

探索大世界

第二期

2018
2019
Dec.~Feb.

Explore

Walt Disney

The Story of
an American
Genius

進入迪士尼的夢幻國度

Polar Light

The Science
behind the
Mysterious
Glow in the Sky

揭開極光之舞的神祕面紗

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來里約熱內盧跳森巴舞吧！

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探索大世界 Explore

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時序來到北半球的冬天，這一季的 Explore 將延續上一期的任務，帶大家環遊世界，認識世界名人，穿梭北半球冬日的銀白世界，也徜徉在南半球夏日的熱情之中。

首先，我們循著美國夢，找到一手建立夢幻國度的華特·迪士尼，看看他在什麼樣的時空背景下，製作出歷久不衰的影片，進而打造出實現夢想的迪士尼樂園。接著將帶領大家前往冰雪覆蓋的極地地區，欣賞充滿魔幻氣息的跳舞極光，並認識極光產生的原因，以及不同文化對極光的想像。最後，讓我們拋開寒氣，飛往時值夏季的南半球，到巴西參加里約熱內盧熱力四射的森巴嘉年華，享受動感的音樂、華麗的舞蹈和表演，一起慶祝生命的美好吧！

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WALT DISNEY

The Story of an American Genius



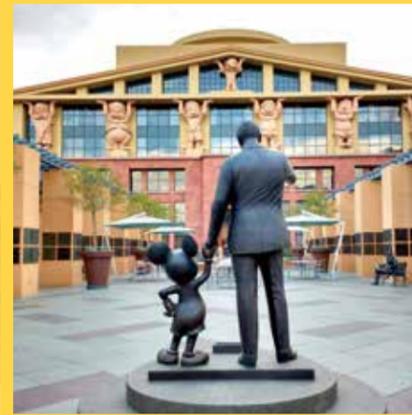
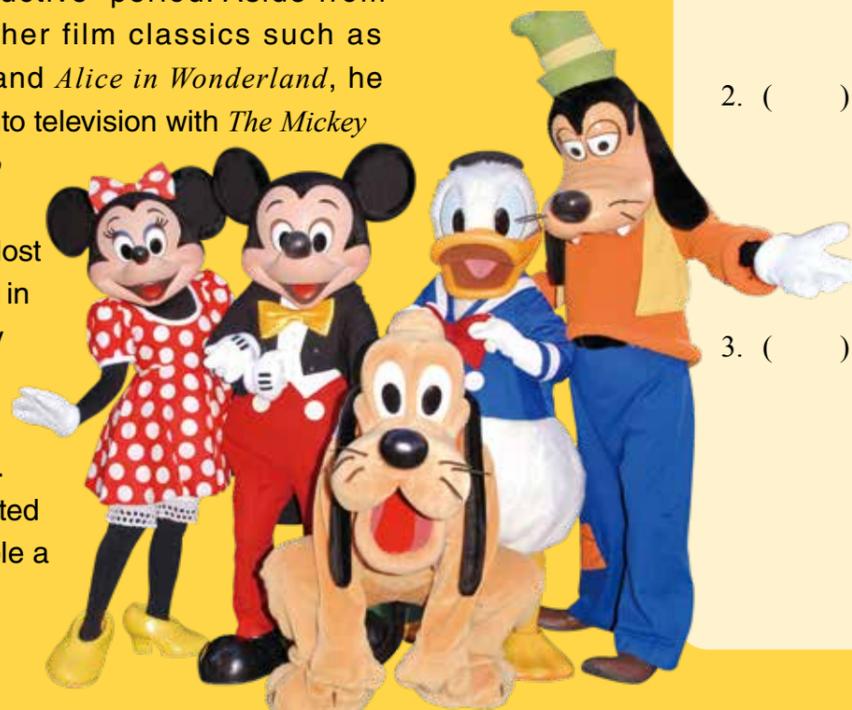
His animated creations have brought joy to millions around the world, and the company he helped found is the world leader in family entertainment. He is none other than the man behind Mickey Mouse, Walt Disney.

