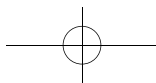


Unit 1

General Introduction



1

Lesson

General Information on the UK and the USA

Learning Objectives

- Master the key facts of the UK and the USA.
- Make an oral report about the two nations by generalising the information from the texts.
- Generalise the characteristics of the two nations by making a comparison between them.

Starter

1. Identify the following pictures, and say what you know about them.



2. Tell about the location of the UK and the USA and their capital cities, and give as much information as you can.

Texts

Pre-reading: Tell as much as you know about the following places.

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
Atlantic Ocean	North Sea	Irish Sea	English Channel

Text A

The UK

Location and Area

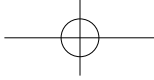
The full name of the UK is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with several different names such as Britain, Great Britain, England, the UK, the British Islands, or the United Kingdom. As a country in northwestern Europe, it is bordered to the south by the English Channel (英吉利海峡), to the east by the North Sea (北海), to the west by the Irish Sea (爱尔兰海) and the Atlantic Ocean (大西洋). The British Isles are made up many islands collectively. The UK consists of four main parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. London is the capital city through which the River Thames (泰晤士河) flows. With an area of about 244,100 sq. km, Britain is about 1,000 km from north to south, and 500 km across in the widest part.

Population and Dialects

Britain is one of the most densely populated countries of Europe. The total population of the country is above 64 million (2013), the majority of which live in southern England, while the barren (贫瘠的) and cold northern Scotland is sparsely (稀疏地) populated. Because of its long tradition of accommodating immigrants (移民) and refugees (难民), Britain is considered one of the most multiracial (多种族的) countries in the world, containing a diversity of ethnic groups, most of which are from the [Commonwealth](#)¹ countries.

Climate

Britain has a fairly mild and temperate (温和的) climate and is sometimes overcast (阴天的). It can be as hot as 32°C in the summer, and as cold as -10°C in the winter. However, the average high in London is around 21°C and the average low is around 12°C. The annual average rainfall varies from over 1,600 mm in the mountainous areas of the north and west to less than 800 mm over the central and eastern parts. In the south, the annual average duration of sunshine is around 1,750 hours, while the dullest parts of England, the mountainous areas, have annual average totals of less than 1,000 hours.



Industry and Economy

As one of the 28 member states of the [European Union](#)², the UK is a leading trading power and financial centre. Agriculture is an important industry and highly efficient. Primary energy, like coal and oil, are major contributors to the economy, but services like banking and insurance are the greatest contributors. Britain uses the pound sterling. The sign for the Great British Pound (GBP) is £.

National Symbols and Famous Figures

The national flag of the UK is the Union Flag (Union Jack), and the national anthem is *God Save the Queen*. The government is constitutional monarchy, in which the King or Queen is recognised as the head of state, and the Prime Minister is the head of government. Different parts of Britain have different national flowers: rose for England, thistle (薊) for Scotland, daffodil (水仙花) for Wales, and shamrock (三叶草) for Northern Ireland. The European robin is the national bird of Britain. Britain is the birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, William Shakespeare and the Beatles, home of the world's largest foreign exchange market, the world's richest football club—Manchester United, the inventor of the hovercraft (气垫船)—Christopher Cockerell, and the author of the *Harry Potter* books—J. K. Rowling.

Religions and Beliefs

Most British people are Christian. The most popular festivals are religion-related such as Christmas, Easter, etc.

Pre-reading: Tell as much as you know about the following places.

San Francisco

Texas

New York City

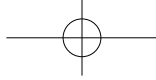
Washington, DC

Gulf of Mexico

California

Atlantic Ocean

Pacific Ocean



Text B

The USA

Location and Area

The USA, short for the United States of America, also called the States, the US, or Uncle Sam, is the fourth largest country in the world in size after Russia, Canada and China. Located in the central part of North America, it is bordered by Canada to the north, Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. A flight from New York to San Francisco takes about five and a half hours, and a trip by car from coast to coast takes five to six days. Washington DC is the capital city. Travellers are always impressed with the national parks and national forests dotted all over the country, scenes unexpected of a nation considered to be a symbol of advanced industry and technology.

Population and Ethnic Groups

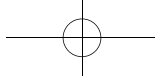
Known as the “**melting pot**”, the United States is another typical multiracial country, with a population of about 315 million (2013). The vast majority of Americans live in urban areas where cultural and economic advantages are offered. Although it is widely believed that class is totally nonexistent and all men are created equally in America, racial discrimination and class problems have always been headaches for the society. As one of the richest country in the world, wealth in the US is polarised (两极分化).

Climate

Due to the immense size and spread of topography in the US, the climate is incredibly varied. If there is a “general” climate then it is temperate, but it is also tropical in Florida and Hawaii, arctic in Alaska, arid in the Great Basin (大盆地) of the southwest and semiarid in the Great Plains (大平原) to the west of the Mississippi River (密西西比河). The temperature range runs between the extremes of 57°C in California’s Death Valley to -62°C in Alaska.

Economy

The American economy is a free enterprise system, with the public sector accounting for only one fifth of American economic activity. The bulk of America’s wealth is produced by private industries and businesses, ranging from giants like **General Motors**⁴ to thousands of small, independent enterprises. In agriculture, for example, about 90% of the country’s farms are private property of the farmers.



