192	Augusta	Portland
Maryland	/'merələnd/	MD	5,884,563	Annapolis	Baltimore
Massachusetts	/,mæsə'tʃu:sɪts/	MA	6,646,144	Boston	Boston
Michigan	/'mɪʃɪgən/	MI	9,883,360	Lansing	Detroit
Minnesota	/,mɪnɪ'saʊtə/	MN	5,379,139	Saint Paul	Minneapolis
Mississippi	/,mɪsɪ'sɪpi/	MS	2,984,926	Jackson	Jackson
Missouri	/mɪ'zuəri/	MO	6,021,988	Jefferson City	Kansas City
Montana	/mən'tænə/	MT	1,005,141	Helena	Billings
Nebraska	/nə'bræskə/	NE	1,855,525	Lincoln	Omaha
Nevada	/nə'vædə/	NV	2,758,931	Carson City	Las Vegas
New Hampshire	/nu'hæmpʃə/	NH	1,320,718	Concord	Manchester
New Jersey	/nu'dʒɜ:zɪ/	NJ	8,864,590	Trenton	Newark
New Mexico	/nu'meksɪkou/	NM	2,085,538	Santa Fe	Albuquerque
New York	/nu:'jɔrk/	NY	19,570,261	Albany	New York
North Carolina	/,nɔrθ,kerə'lainə/	NC	9,752,073	Raleigh	Charlotte
North Dakota	/,nɔrθdə'kəʊtə/	ND	699,628	Bismarck	Fargo
Ohio	/ou'haɪou/	OH	11,544,225	Columbus	Columbus
Oklahoma	/,ouklə'həʊmə/	OK	3,814,820	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City
Oregon	/'ɔrɪgən/	OR	3,899,353	Salem	Portland
Pennsylvania	/,pensɪl'veɪnjə/	PA	12,763,536	Harrisburg	Philadelphia
Rhode Island	/rouð'aɪlənd/	RI	1,050,292	Providence	Providence
South Carolina	/,saʊθkerə'lainə/	SC	4,723,723	Columbia	Columbia
South Dakota	/,saʊθdə'kəʊtə/	SD	833,354	Pierre	Sioux Falls
Tennessee	/,tenɪ'si:/	TN	6,456,243	Nashville	Memphis
Texas	/'teksəs/	TX	26,059,203	Austin	Houston
Utah	/'ju:tə:/	UT	2,855,287	Salt Lake City	Salt Lake City
Vermont	/və'mant/	VT	626,011	Montpelier	Burlington
Virginia	/və'dʒɪnjə/	VA	8,185,867	Richmond	Virginia Beach
Washington	/'wɒʃɪŋtən/	WA	6,897,012	Olympia	Seattle
West Virginia	/,west və'dʒɪnjə/	WV	1,855,413	Charleston	Charleston
Wisconsin	/wɪs'kɑnsɪn/	WI	5,726,398	Madison	Milwaukee
Wyoming	/waɪ'oumɪŋ/	WY	576,412	Cheyenne	Cheyenne

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