Born in Chicago in 1901, Disney loved drawing from an early age. He drew for his high school newspaper, and attended art school in the evenings. At the age of 19, he sold his first animated cartoons, and three years later, he moved to Hollywood. With a limited budget, Disney and his brother set up a tiny production facility behind an office.

In 1928, Disney introduced Mickey Mouse to the big screen. The white-gloved mouse appeared in an 8-minute black-and-white film called *Steamboat Willie*. Soon after, using a new film-coloring process, Disney released the animated classic *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, followed by *Pinocchio*, *Dumbo*, and *Bambi*.

By 1940, Disney had become highly successful, and his production studio employed over a thousand people. However, World War II had begun, so Disney spent the following years helping his country by doing special government work, such as making training films for soldiers. Always on the cutting edge, Disney also began combining live action with cartoons. This process led to the making of highly successful films such as *Mary Poppins*.

The 1950s was perhaps Disney's most productive period. Aside from making other film classics such as *Cinderella* and *Alice in Wonderland*, he expanded into television with *The Mickey Mouse Club* and other programs. Most significantly, in 1955 Disney launched Disneyland in California. He had wanted to give people a



place where they could experience his cartoons first-hand, and with Disneyland his dream came true.

During his final years, Disney became deeply interested in helping to develop the creativity of future generations. Therefore, he helped establish the California Institute of the Arts, a school that taught all the performing and creative arts in one place. "If I can help provide a place to develop

the talent of the future, I think I will have accomplished something," Disney said.

By the time of his death in 1966, Disney had won multiple honors and awards. His name became associated with optimism, hard work, and imagination — virtues that not only touched the hearts and minds of people everywhere, but also defined the ideals of being American. Because of his enormous contributions to the twentieth century, Walt Disney is truly a genius.

Reading Comprehension

- () What is the passage mainly about?
(A) The rise and fall of the Walt Disney Company.
(B) The secret to making successful animated films.
(C) Disney's production studios around the world.
(D) How Walt Disney fulfilled his dream.
- () What happened before the 1940s?
(A) The first Disneyland was launched in California.
(B) Disney was very successful and started making TV programs.
(C) Disney used a new film-coloring process in films such as *Pinocchio* and *Bambi*.
(D) The California Institute of the Arts was established to develop the talent of the future.
- () Which of the following statements is true?
(A) Disney did not win any recognition or praise until his death in 1966.
(B) During World War II, Disney was prohibited to create entertainment animations and training films for soldiers.
(C) Disney hoped to leave a legacy by helping those who showed talent for performing and creative arts.
(D) *Mary Poppins* marks an important milestone in Disney's career because Disney has used a new coloring technique in the film.

Vocabulary

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. animated <i>adj.</i> 動畫的 | 10. significantly <i>adv.</i> 重要地 |
| 2. limited <i>adj.</i> 有限的 | 11. launch <i>v.</i> 發起；啟動；開辦 |
| 3. budget <i>n.</i> 預算 | 12. establish <i>v.</i> 建立 |
| 4. facility <i>n.</i> (有特定用途的) 場所 | 13. accomplish <i>v.</i> 完成；實現 |
| 5. release <i>v.</i> 發行；上映 | 14. multiple <i>adj.</i> 多重的 |
| 6. employ <i>v.</i> 僱用 | 15. associate <i>v.</i> 將……聯想在一起 |
| 7. combine <i>v.</i> 結合 | 16. optimism <i>n.</i> 樂觀 |
| 8. productive <i>adj.</i> 多產的 | 17. virtue <i>n.</i> 美德 |
| 9. expand <i>v.</i>
(重要性、尺寸) 擴大；擴張 | 18. enormous <i>adj.</i> 巨大的 |
| | 19. contribution <i>n.</i> 貢獻 |

Idioms and Phrases

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. none other than 正是 | 4. lead to 導致 |
| 2. set up 創立 | 5. aside from 除了……之外 |
| 3. the cutting edge 先進的；尖端的 | |