National Symbols and Famous Figures

The national flag of the USA is the Stars and Stripes. Some states have their own state flag. The national anthem is *The Star-Spangled Banner*. The government system is federal republic, with the Democratic Party and the Republican Party as the two major parties. Rose is recognised as the national flower and the bald eagle as the national bird, which can be seen in many places in the US, such as on the Great Seal, the Federal Agency seals, the President's flag, and the one-dollar bill. The US currency is the American dollar, with the sign \$ to stand for it. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt⁵ are the four most beloved presidents in American history. Mark Twain, Martin Luther King, Shirley Temple and Michael Jordan are some of the well-known figures loved by people of different ages and nationalities.

Music, Sports and Holidays

Rock'n'roll (摇滚音乐), jazz (爵士乐), country and western music are typical American music loved by people all over the world. Baseball is the national sport while American football, basketball and boxing are all very popular sports loved by the whole nation. Christmas, Valentine's Day, Independence Day, Halloween, and Thanksgiving are the most popular holidays and festivals in the United States.

The biggest religion in the US is Christianity. The motto of the seal of the United States carries the biblical words, "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience (顺从) to God". American currency bears the inscription (题词) "In God We Trust".

Cultural Notes

- ① **the Commonwealth:** the Commonwealth of Nations, 英联邦。包括英国及其自治领地和其他已独立的前殖民地、附属国。1931年的《威斯敏斯特法案》宣告英联邦正式形成。
- ② **European Union:** 欧盟。简称EU, 当今世界一体化程度最高的区域政治、经济集团组织, 现有28个成员国, 总部设在比利时首都布鲁塞尔。
- ③ **melting pot:** 熔炉。来自不同文化的移民或种族形成一个完整统一的社会。美国因其多种族共存现象而被称作“民族大熔炉”。
- ④ **General Motors:** 通用汽车公司。世界上最大的集制造、技术和服务于一体的多元化经营公司之一。
- ⑤ **Theodore Roosevelt:** 西奥多·罗斯福。美国第26届总统, 1906年成为美国第一位诺贝尔和平奖获得者。与华盛顿、杰斐逊、林肯一起被公认为美国四大总统。

Lesson Review

I. Vocabulary Building: Match each of the items on the left with its meaning on the right.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. pound sterling | a. the national anthem of the USA |
| 2. <i>The Star-Spangled Banner</i> | b. the national flag of the UK |
| 3. European robin | c. the capital city of the USA |
| 4. Washington, DC | d. the political system of the UK |
| 5. constitutional monarchy | e. a multi-racial country |
| 6. melting pot | f. the most famous British playwright |
| 7. William Shakespeare | g. British currency |
| 8. the Union Jack | h. the national bird of the UK |

II. Key Facts: Complete the following chart with the information from the texts.

	Nations	UK	USA
Facts			
Full Name		the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	the United States of America
Continent		Europe	North America
Territory		island	large landmass
Population		1) _____ million (2013)	315 million (2013)
Capital		London	2) _____
National Anthem		<i>God Save the Queen</i>	3) _____
National Flag		4) _____	Stars and Stripes
National Bird		European robin	5) _____
National Flower		rose; thistle; daffodil; shamrock	6) _____
Sign of the Currency		7) _____	\$
Government System		constitutional monarchy	8) _____
Government		Parliament	Congress
Head of State		monarch	president
Head of Government		Prime Minister	

(to be continued)

(continued)

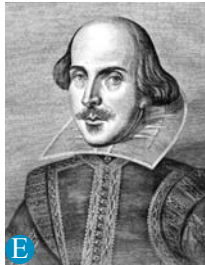
Nations	UK	USA
Facts		
Major Holidays	Christmas; 9) _____; _____	Christmas; Independence Day; Thanksgiving
Prominent Figures	10) _____	Mark Twain; Martin Luther King; Michael Jordan

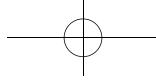
III. Discussion and Report: Discuss the following questions in groups and make an oral report to the class.

1. What are the climatic differences between the UK and the USA?
2. Can you explain the two different political systems in the UK and the USA?
3. How do you understand the famous words by George Mikes: “When people say England, they sometimes mean Great Britain, sometimes the United Kingdom, sometimes the British Isles—but never England”?
4. The USA is known as the “melting pot”. Do you think China can be called a melting pot, too? Give your reasons.

IV. Extensive Activities: Complete the following activities from resources available.

1. Talk about the meaning of the national flags, anthems, birds and flowers in the UK and the USA.
2. Do you know anything about the following pictures? Give a brief introduction to each of them.





Case Study



Case 1

British Reserve

When mentioning the characteristics of the British, the first words stepping into our minds may be reserve (寡言; 矜持), humour, patience and modesty, of which reserve is the most typical of the British. The frequently quoted story about the British reserve was written by Richard Musman in the 1970s:

The platform was full of middle-aged men wearing dark suits and carrying umbrellas. They all had neatly folded newspapers under their arms, either *The Times* or *The Telegraph*. They hardly greeted each other, though most of them knew one another, at least by sight. They did not shake hands. The train came in, and they all got into first-class compartments (车厢). As soon as they sat down, they unfolded their newspapers. The two walls of newspapers which stretched across the compartment were not lowered until the train approached Waterloo an hour later. Not a word was spoken. The return journey was no different, except that they were now reading evening newspapers.

Another way to show British reserve is their use of language. The British people seldom use extremely emotional words. Even when they are facing a fascinatingly beautiful view or recommending (推荐) an excellent film to friends, they would just say, “fine”, “not bad”, or “good”, which actually mean “great”, “terrific” or “excellent”.

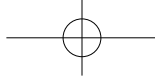
However, British men are throwing away their stiff upper lips, according to a new survey. The once buttoned-up (沉默寡言的) British are now happy to drop tears quite openly when facing emotions.

