

英语阅读文化背景词典

A DICTIONARY OF CULTURAL BACKGROUND
FOR
READING ENGLISH

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北 京

内 容 简 介

为了加深学生对英语词语、句子和整篇文章的理解,提高他们的英语阅读理解能力,《英语周报》社特组织国内有影响的专家和学者编辑出版了这本《英语阅读文化背景词典》(A DICTIONARY OF CULTURAL BACKGROUND FOR READING ENGLISH),供大中学生、英语教师和英语爱好者参考使用。

本词典是《英语阅读四功能系列词典》之二,该系列词典有以下功能:排除阅读障碍,欣赏对照读物,提供语言背景,介绍西方文化。本词典虽四功能齐全,但更侧重第三功能。本词典具有知识覆盖面广,释义详尽准确、文章可读性强、语言生动流畅等特点。它既是一部英语阅读理解工具书,又是一本现成的英语泛读教材;它既是一本难能可贵的英语百科知识集锦,又是一部丰富全面的资料信息储存精本。

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前 言

学习语言,不但要学习语言知识,而且还要了解英语国家的文化背景知识。为了帮助学生加深对英语词语、句子和整篇文章的理解,从而提高他们的阅读理解能力,《英语周报》社组织国内有影响的专家和学者编辑出版了这本《英语阅读文化背景知识词典》(*A Dictionary of Cultural Background for Reading English*),供大中学生、英语教师和英语爱好者参考使用。

本词典涉及的文化背景知识包括英语国家的历史、地理、政法、经济、军事、外交、科学、教育、文学、艺术、体育和社会生活等各个方面,另外还收集了古代希腊、罗马以及其他西方国家的文化背景材料。本词典是《英语阅读四功能系列词典》之二,该系列词典有以下四个功能:排除阅读障碍,欣赏对照读物,提供语言背景,介绍西方文化。本词典虽四功能齐全,但更侧重第三功能。与此系列已出的《英语阅读助读词典》相比,本词典侧重于“提供语言背景”,而前词典侧重于“排除阅读障碍”,这是其一;其二,本词典不涉及自然科学,前词典既包括自然科学又包括社会科学。

本词典对每个英语词条的解释,不是只给一个英语等同词,而是用一篇完整的英语短文对其内容进行详解,而且在短文后附有言简意赅,语言流畅的汉语译文,所以每个词条就是一篇完整的英汉对照读物。

本词典的词条按英语字母顺序排列,英语在前,汉语在后,如 ABC 美国广播公司, Aeolus 风神, Baltic Sea 波罗的海, Ballet 芭蕾, Bible 《圣经》等。

本词典共收入各种词条 1434 个,其中英语国家的词条约占 80%。其查寻方法同一般英汉词典。为便于查寻书尾附有英汉对照索引。

本词典具有词条内容丰富,释义详尽准确,文章可读性强,语言生动流畅等特点,不失为一本较为理想的工具书。由于我们学识与水平有限,疏漏与差错之处,在所难免,恳请广大读者批评指正。

席玉虎

2004 .8



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► Aberdeen 阿伯丁

It is a port town on the eastern coast of Scotland, capital of Aberdeen Section, bestriding Don River and Dee River. It has a population of 216,000. The harbour section on the entry of Dee River has been modernized and it is the main harbour and fishery hub in North Scotland. It has industry like ship-building, machinery, paper-making, chemistry, fertilizer, etc. Since 1970, it has grown up to be the largest base of developing British North Sea Oil Field. It is also a traffic hinge of highway, railway, sea transportation and navigation. It has many universities like Aberdeen University and technology college. Tourism is well developed.

216 000。

► Abolition Movement in the United States 美国废奴运动

It was a movement that the people of the north of America requested to abolish the slavery. The movement rose in the 1830's. In the era of colony, America carried out the slavery. After independence, along with the capitalistic development and awakening of black people, the abolition movement developed rapidly. In the 1830's, the Convention for Promoting Abolition of Slavery was founded in all parts of America. The Convention set up more than two thousand branches in the whole country, and actively propagandized the idea of abolition of slavery. The "Underground Railroad", which was a secret organization of the movement of abolition of slavery, came into existence in 1838, and helped many slaves to get freedom. In 1852, the novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, was published, and promoted the development of the movement of abolition of slavery. In 1859, John Brown launched a rebellion, and pushed the movement of abolition of slavery to climax. In the War between the States, Lincoln issued *Emancipation Proclamation*, which declared the victory of the movement of abolition of slavery.

