

“DO YOU KNOW?”系列读物之四

Talk About
Western World
西方漫谈

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西安交通大学出版社

内容提要

本书为“DO YOU KNOW?”系列读物之四。全书共 88 篇,均选自英美原文,内容包括西方各国的大小文化概况,文章短小精悍,语言简单易读,知识性强,对了解西方很有帮助。本书可供高中生(特别是高三学生)以及大学低年级学生课外阅读之用,也可供教师选用作泛读教材。本系列四册书已全部出版。

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· 系列读物之四 ·

主编例言

众所周知,英语学习成功的要素之一就是阅读。读得多,词汇量就丰富;读得广,知识面就宽;读得快,阅读量就大;读得勤,理解力就强。

英语教学是一个系统工程,因此,中学英语和大学英语应该紧密相连。但是,教学实践证明,这两个阶段之间的衔接不够和谐,中学毕业生步入大学后往往不能很快适应大学英语学习,因素固然是多方面的,但比较突出的一个问题就是阅读量不足,阅读能力差,阅读速度慢。为补救这一缺陷,加强中学和大学的衔接,我们编写了这套读物,共分四册,难度和长度逐册递增,本系列四册书已全部完成,由西安交通大学出版社出版。读物的风格是文章短小精悍,语言浅显易懂,题材生动活泼,融知识性、趣味性于一炉,会可读性、实践性于一书。每篇短文后均编有较详尽的词汇和难点的汉语注释,并配备多种形式的阅读理解题(书后附答案)。

由于内容使然,本册中专用名词,主要是地名较多,但均已详细注出,对阅读应不致造成困难。

本书的主要对象是高中生(特别是高三学生)和大学低年级学生。当然,凡是对本书感兴趣的读者都是本书的对象。

主编

2002年3月



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澳洲掠影

1 **Australia**

澳大利亚

Australia is the largest island in the world. However, it is the smallest continent as well. Australia lies in the southern hemisphere. It lies southeast of Asia and is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean.

The climates in Australia vary greatly. A small part of the northeast coast has a tropical climate with heavy rainfall and somewhat hot temperatures. Some parts have definite dry and wet seasons. Large desert areas with very little rainfall occupy central and western Australia. Of course, there are other types of climates in other areas of the continent.

Many people who hear the word Australia think about the unique animals that can be found only in Australia. Kangaroos have large back legs and powerful tails. A koala is an animal that eats the leaves of certain types of trees. The duckbill, or platypus, is a strange creature. Although it has hair and gives milk to its young like other mammals do, it lays eggs!

Notes

1. hemisphere : n. 半球
2. duckbill = platypus : 鸭嘴兽

Comprehension Exercises

Choose the right answer according to the passage.

1. A good title for this selection is
 - A. Australia.
 - B. Strange Animals.
 - C. Australian Animals.
2. The word *somewhat* in paragraph 2 means
 - A. some things.
 - B. more or less.
 - C. winter.
3. We may conclude that most mammals
 - A. have hair.
 - B. lay eggs.
 - C. both A and B.
4. Koalas eat
 - A. leaves.
 - B. eggs.
 - C. animals.
5. Central and western Australia is
 - A. wet.
 - B. tropical.
 - C. dry.

2 **Aboriginals**

澳洲土著

Australian Aboriginals are believed to be the first inhabitants of the continent , who gradually migrated from Southeast Asia. When the white men first began colonizing the continent , the number of Aborigines were estimated to be 300 ,000. They were nomads who hunted and fished. Men were usually the hunters while women were gatherers. Though they led a simple life , they developed among themselves a highly complex social organization and kinship systems that varied from tribe to tribe.

In the course of the development of Australia , the Aboriginal society has also changed a lot.

According to the 1986 census , the number of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders living in Australia was 227 ,645 , which represented 1.4 percent of the total of the population. About 66 percent of the Aboriginal people nowadays lives in cities or towns. And many others still have a tribal life style in remote areas. But none now live in an entirely traditional manner.

Although there is no legal discrimination against Aboriginals , they still , sometimes , have disadvantages in education , health , employment and housing standard. In order to overcome these disadvantages , the Australian Government offers special programs that favour Aboriginals in education , health , employment and housing

standards.

The Government sets up Aboriginal-managed organizations that carry out its policy of self-management for Aboriginals. These organizations provide essential services to Aboriginals.

Besides , the Australian Government also recognizes the right of Aboriginals to own their traditional lands. Now Aboriginals own about 31.5 percent of the Northern Territory land , and other states are also developing a land right law for Aboriginals.

In a word , the Australian Government has been seeking to improve the living standards of Aboriginals and to preserve and develop their complex systems of religion , law and social organizations as well as a rich culture with ceremony , mythology , bark painting , engraving and dance. The Aboriginal Arts Board , set up under the Australia Council , encourages the development of Aboriginal arts and traditional skills in performing arts.

Notes

1. aboriginal : n. 土著
2. inhabitant : n. 居民
3. nomad : n. 游牧部落的人
4. tribe : n. 部落
5. essential : a. 必要的 , 本质的
6. census : n. 人口普查
7. Torres Strait : 托雷斯海峡
8. mythology : n. 神学
9. bark : n. 树皮

Comprehension Exercises

Answer the following questions.

1. Where did Australian Aboriginals come from ?
2. What was the number of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders living in Australia in 1986 ?
3. What does Australia Government offer in order to overcome the disadvantages against Aboriginals ?
4. What percent of the Northern Territory land do Aboriginals own now ?