“30% of all British males have cried in the last month. That is a very high figure,” said Peter Marsh, Director of the Social Issues Research Centre. “Only 2% said they could not remember when they last cried.”

Long gone is the “No Tears—We’re British” time when feeling was considered a distinctly bad form. “In our poll of 2,000 people, very few people in their 40s or 50s had seen their father cry. Now it is very different,” Marsh told reporters. “77% of men considered crying in public increasingly acceptable.” Almost half the British men opened the floodgates over a sad movie, book or TV programme. Self-pity got 17% crying. 9% sobbed at weddings.

From the days of the Empire, the British have always considered themselves models of reserve, proudly mocking (嘲弄) “emotional foreigners” who show no restraint.

“But we are clearly shifting. What we take as typical British reserve has been significantly eroded.” Women’s battle for equal rights has certainly had an effect both in



the workplace and at home. “Men in their 20s or 30s are interacting with women on equal terms much more than a generation ago. That transfers into the workplace too,” Marsh said.

Case 2

Americans' Sense of Humour

Americans have a strong taste for slapstick (打闹剧的) comedy in various forms, and always try to show their quick-wittedness and sense of humour in the face of irony.

Because everyone has ancestors, family, and friends of every possible race, colour and creed (信仰), and because sensitivity to such differences has reached unprecedented (前所未有的) tenderness in recent years, it is considered rude to tell a joke that perpetuates (保持) an ethnic, social, religious, sexual, or racial stereotype. However, occupation, political persuasion or place of origin are still materials for humour.

For example: A Texan was boasting to an Arkansan about his ranch (大牧场). “Why, my ranch is so big,” he said, “that I start out in my truck in the morning to drive around it; it’s night by the time I get home.” The Arkansan nodded understandingly and said, “Yep, I had a truck like that once.”

The only group detested enough to be a suitable butt for barbed (尖酸刻薄的) humour is lawyers. Lawyers are unpopular because they’re only consulted in times of distress, such as during divorces and murder defences. Any lawyer joke is sure to draw a laugh. Some lawyer jokes are specific:

Example One:

Q: Why don’t sharks bite lawyers?

A: Professional courtesy.

Q: Why does Arizona have lots of vultures (秃鹫) and Washington, DC have lots of lawyers?

A: Arizona got first choice.

Example Two:

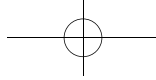
Q: What do you have when you have two lawyers buried up to their necks in sand?

A: Not enough sand.

Perhaps the most characteristic expression of American humour is the snappy retort (反击). A classic example comes from President Abraham Lincoln. One day a man came to Abraham Lincoln’s office, and saw Lincoln sitting with one leg stretching across the desk.

“Why, Mr. Lincoln,” said the man sarcastically (讽刺地), “that’s the longest leg I’ve ever seen!”

“Here’s another just like it,” said Lincoln, putting his other leg across the desk.



Tips

以上摘选的故事充分反映了英美两国国民的性格特征。英国人以保守、绅士、含蓄、矜持著称；而美国人则以开朗、幽默、豁达、机智为世人称道。

Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think are the reasons for this character difference between the British and the Americans?
2. Which character do you prefer? Why?
3. What are your impressions about the two peoples? Give specific examples to illustrate your point of view.

Supplementary Reading

Passage A

New York City

New York is built on a group of islands on the east coast of the US at a point where several rivers flow into the Atlantic Ocean. With a metropolitan (大城市的) population, the “Big Apple” is the largest city in the US and one of the most dynamic (有活力的) urban regions in the world. It includes five boroughs of New York City (Manhattan, Brooklyn (布鲁克林区), Queens (昆斯区), the Bronx (布朗克斯区) and Staten Island (斯塔滕岛) as well as portions of northern New Jersey, southern Connecticut, southern New York, and Long Island.

The skyscrapers (摩天大楼) and the neon nightlife, together with the inner city ghettos (贫民区), symbolise the excitements and liveliness of the contemporary (当代的) urban living of New York. But the city’s strong presence is also built upon a dramatic history. The first Westerner to discover these islands was an Italian explorer in 1524. Settled by the Dutch traders, seized at gunpoint by an English fleet, New York’s development into a megacity (超级都市) is as astounding (令人震惊的) as any in American history. New York was named by the British to honour the Duke of York and Albany, the brother of England’s King Charles II, when New Amsterdam was taken from the Dutch in 1664. New York became the name of the state and the city. After the War of Independence, New York became the capital of the US for a short time before Washington, DC.

The city is the financial capital of the world. The major financial institutions which



serve most of the American economy are headquartered (总部设在……的) here. Among them, the New York Stock Exchange stands out. In addition, practically every country in the world has a branch bank in New York. There are an estimated 400 foreign and domestic banks in New York City.



As the largest port of entry to the US, with perhaps the largest international system of airport of the world, New York is a city of dazzling racial and ethnic diversity (民族多样性) and a magnet for immigrants. With the United Nations Headquarters located here, it is also the centre of international political exchange.

New York City is also the home of the Hudson River, the Empire State Building (帝国大厦) and the Statue of Liberty. Other thrills that New York City offers include shopping on Fifth Avenue, feeling the excitement of Times Square, the world of Wall Street, the vitality of Carnegie Hall, and the concert venue (举办地点) in Midtown Manhattan.