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 1838 “ ”
 1852 《 》
 1859 《 》

► **access (card) 通用信用卡(便捷信用卡)**

It is a major type of credit card issued by a group of banks including Lloyds, Midland, National Westminster, the Clydesdale Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

► **Act of Settlement 王位继承法**

It is an act of succeeding to the throne after 1701 which was regulated by Parliament of Great Britain and passed in June 1701. The act was necessitated by the death of the last surviving child of the heir apparent, Anne in 1700. It provided that the crown was to pass to the granddaughter of James I, the Sophia of Hanover, or her Protestant heirs. The act was supported by both Whigs and Tories. In addition to fixing the successor, the act attempted to limit the sovereign's authority and prevent foreign influence. Future monarchs were to join in common with the Anglican church and were forbidden to travel abroad or use English revenue for defence of their foreign territory without Parliament's consent. Foreigners were barred from any high office or pension in Houses of Parliament, the Privy Council, and any other important department. Judges appointed by the crown were to hold office based on good behaviour rather than at the sovereign's pleasure.

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► **Adam 亚当**

The Lord God made the earth and the heavens, but there were no bush and tree in the earth, and no herb of the field before it grew, for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man on the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and man became a living soul. The Lord God named the man Adam. And the Lord God built a garden eastward in Eden, and there he settled the man whom he had formed.

► **Adams, John 约翰·亚当斯 (1735—1826)**

John Adams, a Federalist, the 2nd President of the United States, was born in 1735. He graduated from Harvard University, and then had been a lawyer. He had been a delegate of the first and second Continental Congress from 1774 to 1777, and was one of draftsmen of the *Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America*. He had successively held the post of commissioner to France, the minister to Britain, and the vice-president. He took part in signing the *Peace Treaty of Paris* in 1783. He was on the post of President in 1797. During his tenure of President, he ratified four item decrees, enlarged the power of President, and strengthened the centralization of state power. He left his post of President in 1801. He had written the *Some Ideas on Government*, and died in 1826.

► **Adelaide 阿德莱德**

It is an important industrial and commercial city and port, and the capital



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of State of South Australia, Australia. It is located in the south of Australian Continent, on the eastern coast of Saint Vincent Bay. The industries of the city include automobile-manufacturing, steel-rolling, oil-refining, machine-building, food-processing and so on, which distribute in the port area and the satellite towns newly-built in northeast of the city. Adelaide is also an important centre of railway, highway, sea-shipping and air-express in the southern Australia.

► **Adelbert, Doisy Edward** 多伊西·爱德华·阿德尔伯特(1893—1986)

Doisy Edward Adelbert was born in 1893, and died in 1986. He won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1943 because of his discovery of the chemical feature of vitamin K.

• • 1893 , 1986 。 1943
K

► ***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, the*** 《哈克贝利·费恩历险记》

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, sequel to *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, is the masterpiece of famous American writer Mark Twain. It was a success from its first publication in 1884 and has always been regarded as one of the greatest books of western literature and western civilization. “All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*” wrote Ernest Hemingway.

The setting of the novel is pre-industrialized America around the 1830's—1840's. The heroes, Huckleberry Finn, and Jim, a runaway slave, go in company down the Mississippi on a raft and start their adventures. After several struggles with himself, Huck, instead of informing the authorities of Jim's whereabouts, makes up his mind to help the slave get freedom. Through their adventures Huck and Jim see various figures and various incidents which in fact form a moving panorama of American society. Huck is not only a rebel but also a real hero. From him Americans learn their history, find some identity of themselves, and enrich their understanding of their country.