Sentence Patterns

1. The **white-gloved** mouse appeared in an 8-minute black-and-white film called *Steamboat Willie*.

解析

- (1) white-gloved 為**複合形容詞** (compound adjective)，簡言之就是由兩個部分組合在一起後變成一個複合形容詞。
- (2) 複合形容詞有一些形成規則，white-gloved 是其中一種，其規則為：Adj + N-ed，其他依此規則形成的形容詞還有 long-sleeved (長袖的)、middle-aged (中年的)、good-natured (善良的)、open-minded (心胸寬大的)、bare-handed (赤手空拳的)……等。

2. **By 1940, Disney had become highly successful**, and his production studio employed over a thousand people.
By the time of his death in 1966, Disney had won multiple honors and awards.

解析

- 「by + 時間」指的是「在某時間之前」，它用來表示「在某個時間之前，某一動作就已經完成，或是將已經完成。」其句構如下：
- By + 過去某一時間, S + had p.p.** (如文中的兩個例句即是如此)
- By + 未來某一時間, S + will + have p.p.**
e.g. By 2050, robots will have taken over most jobs.

Activities

1 Strengths Quest

Walt Disney is admired for his optimism, hard work, and imagination. Though not as successful and well-known as Disney, everybody has his or her own unique virtues. Of your classmates, who pops into your head when a certain virtue is mentioned? Work in pairs to pick a candidate for each virtue in the table. Then, talk about the reason with your partner and write it down.

Virtue	Name of Classmate	Reason
Patience	Jason	When he helps me with my homework, he is patient with my endless questions.
Confidence		
Friendliness		
Encouragement		
Self-discipline		
(What else?)		

2 Guess the Disney Characters

There are some Disney characters well known to children and adults alike. Below are hints describing three Disney characters. Guess who they are and draw what they look like in the box.

- (1) She is the main character from a 1951 animated film, in which she spots a white rabbit and follows him into a large rabbit hole.

Your guess: _____

(1)

- (2) He steals from the rich and gives it to the poor. Though his deeds are against the law, he is beloved for his generosity and considered a hero by the townspeople.

Your guess: _____

(2)

- (3) She saves a drowning man from a shipwreck. Falling in love with him, she begs the sea witch to turn her into a human at the expense of losing her voice.

Your guess: _____

(3)



Imagine standing on a frozen lake above the Arctic Circle. Before you a vast expanse of snow-covered ice stretches into the darkness, and above you countless shining stars fill the sky. Suddenly you see a bright green curtain of light glowing on the horizon. This is followed by violet and yellow light beams, which seem to skip and flash to the rhythms of a silent symphony. What you're witnessing are the northern lights, also known as the aurora borealis.

For centuries, people didn't know where these lights came from. Then, science revealed the answer. The lights are produced by the collision of Earth's gases with electrically charged particles

from the sun. While Earth's magnetic field normally keeps these particles out of our planet's atmosphere, it's weaker at the north and south poles, thus allowing some particles to enter the atmosphere and collide with the gases. This is also the reason the light shows are almost always seen near the poles.

The color of the lights depends on which gas the solar particles collide with. Green, the most common aurora color, is produced by oxygen located around a hundred kilometers above Earth. Blue or purple auroras are produced by nitrogen. Auroras can also appear in various forms, from glowing curtains to shooting rays.

While the light displays that are visible in the northern hemisphere are called aurora borealis, the ones in the south are called aurora australis. The best places to watch the northern lights are in northwestern Canada, the southern parts of Greenland and Iceland, and the northern coast of Norway. On the other hand, southern auroras are hard to see, since they usually occur around Antarctica

and the southern Indian Ocean, which are more difficult to reach. The best time of year to catch the northern lights is winter, when the skies are usually clearer and periods of darkness are longer. Those who have seen these light displays can count themselves lucky, for they've witnessed one of the most beautiful wonders that nature has given us.

Did You Know...