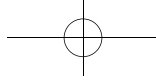
Also important is the fact that the city is still the Mecca of Western culture for the arts, literature and telecommunications (电信) industry. Birthplace to Herman Melville, Henry James and Joseph Heller, and adopted home of many other playwrights, artists, etc., New York has been relentless in overturning cultural conventions (习俗). The fashion, entertainment, publishing and television industries are headquartered there, and the city is also the main centre of their operations and the source of their talents. New York is:

a city of power: Wall Street and the heart of US capitalism, the UN and global politics;

a city of ambition: Ellis Island and the eternal migrant dream;

a city of drama, art, and music: Broadway, Tin Pan alley, museums, orchestras and popular music; &

a city of writers and visionaries (远见者): émigré intellectuals, novelists and poets, and chroniclers of urban life and voices of the dispossessed.



Passage B

The Weather in Britain

“Other countries have a climate, in England we have weather.” This statement, often made by Englishmen to describe the peculiar meteorological (气象的) conditions of their country, is both revealing and true. It is revealing because in it we see the Englishmen insisting once again that what happens in England is not the same as what happens elsewhere; its truth can be ascertained (确定) by any foreigner who stays in the country for longer than a few days. In no country other than England, it has been said, can one experience four seasons in the course of a single day! Day may break as a balmy (温和的) spring morning; an hour or so later black clouds may have appeared from nowhere and the rain may be pouring down. At midday conditions may be really wintry (寒冷的) with the temperature down by about eight degrees or more centigrade. And then, in the late afternoon the sky will clear, the sun will begin to shine, and for an hour or two before darkness falls, it will be summer.

In England one can experience almost every kind of weather except the most extreme. Some foreigners, incidentally, seem to be under the impression that four months of the year the country is covered by a dense blanket of fog; this is not true. The snag (障碍) is that we never can be sure when the different sorts of weather will occur. We not only get several different sorts of weather in one day, but we may very well get a spell of (一阵子) winter in summer and vice versa (反之亦然).

This uncertainty about the weather has had a definite effect upon the Englishman's character; it tends to make him cautious, for example. A foreigner may laugh when he sees the Englishman setting forth on a brilliantly sunny morning wearing a raincoat and carrying the umbrella, but he may well regret his laughter later in the day! The English weather has also helped to make the Englishman adaptable. It has been said that one of the reasons why the English colonised so much of the world was that, whatever the weather conditions they met abroad, they had already experienced something like them at home!

And, of course, the weather's variety provides a constant topic of conversation. Even the most taciturn (沉默寡言的) of Englishmen is always prepared to discuss the weather. And, though he sometimes complains bitterly of it, he would not, even if he could, exchange it for the more predictable climate of other lands.



2

Lesson

General Information on Canada, Australia and New Zealand

Learning Objectives

- Master the key facts of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- Identify the representative symbols of these three countries.
- Make an oral report about the characteristics of these three countries.

Starter

1. Identify the following pictures, and say what you know about them.



2. Offer as much information as you can about Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

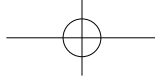
Texts

Pre-reading: Tell as much as you know about the following places.

Arctic Ocean
Toronto

Atlantic Ocean
Ottawa

Pacific Ocean
Greenland



Text A

Canada

Location and Area

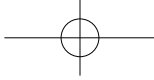
Occupying most of northern North America, Canada is the world's second largest country in area after Russia, with a total area of nearly 10 million square km. It extends from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean (太平洋) in the west and northward into the Arctic Ocean (北冰洋), sharing land borders with the USA to the south and northwest. Though much of the land is lakes, rivers and forests, there are also mountains, plains and even a small desert. The Great Plains, or prairies, are the source of Canada's abundant (丰富的) wheat crop. Western Canada is known for its Rocky Mountains (落基山脉), while the east has the country's major cities and also its most visited scenic spot, Niagara Falls (尼亚加拉瀑布). The [Canadian Shield](#)¹, formed more than 2.5 billion years ago, covers most of the northern part of the country.

People and Government

Canada has about 35 million (2013) people, and a great majority of them huddle (拥挤) along the southern border with the USA. In the "Quality of Life" surveys produced by the United Nations each year, Canada is regularly rated as having the best standard of living in the world because of its health care, education, clean environment, social welfare (福利), etc. Therefore, migration (移民) from other countries has always been an important source of Canadian population and growth. Ottawa (渥太华), the capital city, is located in the province of Ontario (安大略省). Toronto (多伦多) is the largest city of Canada. Toronto also has the distinction of being Canada's financial and commercial centre. Formally considered a constitutional monarchy, Canada is governed by its own [House of Commons](#)², with the British monarch as the official head of state. The [Governor General](#)³ is officially the representative of the King or Queen, but in reality the Governor General acts only on the advice of the Canadian Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Canada is a multilingual (多语的) and multicultural (多元文化的) country, with both English and French as the official languages.

Climate and Environment

Canada has four distinct seasons, although their arrival times vary across the country. The single most significant factor in climate is latitude (纬度). As a rule of thumb (根据经验), it gets colder the further north you go. Therefore, the warmest areas in the south are also the most populated. The western and eastern coasts are both very wet, though, in west coast, much of the rain falls during the winter. Canadian winters are long and hard: in



more than two-thirds of the country, the average January temperature is a shivering -18°C . July and August are the warmest months, when temperatures in the south are usually in the upper 20°C .

Canada has a beautiful natural environment. With lots of land and a small population, most of the country is wild and unspoiled. However, it is becoming harder to preserve the environment as its population and cities grow. Pollution has caused large-scale (大规模的) environmental problems, such as acid rain.