In writing this novel Mark Twain makes full use of comic jargon and



dialect and he creates a genuine American style—easy, informal, unaffected as well as humorous. A

《汤姆·索耶历险记》是马克·吐温的代表作之一。1884年，他出版了这部小说。这部小说讲述了一个聪明、勇敢、淘气的男孩汤姆·索耶在密西西比河畔的冒险故事。汤姆厌倦了父母和老师对他的管束，渴望自由和冒险。他和他的朋友哈克贝利·费恩一起，经历了许多惊险刺激的事情。最后，他们通过发现宝藏而变得富有，哈克也被一个富有的寡妇收养了。这部小说不仅歌颂了童年的纯真和天真的勇气，还描绘了美国中西部小镇的生活，这些小镇在南北战争之前就已经消失了。

► *Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The* 《汤姆·索耶历险记》

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is one of the most popular works among readers. As the first real novel of Mark Twain, it is not only an immortal book for children, but also a classic piece of work. The story takes place along the Mississippi River. The hero, Tom Sawyer, is a clever and daring boy who is discontented with the life imposed upon him and yearns for freedom and adventures. The novel tells us many stories about Tom and his friend Huck. In the end, they become rich by discovering treasures and Huck is adopted by a wealthy widow. The novel not only sings praises of the innocence and naivety of the childhood, but also describes the serene idyllic life in the small towns along the Mississippi which has gone forever before the Civil War.

《伊索寓言》是古希腊作家伊索的代表作。这部寓言集包含了许多短小精悍的故事，通过动物和自然现象来揭示人类的智慧和道德。伊索本人据说是一个奴隶，他的故事反映了当时社会的现实。这些寓言不仅在古希腊广受欢迎，而且流传至今，成为世界文学宝库中的瑰宝。

► *Aesop's Fables* 《伊索寓言》

Aesop was a slave in ancient Greece. It was said that he was ugly and



about 1,170 US Super Cobra helicopters entered the war, launching attacks again and again, achieving an amazing victory and proving its reliability in adverse conditions.

“ AH-1
 “ ”
 1 170 “ ”

▶ AH-64 Apache attack helicopter AH-64“阿帕奇”武装直升机

AH-64 Apache is an advanced attack helicopter developed by American McDonnell Douglas. The Apache is designed to carry out anti-tank missions during either day or night time in adverse weather. It has a very strong fighting, lifesaving and survival ability. AH-64 includes many variants: AH-64A, AH-64B, AH-64C and AH-64D. AH-64B, the advanced version of AH-64A, equipped with the Global Positioning System (GPS), is able to connect to targets; AH-64C is another advanced version of AH-64A; AH-64D Longbow Apache, fitted with Longbow radar, can carry a fire-and-forget radio frequency (RF) Hellfire missile.

AH-64“ ”
 AH-64A、AH-64B、AH-64C AH-64D 。 AH-64B AH-64A
 (GPS), ;AH-64C AH-64A
 ;AH-64D“ ”, “ ”,
 “ ”

▶ AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missile AIM-9“响尾蛇”空对空导弹

It is an infrared homing air-to-air missile developed by US Navy for fleet air defence. All kinds of Sidewinders have an infrared homing guidance system except that AIM-9C has a semi-active radar homing guidance system. After being launched, it can keep trace of the target automatically until it hits the target. AIM-9 can fight in all-directions, all-altitudes and all-weather conditions, and is a relatively advanced weapon. The AIM-9 Sidewinder is without doubt the most important heat-seeking missile of the last three decades. Its services could be seen in every engagement between Western powers and their adversaries since 1950.



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► Airborne Express 运通航空公司

Airborne Express is a full-service global transportation and logistics partner to businesses and government agencies around the globe. As one of the world's most trusted shipping companies, it has built its company by listening to its customers, understanding their needs, and delivering dependable, cost-efficient solutions for their distribution needs. It is one of today's fastest-growing air express delivery companies, serving every ZIP code in US and over 200 countries worldwide with reliable shipping solutions. More than 60% of the *Fortune 500* depend on it to speed their shipments and documents around the world.