Long ago, the aurora borealis was veiled in myths and legend, as people tried to find a reason for this natural phenomenon. The Cree Indians of North America thought the lights were the spirits of the dead. These spirits remained in the sky because they wanted to communicate with the loved ones they had left behind. In Sweden, the aurora represented good news. They were a gift from the kind gods, who wanted to provide humans with warmth and light.

Polar Lights — The Science behind the Mysterious Glow in the Sky

Reading Comprehension

- () Which of the following is **NOT** mentioned in the passage?
(A) Why people used to associate polar lights with bad luck.
(B) The best locations to watch polar lights.
(C) The colors of polar lights.
(D) How polar lights are produced.
- () Which of the following is the best time and location to witness polar lights?
(A) Along the northern coast of Norway in June.
(B) In the Southern Indian Ocean in springtime.
(C) Near the Arctic Circle in early January.
(D) At the break of dawn around Antarctica.
- () In what course may this passage be an assigned reading?
(A) Financial Management in Business.
(B) Introduction to Popular Science.
(C) Life Education: Principles and Practices.
(D) Art in 19th Century Europe.

Vocabulary

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. glow <i>n.</i> 發光；光亮 | 8. particle <i>n.</i> 微粒；粒子 | 16. display <i>n.</i> 展示；表演 |
| 2. expanse <i>n.</i>
一片廣闊的區域 | 9. magnetic <i>adj.</i> 有磁性的 | 17. wonder <i>n.</i> 奇觀 |
| 3. stretch <i>v.</i> 延伸；伸直 | 10. atmosphere <i>n.</i> 大氣層 | 18. veil <i>v.</i> 罩著面紗；隱藏 |
| 4. horizon <i>n.</i> 地平線 | 11. collide <i>v.</i> 碰撞 | 19. myth <i>n.</i> 神話 |
| 5. beam <i>n.</i> 光線；光束 | 12. allow <i>v.</i> 允許 | 20. phenomenon <i>n.</i> 現象 |
| 6. reveal <i>v.</i> 顯示；揭露 | 13. various <i>adj.</i> 各種各樣的 | 21. represent <i>v.</i> 代表 |
| 7. collision <i>n.</i> 碰撞 | 14. visible <i>adj.</i> 可以看見的 | |
| | 15. hemisphere <i>n.</i> 半球 | |

Idioms and Phrases

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. depend on 依賴；取決於 | 2. leave behind 留下；遺留 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|

Sentence Patterns

1. **While** Earth's magnetic field normally keeps these particles out of our planet's atmosphere, it's weaker at the north and south poles, thus allowing some particles to enter the atmosphere and collide with the gases.

解析

- (1) while 為連接詞，放在句首時意思是「儘管」，放句中時則是「然而」，用來說明前、後兩個子句的語意是「相對的」。
- (2) while 當「然而」解釋時，用法跟「whereas」一樣：
e.g. I prefer to go abroad for our holiday, **while** my husband always wants to travel within our country.
= I prefer to go abroad for our holiday, **whereas** my husband always wants to travel within our country.

2. The color of the lights depends on **which gas the solar particles collide with**.

解析

- (1) which gas the solar particles collide with 為名詞子句，在本句中當作 depend on 的受詞。
- (2) 名詞子句的結構有三種：
(A) that + S + V
(B) wh- 疑問詞 + S + V
(C) whether/if + S + V
本句中的 which gas the solar particles collide with 是屬於 (B) 這一類。

Activities

1 Word Search

Find the 10 words listed in the column on the right. The words may be left to right, top to bottom, or diagonal.