Economy and Currency

In terms of economic strength, Canada is a member of the G8⁴ and the world's leading industrial nations, ranking along with the USA, France, the UK, Italy, Germany, Japan and Russia. Canada maintains a diversified (多样化的) economy that heavily relies on its abundant natural resources and trade—particularly with the USA. Natural resources industries, such as forestry, mining, oil and gas extraction (提炼), farming and fishing, are important sources of jobs and export earnings. Canada is also a world leader in the fields of telecommunications, biotechnology (生物技术), aerospace (航空和航天的) technology, etc. More and more jobs involve work in service industries or in information technology. The monetary unit is Canadian dollar (CAD), which is based on decimal system.

National Symbols and Holidays

Maple leaf, the most popular national symbol of Canada, is depicted (描述) on the national flag, the penny and the coat of arms. The Canadian national anthem is *O Canada* and the royal anthem is *God Save the Queen*. Beaver (河狸) is its representative animal. Canada's official national sports are ice hockey (冰球) (winter) and lacrosse (长曲棍球) (summer). Golf, baseball, skiing, soccer, volleyball and basketball are widely played at youth and amateur levels.

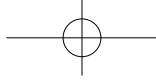
Pre-reading: Tell as much as you know about the following places.

Indian Ocean
Sydney

Pacific Ocean
Melbourne

Bass Strait
Queensland

Canberra



Text B

Australia

Location and Area

Perhaps the easiest country to be found on a world map is Australia, the only nation to govern an entire continent and its outlying (边远的) islands. Lying in the Southern Hemisphere, Australia is, in land area, the sixth largest country in the world, after Russia, Canada, China, the USA and Brazil, with an area of 7.7 million square km. The mainland is the largest island and the smallest, flattest continent on earth. Apart from Antarctica (南极洲), Australia is the driest continent, with large areas of semidesert almost uninhabited. There are rain forests and vast plains in the north, snowfields in the southeast, deserts in the centre and fertile (肥沃的) farmlands in the east, south and southwest. The highest point on the mainland, Mount Kosciuszko (科修斯科山), is 2,228 metres above sea level. The capital city is Canberra, and the largest city is Sydney.

Population and Immigration

Australia has a relatively small population of about 22.9 million (2013), most of which are of British and Irish descent (血统). It is one of the world's most urbanised (都市化的) countries, with most of the population living in cities. Most of the population is concentrated along the eastern seaboard (海滨) and the southeastern corner of the continent. The official language is English. Immigration is an important feature of Australian society. Since 1945, over 7.2 million people have immigrated to Australia as new settlers, and have made a major contribution to shaping modern Australia. People born overseas make up almost one quarter of the total population today. Australia's immigration policies are nondiscriminatory (不歧视的) and all applicants to migrate must meet the same selection criteria.

Climate

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on earth. Clear skies and low rainfall are characteristic of the weather on most of the continent. Its interior has one of the lowest rainfalls in the world and about three-quarters of the land is arid (干旱的) or semiarid. Its fertile areas are well-watered, however, and these are used very effectively to help feed the whole world. January and February are the hottest time of the year, with average temperatures ranging from 29°C in the north to 17°C in the south. June and July are the coldest months with average temperatures ranging from 25°C in the north and 8°C in the south. The average rainfall varies from less than 250 mm in the centre of the continent to more than 2,000 mm in parts of the tropics.



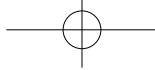
Economy and Industry

At the time of European settlement Australia had to import almost everything from its mother country—Britain. In the course of a little more than 200 years, Australia has developed into a country with the most advanced economy. Australia has an enviable, strong economy with a per capita (人均) GDP on a par with the four dominant Western European economies. With its abundant (丰富的) resources, its people enjoy a high standard of living by world standards. Robust (稳固的) business, consumer confidence and high export prices for raw materials and agricultural products are fueling the economy, particularly in the mining states. Australia's emphases on reforms, low inflation (通货膨胀), a housing market boom (繁荣), and growing ties with China have been key factors behind the economy's 16 solid years of expansion. Australia's budget (预算) has been in surplus (顺差, 盈余) since 2002 due to its strong revenue (税收) growth.

Manufacturing industry accounts for about 9% of the GDP and more than a quarter of Australia's total export, producing goods from fashion garments to food, from complex electronic devices to household appliances. Australia is one of the most developed agriculture countries in the world. Stockbreeding (畜牧业) and planting play an important role in the national economy.

National Symbols

The Commonwealth of Australia is a federation (联邦政府), with Britain's monarch as its monarch, represented by the Governor General and six state governors. The Australian national flag features the five stars of the constellation (星座) of the **Southern Cross**⁵, the Commonwealth Star and the Union Jack. The constellation of the Southern Cross is a prominent (突出的) feature of the Southern Hemisphere's night sky; the Union Jack represents Australia's historical link with Britain; the Commonwealth Star with its seven points represents the unity of the six Australian states and the seventh point stands for all Australian territories. *Advance Australia Fair* was declared Australian national anthem in 1984, replacing *God Save the Queen*, the royal anthem. Both anthems are played on royal occasions. Australia's national floral (植物的) emblem (象征) is the golden wattle (金合欢树). The representing animals are kangaroo, wallaby (沙袋鼠) and koala (考拉). January 26, the date of the first European settlement of the continent in 1788, is Australia's national day. The monetary (货币的) unit is Australian dollar.



Text C

New Zealand

Location and Area

New Zealand is an island country in the southwest Pacific Ocean, half way between the equator (赤道) and the South Pole. It lies about 1,600 km southeast of Australia. Belonging to the large island group called Polynesia (波利尼西亚), the country is composed of two main islands—the North Island and the South Island, and a number of much smaller islands, with a total area of around 270,000 square km. Most of the smaller islands are several hours by boat from the main ones. New Zealand is just west of the international date line, so it is one of the first countries to get the new day. Wellington (惠灵顿) is the capital, and Auckland (奥克兰) is the largest city in New Zealand.