► Aircraft carrier Ark Royal “皇家方舟”号航空母舰

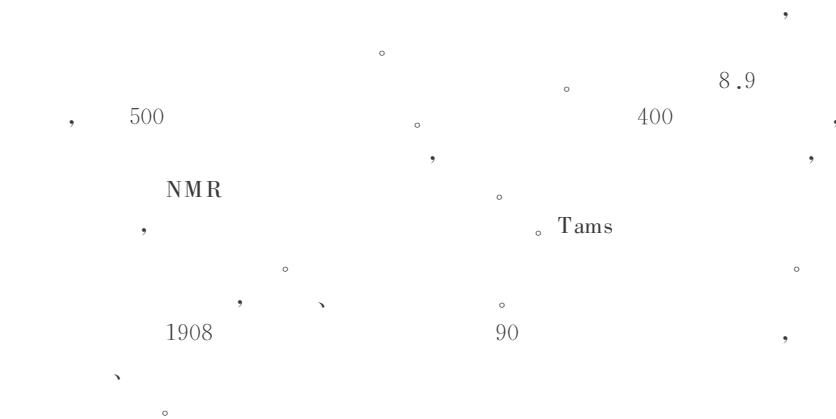
The Ark Royal is the flagship of the British royal navy. It is 210 metres long and has a displacement of 20,600 tons. There are 26 officers, 260 crew, and 685 navy airmen on the ship. It has a maximum speed in excess of 30 knots. The ship is equipped with various missiles, jet fighters and helicopters. In the middle of September 2002, the Ark Royal, carrying 1,000 officers and men and nine Harrier Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) planes, left Portsmouth in Britain for the Mediterranean. When US declared war on Iraq, the Ark Royal entered the war against Iraq directly.



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average quantity of library books for each student in Canada. There are the newest and the best equipments for drama teaching and learning in the Tams Art Centre. There are all kinds of recreation equipments in or outside the PE Recreational Centre. It is very convenient and comfortable for the students to lodge in the students' apartments connected with the shops.

The Alberta University was founded in 1908 with an over 90-year history of brilliant academic achievements. Because of its enterprising spirit in teaching and learning, scientific research and services for society, it attracts thousands of students at home and abroad to study in it.



► **Aleutian islands** 阿留申群岛

Aleutian islands, situated in the North Pacific Ocean, belongs to Alaska with an area of 18,000 square kilometres. Most of its islands are volcanic islands. The climate is cold, wet and foggy. It's famous for fishery and animal taming. It is the naval and air base of US.



► **Alexander, the Great** 亚历山大大帝 (356 BC—323 BC)

Alexander, the Great, who was born in 356 BC, was the son of Phillip II and the King of Macedonia. He learned from Aristotle in his youth, and adored the heroes of Homeric epics. He enthroned in 336 BC, and suppressed the anti-Macedonia movement of Greek city-states. He invaded Asia Minor in 334 BC. He defeated Persia in 333 BC. He occupied Egypt in 332 BC and founded



Alexander City . He advanced on Western- Asia and Middle-Asia in 331 BC . He invaded the valley of India River in 327 BC , and withdrew army from India in 325 BC , because the soldiers detested the war . He had founded the Alexander Empire . He died in 323 BC , with that the Empire collapsed .

▶ **Alfred, the Great** 阿尔弗雷德大王 (848—899)

Alfred the Great was born in 848 and passed away in 899 . He was a famous king of Wessex in England in the Middle Ages . He ruled Wessex from 871 to 899 . The Danes went all out to attack Britain in his youth period . He supported his elder brother , Ethelred I , to defeat the Danes , who had got into Britain in his early years . He succeeded the throne in 871 . He concluded a peace treaty with the Danes in 878 . The content of the treaty ruled that Wessex governed southwest England and the Danes held northeast . In order to fight against the Danes in a long run , he strengthened the navy and increased cavalry . He advocated cultural and academic research . He ordered and arranged translating Latin writings into ancient English . He gave order to compile statute books and historical records .

▶ **Algeria** 阿尔及利亚

Algeria is located by the Mediterranean Sea in the northwest of Africa . With an area of 2,381,741 square kilometres , it's the second biggest country next to Sudan in Africa . It has 29,500,000 people . Petroleum and natural gas industries are the pillar of its economy . The other industries include steel , machinery , electrical power , foodstuff , textile and so on . Its folk handicraft