ATMOSPHERE
COLLISION
DISPLAY
GLOW
PHENOMENON
REPRESENT
REVEAL
VARIOUS
VEIL
VISIBLE

S	X	T	G	V	L	D	Q	F	R	E	F	O	N	R
L	A	C	P	I	O	X	E	Z	H	E	K	I	A	M
Y	W	N	H	S	O	Q	F	X	O	S	V	D	X	E
O	J	Q	E	I	M	G	D	D	U	V	H	E	Z	H
X	A	L	N	B	R	V	O	Z	B	V	F	I	A	D
J	D	O	O	L	D	E	I	M	A	A	Z	U	T	L
X	G	I	M	E	D	I	W	D	P	R	A	V	M	H
J	L	K	E	C	O	L	L	I	S	I	O	N	O	S
W	O	O	N	I	L	N	W	S	T	O	L	J	S	Y
N	W	A	O	Y	E	A	Z	P	N	U	B	N	P	Z
O	R	R	N	A	F	E	X	L	T	S	Q	X	H	G
J	L	C	W	Z	D	Y	E	A	Q	Q	C	W	E	E
X	R	H	T	Q	A	F	Z	Y	E	X	J	Q	R	O
J	E	P	C	R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	E	R
I	T	O	B	A	O	N	L	F	S	S	L	T	D	W

2 Word Jumble

Step 1: Unscramble each of the jumbled words.

e.g. ambe

□ ○ □ ○ → b e a m

(1) llowa

□ □ □ ○ w

(2) mniecgat

○ □ □ □ ○ ○ □ □

(3) oozhirn

○ □ ○ □ □ □ ○

(4) laidyps

○ □ ○ □ □ □ ○

Step 2: Take the letters that appear in □ boxes and unscramble them for two vocabulary words.

Step 3: Use the two words to complete the following sentences:

The aurora borealis is a beautiful natural **w** □ □ □ □ □ .

Long ago, there were a bunch of □ □ □ □ □ related to the phenomenon.

Carnival festivals are held in many cities across the world, but the biggest and most famous one happens in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro. For this Catholic celebration, which takes place over the five days leading up to Ash Wednesday, Rio de Janeiro goes all out to organize hundreds of spectacular street parties dispersed throughout the city. And each year, hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world head over there to join the fun.

Aside from holding street parties, another way Rio celebrates Carnival is by hosting balls. Many of these balls are held at sophisticated nightclubs and hotels. The Copacabana Palace Hotel hosts the Magic Ball, a glamorous party attended by celebrities and VIPs. The Scala Rio Nightclub also holds balls where people can enjoy fabulous music, dancing, and performances.

While the balls and street parties are undoubtedly fun, they're not the only

highlights. What gives Rio's Carnival its magic has got to be the annual parade of the samba schools at the Sambadrome arena. Just picture thousands of elaborately costumed dancers, some wearing colorful feathers, others wearing close to nothing, moving to the beat of samba music, accompanied by giant floats that glide down the runway. This exciting event is the result of a year's hard work by the samba schools. It is also an opportunity for them to compete against one another for the title of Rio Carnival Samba Parade Champions.

At its heart, Rio's Carnival is a time



when society's rules are temporarily broken. Rich and poor, young and old come together to celebrate life and to remember that all people are created equal in the end. And there is no better place to take part in such a refreshing celebration than at the Carnival in Rio—the biggest party on earth.

The Magic of Carnival in

RIO DE JANEIRO



Did you know...

Originally, the Catholic celebration of Carnival was meant to be a food festival, since it marked the last time people were able to eat to their heart's content before the period of fasting, known as Lent, began. As Lent is observed over the forty days leading up to Easter, and Easter's date is different each year, so the date for celebrating Carnival changes annually.

Rio's Carnival originated in the 18th century, and its characteristics are rooted in a mix of Portuguese and African cultures. The Portuguese brought the religious celebration from Europe, while the Africans contributed their music and dance. In the Carnival of 1933, the first samba school competition was held. That same year, a tradition began wherein the mayor of Rio de Janeiro would hand over the keys of the city to King Momo, the King of Carnival. This marked the official beginning of the Carnival festival.