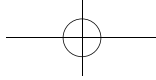
People and Languages

The population of New Zealand is about 4.4 million (2012); approximately 14.6% are Maoris (毛利人), a brown-skinned people who were among the first people to live in New Zealand. The forefather of these people came from Polynesian islands to New Zealand hundreds of years ago. They make up New Zealand's largest minority group. Both English and Maori are official languages of New Zealand. Most of the people speak English with a New Zealand accent, which resembles (类似, 像) a British accent with a slightly nasal (鼻音的) sound. Nowadays, Maori is commonly used in the media and at school.

Climate and Environment

Running from north to south, the country has a varied climate, with the far north subtropical (亚热带的) and some mountainous areas of the south almost subarctic. However, the climate of the whole country is temperate, with little extreme seasonal variations. Seasons here are opposite to those of the Northern Hemisphere, with January and February the warmest months and July the coldest. The annual average temperature ranges from 10°C in the south to 16°C in the north. Most areas of New Zealand have rainfalls between 300 and 800 mm, spreading throughout the year with a dry period during the summer. Sunshine hours are relatively high in areas that are sheltered from the west.

New Zealand is a beautiful country of snow-capped mountains, farmlands, forests, beaches, lakes and waterfalls. Being a narrow island country, no place in New Zealand is more than 110 km from the sea. The country is noted for its unique native flora (植物群) and fauna (动物群), due to its millions of years of isolation from the mainland. The variety, beauty and accessibility of these natural features are central to New Zealand's identity, and attract thousands of tourists every year.



National Symbols

The New Zealand flag has royal blue background which is reminiscent of (使人想起……的) the blue sea and clear sky surrounding the country. The stars of the Southern Cross emphasise this country's location in the South Pacific Ocean. The Union Flag gives recognition to its historical foundations and the fact that New Zealand was once a British colony and **Dominion**⁶. New Zealand has two national anthems: *God Save the Queen* and *God Defend New Zealand*. New Zealand is a sovereign (具有独立主权的) independent state, with a parliamentary and constitutional monarchy. The flightless native bird, kiwi, represents New Zealand, but it has no official status as a symbol, and New Zealanders refer to themselves as Kiwis. New Zealand does not have an official national flower, but the silver fern (银蕨), which appears on army insignia (徽章) and sporting team uniforms, is an unofficial national emblem.

Cultural Notes

- ① **Canadian Shield**: 加拿大地盾。又称为前寒武纪地值区，或者加拿大高地区。从五大湖一直到北冰洋沿岸，几乎覆盖半个加拿大。由于地盾上的地表大多是冲刷的沉积物或冰川侵蚀的余物，这个地区人口稀少，一般不适于发展农业，但蕴藏着丰富的矿产资源和森林资源，还有很多古老的哺乳动物，如驯鹿、黄鼠狼、水貂等。此外，全世界近四分之一的淡水都集中在这一地区。
- ② **House of Commons**: 下议院，众议院。始自英国的“平民院”，后为许多资本主义国家效仿。下议院通常按人口比例由选民分选区选举产生，定期改选，一般享有立法和监督政府、监督财政等权力。
- ③ **Governor General**: 总督。总督由英女王通过首相的推荐来任命，是英女王在英联邦国家的代表。总督要按照各位部长的建议行使其权利。
- ④ **G8**: 全称为 Group of Eight。八国集团，指八大工业国美国、日本、德国、法国、英国、意大利、加拿大及俄罗斯的联盟。八国集团并非一个严密的国际组织，以往被称为“富国俱乐部”。
- ⑤ **Southern Cross**: 南十字星座。南半球最明亮的星座，澳大利亚和新西兰的国旗上都有此星座。
- ⑥ **Dominion**: 自治领。指 1907 至 1948 年间所有实行自治或半自治的英国殖民地，尤其指那些已具有自身宪政体制的，包括加拿大、澳大利亚、南非、爱尔兰等。

Lesson Review

I. Vocabulary Building: Match each of the items on the left with its meaning on the right.

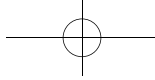
- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Niagara Falls | a. the largest minority group of New Zealand |
| 2. kangaroo | b. using two languages |
| 3. bilingual | c. the nickname for New Zealanders |
| 4. G8 | d. the widest waterfall in the world |
| 5. beaver | e. the eight most developed countries of the world |
| 6. Canberra | f. the capital of Australia |
| 7. Southern Cross | g. one symbolic animal of Canada |
| 8. Maoris | h. a typical animal of Australia |
| 9. Kiwis | i. the most prominent constellation in the southern globe |

II. Key Facts: Complete the following chart with the information from the texts.

Nations	Canada	Australia	New Zealand
Facts			
Capital	1) _____	Canberra	Wellington
Population	35 million (2013)	2) _____ (2013)	4.4 million (2012)
Area (sq. km)	nearly 3) _____	7.7 million sq. km	270,000 sq. km
National Anthem	<i>O Canada</i> <i>God Save the Queen</i>	4) _____	<i>God Save the Queen</i> ; <i>God Defend New Zealand</i>
Currency	Canadian dollar	5) _____	6) _____
National Symbols	7) _____; _____	golden wattle; kangaroo	kiwi; silver fern
Government System	constitutional monarchy	federal government	8) _____

III. Discussion and Report: Discuss the following questions in groups and make an oral report to the class.

- What are the climatic differences between Canada, Australia and New Zealand? What are the reasons for these differences?
- Why is Canada regularly rated as the country of best living standard by the “Quality Life” survey?



3. How do you understand the words by a Canadian journalist: “We have two races, two languages, two systems of religious belief, two sets of laws... two systems of everything”?
4. How do you understand “multiculturalism”? Do you like living in a multicultural society? Why (not)?

IV. Extensive Activities: Complete the following activities from resources available.

1. Prepare an oral introduction of Canada and New Zealand.
2. Find out the meaning of the national symbols of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
3. Write an introduction to Australia with the information from the table below.

Capital	Canberra, in the Australian capital territory
Total area	7.7 million sq. km
Land	mostly low plateau with deserts; fertile plain in southeast
Climate	generally arid or semiarid; temperate in the south and east; tropical in the north
Annual rainfall	2/3 of the continent is arid or semiarid, rainfall from 150 mm to 2,000 mm
Population	about 22.9 million (2013)—white 74%, Asian 5%, aboriginal (土著的, 原始的) 2.7%
Language	English
Religion	mainly Christianity

Case Study

Case 1

Living next to the United States is in some way like sleeping with an elephant.

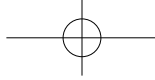
—Piere Trudeau (Canada’s former PM)

Joe Mulloy met an American girl, Suzie, who had moved to Toronto.

“Why did you leave the USA?” he asked.

“Because I have a boyfriend here, but chiefly because Detroit (底特律) where we used to live is such a terrible city. My mother and father are both living in danger.”

“You mean there’s no violence in Toronto?”



“Very little,” said Suzie. “You can walk anywhere, night or day, or ride the subway, and feel quite safe. There are really no poor neighbourhoods in Toronto. And the laws against guns are stricter.”

“But don’t you find Canada dull after America?”

“It was rather dull, people say, just after the war, but it isn’t now, not since all the European immigrants have settled here. I’ve made friends with some Italians. They’ve opened a restaurant, and it’s very good, too. There are thousands of Italians in Toronto now. That’s a lot, and they bring the place to life.”

“Still, don’t you find Toronto rather provincial (地方性的, 偏狭的)?” asked Joe.

“Provincial? You’re joking! It has a population of three million, you know. Canada is an exciting place to be these days, because it’s building up a centre of its own. Lots of Canadians are crazy about music and the theatre.”

“So you don’t find life very different, then?”

“Well, if you were taken up in a plane and dropped in a Toronto shopping mall, you wouldn’t know if you were in Canada or the USA. But life here is calmer,” said Suzie.

Case 2

The Language Down Under

“Emma Chizzit?”

The shop assistant looked bewildered (困惑的). “I’m afraid you’ve got the wrong person. I’m Susan Brown.”

“OK, Susan! Don’t yer tike the micky owe o’ me!¹ Emma Chizzit?”

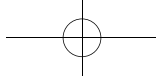
He put his hand on the model of Big Ben, and suddenly Susan understood. “Oh, how much is it!” Abe Connors snapped (厉声说). “That’s what I said! Emma Chizzit?”

“I’m sorry. I’m afraid...”

Abe was getting annoyed. “I come from Sydney, Australia. Where’re you from, Buckingham Palace?”

“Emma Chizzit” is a well-known joke about the Australian accent (口音). Unlike Americans, many Australians don’t like the English public school accent. Sometimes they make fun of it.

Australian and New Zealand speech have their origins in Cockney London. The vowel “a” in words like “day”, “late”, “basin” is pronounced like the “i” in “bite”, which makes “basin” sound exactly the same as “bison (北美野牛)”, the American word for a buffalo (水牛). Here’s a joke which is both Cockney and Australian:



“What’s the difference between a buffalo and a bison?”

“I don’t know. What is the difference?”

“Yer can’t wash yer hands in a buffalo!”

Australian and New Zealand accents depend on where the speakers grew up, and on their families, schools, etc. Many Australians, even more New Zealanders, speak an English which is very like British English. Some Australians deliberately exaggerate (夸张) their “strain”, which is how some Australians pronounce “Australian”. Here are a few Australian words which are in the *Oxford English Dictionary*:

Crook, meaning “ill”, a word much used in Australia and New Zealand; to whinge (嘀咕, 抱怨), an old English slang word meaning “to make a fuss”, which is beginning to be used again in Britain: “My Sheila always whinges when she’s crook, but she won’t go and see a doctor.”

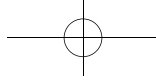
The Australians have not changed the old aboriginal words for animals and places, or for some of the customs which have become a part of Australian life: koala, kangaroo, wallaby, Wagga-Wagga (the aboriginal word for the cawing of a crow, used as the name of a town in New South Wales).

New Zealanders use Maori words in the same way; kiwi, the flightless bird, has become a symbol of New Zealand, just as the kangaroo and wallaby have become symbols of Australia. One in eleven New Zealanders are at least half Maori, so the Maori language has influenced the English used in New Zealand. One word that rugby fans know all over the world is the Haaka, a Maori war dance that New Zealand rugby (橄榄球) teams perform before every international match. The object of the Haaka is to frighten the opposing team.

The English language “down under” (澳大利亚或新西兰) is being influenced by American English in the same way as it is in Britain, and for the same reasons. Australians and New Zealanders watch even more American TV programmes than the British do. They belong to the New World and their linguistic ties with the mother country are being loosened all the time.

Notes

Don’t yer tike the micky owe o’ me! (Don’t take the mickey out of me!) 意为: Don’t make fun of me!