Reading Comprehension

- () Which of the following statements about Rio's Carnival is true?
 - Every year, students from the samba schools go all out to win the title of Rio Carnival Samba Parade Champions.
 - Since Carnival is a religious celebration, people are supposed to strictly obey all the social rules during the festivities.
 - Rio's Carnival is a long-standing festival, celebrated by people for approximately 800 years.
 - The parade of the samba schools is held on the street, so that more people can watch the fantastic show.
- () Who receives the keys of the city, marking the beginning of Rio's Carnival?
 - The host of the samba school competition.
 - The mayor of Rio de Janeiro.
 - The leader of the Catholic Church.
 - King Momo.
- () Which of the following chronological sequences is correct?
 - Easter—Carnival—Ash Wednesday—Lent
 - Easter—Carnival—Lent—Ash Wednesday
 - Carnival—Ash Wednesday—Lent—Easter
 - Ash Wednesday—Lent—Easter—Carnival

Vocabulary

1. organize *v.* 籌劃
2. disperse *v.* 使散開；驅散
3. sophisticated *adj.* 有品味的；高雅的
4. attend *v.* 參加
5. arena *n.* (表演或比賽用的) 場地
6. elaborately *adv.* 精心地
7. accompany *v.* 陪伴；伴隨
8. float *n.* 遊行花車
9. glide *v.* 滑行
10. temporarily *adv.* 暫時地
11. refreshing *adj.* 令人耳目一新的
12. observe *v.* 慶祝(節日)；遵守(規則)
13. originate *v.* 源自於
14. rooted *adj.* 從……發展而來
15. contribute *v.* 貢獻

Idioms and Phrases

1. go all out 竭盡全力
2. take part (in) 參與
3. to one's heart's content 盡情地
4. hand over 遞交；把……交給

Sentence Patterns

1. Just picture thousands of elaborately costumed dancers, **some** wearing colorful feathers, **others** wearing close to nothing, moving to the beat of samba music, accompanied by giant floats that glide down the runway.

some..., some/others... 此一句構用來說明「有些人……而有些人……」。

e.g. Some people read for fun, and some/others read to kill time.

解析 (有些人閱讀是取樂，有些人閱讀是殺時間。)

※ 注意：這個句子暗示了「還有其他人是為了不同的目的而閱讀」，並非只有句中所描述的兩種目的。

2. At its heart, Rio's Carnival is a time **when** society's rules are temporarily broken.

(1) **when** 在此例句中為「關係副詞」，相當於「介系詞+關係代名詞」。此句中的 **when** 可以代換成 **during which**，成為 **At its heart, Rio's Carnival is a time during which (= when) society's rules are temporarily broken.**

解析 (2) 除了表示「時間」的地方副詞 **when** 之外，還有表示「地點」的 **where**，以及表示「原因」的 **why**，例如：

e.g. He is going to visit the places **where (= at which)** the movie scenes were shot.
where 表示地點

e.g. We want to know the reason **why (= for which)** she quit her job suddenly.
why 表示原因

Activities

1 Be a copywriter for a travel agency

Here is a travel agency's advertisement, in which a Rio Carnival city tour is promoted. Pretend you are the copywriter for this agency. Complete the missing highlights.

Rio Carnival City Tour

Location: Rio de Janeiro

Duration: 6 days

Recommended Age: 18-65

Rate: \$995 per person

Highlights:

1. We will take you to the heart of Rio to experience Carnival's buzzing atmosphere.
2. Watch / Experience _____
3. Join our unique trip, which includes hotel accommodation and sightseeing with fun local guides.
4. Enjoy one of the greatest parties in the world, which you have to witness once in your life.

2 What do you think about Rio's Carnival?

Rio's Carnival is the biggest one in the world. During Carnival festivities, merriness comes to the city, and the streets are filled with throngs of dancing and drinking revelers. However, not everyone embraces the celebrations, since robberies, conflicts, and violence that sometimes accompany these celebrations may worsen the city's security situation. What do you think about this passionate event? Are you for or against the celebration? Work in pairs and express your opinions.

Suggested sentence patterns :

Every year hundreds of thousands of people from around the world swarm Rio for the carnival. Though some people think that the festival _____, I would argue that _____. It seems to me that the festival is _____, for it _____.