Tips

1. 优美的自然环境、安定的生活环境、充足的自然资源以及优厚的福利待遇使加拿大多年来被评为世界上最适合生活和居住的国家。优惠的移民政策每年吸引大量来自世界各国的移民，其中很多人来自欧美等发达国家和地区。
2. 澳大利亚和新西兰的官方语言均为英语，但是由于受历史和社会环境的影响，其语言在某些发音上不同于标准的英语。同时，大量的土著语也丰富了这两个国家的语言。

Questions for Discussion

1. What accounts for the large numbers of immigrants to Canada every year?
2. In what ways are Australian and New Zealand English different from British English? What are the reasons for the differences?

Supplementary Reading

Passage A

We Are Not the Same

If you ask a Canadian who he is, and he will most probably say “I’m not an American”.

Outward displays of emotion are not part of the Canadian style. We are basically a northern people. We do not live in the street as southern races do. We are an interior people in more ways than one. The Americans are far more outgoing than we are. One reason for this, I think, is the very real presence of the nature in our lives. Although it is true that we are city folks, most of us live within a few hours’ drive of the wilderness. We escape to the woods whenever we can. No Canadian city is far removed from those mysterious and silent places which can have such an effect on the human soul.

There is another aspect of my country that makes it unique in the Americans, and that is our bilingual and bicultural make-up. Canada has two official languages, English and French, and in its largest province a majority of the inhabitants speak the latter almost exclusively. Visitors are intrigued by the “foreignness” of Quebec city, with its twisting streets and its French-style cooking.

This is not to suggest that Canadians are anti-American. If anything, the opposite is true. We watch American television programmes. We read American magazines and American best-selling novels. We tend to prefer American-made cars over the European and Asian products. We welcome hundreds of thousands of American tourists to our country every year and don’t complain much when they tell us that we’re exactly the same as they are.



Of course, we're not the same. But visitors may be pardoned for thinking so when they first cross the border. The buildings in our cities are designed in the international styles. The brand names in the supermarkets are all familiar. The chicken palaces, hot dog stands, gas stations, and motels that line our superhighways are American franchised (给予特许权的) operations. It is only after several days that the newcomer begins to sense a difference. He cannot put his finger on that difference, but then, neither can many of my countrymen. The only thing we are really sure of is that we are not Americans.

Passage B

The Riches of New Lands

Gareth William stopped off at Perth, capital of Western Australia, to visit his uncle, Phil Edward, who was a doctor with the Royal Doctors' Flying Service. The Flying Service has saved many lives in the outback.

The small corner of Western Australia where most people live is a huge oasis, with the Indian Ocean on two sides and the endless desert on the other two. Perth's nearest neighbour, Adelaide, is over 2,600 km away, and between them lies the vast Nullarbor Plain, which is dead flat and without a tree for 800 km. Yet along the coast on either side of Perth, Gareth was amazed by the variety of crops and plantations.

His uncle drove him through forests of huge eucalyptus (桉树) trees, whose wood is so hard that it can be used for underwater posts. Further up the coast, they stopped in a vast plantation of fruit trees. There were various kinds of trees, from bananas and mangoes (芒果) to oranges and lemons, and there were vegetables gardens, too, in which a small black-haired man was hard at work.

Phil called him: "Alberto! Come and explain to my Welsh nephew what has made the desert flower."

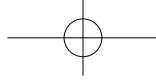
"Well, we found water and brought it to the crops—irrigated (灌溉) them, in fact. There's a river which floods and then dries up. Now we catch the flood water and store it, and we've found water under the sand, too."

They drove on through wheatfields.

"We export a lot of wheat, you know, Gareth," said Phil. "We used to export it to Britain, but now to China. We've turned our faces to the east. Odd, isn't it, when you come to think of it? But Australia is an exciting country to live in."

"I suppose you still export a lot of wool?" asked Gareth.

"My goodness, yes! Do you know how many sheep we've got, scattered all over the continent? 135,000,000! That's about 14% of all the sheep in the world, and they give us



the softest wool anyone could want. There's such a demand for our wool that we export 90% of it, and that's a world record! Australians raise cattle too, and we sell most of our beef and veal (小牛肉) to the USA."

One day Phil got a call from an iron ore (铁矿) mine. A miner had had a bad heart attack. Gareth went with him. They were soon flying low over the desert. Below them a black metalled road cut straight through the red earth with hardly a bend. Dirt roads branched off it, leading to broken-down huts (小屋, 茅舍) and ruined mine shafts (矿井).

"I was called out here once," Phil said, pointing. "Had to go into that shaft down there. Old man had gone crazy and killed himself because he couldn't find any gold."

Soon a range of mountains appeared, rust-red humps (小圆丘, 岗), none of them much more than 1,200 metres high.

"The Hammersley Range," Phil said. "Once we thought all the plateau was barren and useless. Now we know there's enough iron ore in those mountains to keep the world supplied for a hundred years."

"What do they do with the ore?" asked Gareth. "Load it as it is?"

"No, first it's broken up on the spot, then it's carried 500 km by rail down to Port Hedland or Dampier. From there it's shipped straight to Japan. Japan's the big market for all our ores, especially bauxite (铝土矿, 铝矾土) (the principal ore of aluminium)—we're the world's biggest producer of bauxite, and we export nickel (镍) and zinc, and Heaven knows what other minerals. And we've more coal than we need. So we export what's left—to Japan."

Gareth grinned (咧嘴笑), "They call you the lucky country. Now I can see why!"

"They're right! Off Barrow Island there are scores of oil rigs. In 1960 we didn't know we had any oil. Now we produce almost as much as we need—and we've got natural gas, too."

They picked up the sick man and flew him back to Perth, where he was rushed to one of the city's public health hospitals.