Answers

p.2 Reading Comprehension: D; C; C

- p.4 **2** (1) Alice from *Alice in Wonderland*
 (2) Robin Hood from *Robin Hood*
 (3) Princess Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*

p.6 Reading comprehension: A; C; B

p.8 **1**

S	X	T	G	V	L	D	Q	F	R	E	F	O	N	R
L	A	C	P	I	O	X	E	Z	H	E	K	I	A	M
Y	W	N	H	S	O	Q	F	X	O	S	V	D	X	E
O	J	Q	E	I	M	G	D	U	V	H	E	Z	H	
X	A	L	N	B	R	V	O	Z	B	V	F	I	A	D
J	D	O	O	L	D	E	I	M	A	A	Z	U	T	L
X	G	I	M	E	D	I	W	D	P	R	A	V	M	H
J	L	K	E	C	O	L	L	I	S	I	O	N	O	S
W	O	O	N	I	L	N	W	S	T	O	L	J	S	Y
N	W	A	O	Y	E	A	Z	P	N	U	B	N	P	Z
O	R	R	N	A	F	E	X	L	T	S	Q	X	H	G
J	L	C	W	Z	D	Y	E	A	Q	Q	C	W	E	E
X	R	H	T	Q	A	F	Z	Y	E	X	J	Q	R	O
J	E	P	C	R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	E	R
I	T	O	B	A	O	N	L	F	S	S	L	T	D	W

- 2** Step 1: (1) allow; (2) magnetic;
 (3) horizon; (4) display

Step 3: wonder; myths

p.10 Reading comprehension: A; D; C

- p.12 **1** 參考答案 (1) Watch the biggest and most colorful show in the world—the Sambadrome Parade.
 參考答案 (2) Experience the high energy of the Sambadrome Parade.

- 2** 參考答案 (1) Every year hundreds of thousands of people from around the world swarm Rio for the carnival. Though some people think that the festival will bring in huge revenues for the city, I would argue that the downsides of the event outweigh its benefits. It seems to me that the festival is a disaster to the city, for it may beget occasional crimes such as violence and drug problems. Besides, many locals have hard times accessing their homes due to the influx of tourists.
 參考答案 (2) Every year hundreds of thousands of people from around the world swarm Rio for the carnival. Though some people think that the festival is held accountable for escalating violence and increasing numbers of robberies, I would argue that the event has boosted tourism and brought in huge revenues for the city. In my view, the festival is a symbol of merriness, for it turns the whole city into a big party where everyone can have their fun.

Translation

12月 創造米老鼠的美國天才

他的動畫帶給全世界數百萬人歡樂，他協助創建的公司是家庭娛樂的標竿，他就是米老鼠的幕後推手—華特·迪士尼。

迪士尼於 1901 年在芝加哥出生，他年輕時就喜愛畫畫。高中時，他幫校刊畫畫，晚上去藝術學校上課。他 19 歲時賣出人生第一支動畫卡通，三年後，他搬到好萊塢。憑著有限的預算，迪士尼和他的哥哥在一間辦公室後頭，創立了小小的製片工作室。

1928 年，迪士尼將米老鼠推上大銀幕，這隻戴著白手套的老鼠出現在《威利汽船》這支 8 分鐘的黑白電影中。緊接著，迪士尼運用特藝彩色這種新的彩色電影技術，發行了經典動畫《白雪公主》，以及《木偶奇遇記》、《小飛象》、《小鹿斑比》等電影。

到 1940 年時，迪士尼已經非常成功，他的動畫工作室僱用了超過一千位員工。不過，因為第二次世界大戰爆發，所以迪士尼在接下來的幾年承接了特殊的政府任務，譬如拍攝訓練影片給軍人觀看，用實際的行動幫助他的國家。迪士尼總是走在潮流前端，他也開始將真人電影結合卡通，這個過程催生了非常成功的電影，像是《歡樂滿人間》。

1950 年代也許是迪士尼最多產的時期。除了推出《灰姑娘》與《愛麗絲夢遊仙境》等經典電影之外，他還將觸角延伸至電視，製作了《米老鼠俱樂部》與其他電視節目。最重要地，迪士尼在 1955 年於加州蓋了迪士尼樂園，他希望提供這個地方，讓人們可以直接體驗他的卡通劇情，而迪士尼樂園也讓他的夢想成真。

在晚年，迪士尼對提攜後輩們的創作很有興趣，因此，他協助創辦了加州藝術學院，這是一所同時教授表演藝術與創作藝術的學校。迪士尼說：「如果我能提供一個地方培養未來的人才，我想這就是達成了人生的成就。」

在 1966 年迪士尼過世之前，他已經贏得了許多榮譽與獎項。他的名字常和樂觀、勤奮和想像力聯想在一起，這些美德不只感動各個角落的人，也定義了何謂美國夢。由於迪士尼對 20 世紀的卓越貢獻，他的確是個天才。

1月 神秘極光的科學真面目

想像你站在北極圈內結凍的湖面上。在你面前是一片廣袤、白雪覆蓋的冰層向前延伸至一片漆黑為止，在你的上方，無數閃亮的星星布滿夜空。突

然間，你看見地平線上簾狀的亮綠色光線在閃耀，接著又出現紫羅蘭色及黃色的光束，它們似乎在無聲的交響樂團伴奏下，隨著節奏跳動閃爍。你眼前所目睹的是北方的光，又稱作北極光。

好幾世紀以來，人們一直不知道這些光來自何處，然後，科學揭曉答案。這些光是地球的大氣和來自太陽的帶電粒子碰撞後所產生的。地球的磁場通常會將這些粒子阻絕在地球的大氣層外，但是南北極的磁場較弱，因此就讓部分粒子進入了大氣層中，並且與大氣碰撞。這也是為什麼看到的極光幾乎都是出現在兩極附近。

極光的顏色取決於太陽粒子和哪一種氣體碰撞。綠色，這種最常見的極光顏色，是地球上空大約 100 公里處的氧氣發揮作用而產生的，藍色或紫色極光則是氮氣造成的。此外，極光也以各種形態出現，從發光的簾幕到放射的光線都有可能出現。

在北半球看到的極光稱為北極光 (aurora borealis)，在南半球則稱作南極光 (aurora australis)。觀賞北極光的最佳地點是加拿大的西北部、格陵蘭和冰島的南部、以及挪威的北海岸。另一方面，要看到南極光就沒那麼容易，因為它們通常出現在南極附近或南印度洋，這兩個地點又更難抵達。一年中觀賞北極光的最佳時間點是冬季，因為冬季的天空通常較晴朗，而且晝短夜長。那些曾經見過極光的人堪稱幸運，因為他們目睹了自然界最美麗的奇景之一。

你知道嗎……

很久以前，極光被神話和傳說蒙上一層面紗，因為人們嘗試找出原因來解釋極光這個自然現象。北美洲的印第安人克里族 (Cree Indians) 相信極光是亡靈，這些亡靈之所以待在空中，是因為他們想與身後留下的摯愛們溝通。在瑞典，極光代表好消息，他們是仁慈的神所賞賜的禮物，希望藉此提供人類溫暖與光明。

2月 舞力全開—熱力四射的巴西嘉年華

世界上許多城市都有嘉年華會，但是最盛大、最著名的在巴西里約熱內盧。為了這個在大齋首日 (又名聖灰星期三) 前夕一連舉辦五天的天主教節慶，里約熱內盧卯足全力在市區各處舉辦了數百場街頭狂歡派對，而每年有數十萬來自世界各地的人們到此共襄盛舉。

除了舉辦街頭派對之外，另一個里約慶祝嘉年華的方式是舉辦嘉年華舞會，其中有許多是辦在高級夜總會和飯店。科帕卡巴納宮飯店所舉辦的神奇

舞會 (Magic Ball) 是名人與大咖雲集、魅力無限的派對。思卡拉里約夜總會也有嘉年華舞會，人們可以在此盡情享受美妙的音樂、舞蹈與表演。

舞會和街頭派對雖然很好玩，但是它們並不是唯一的重頭戲。里約嘉年華迷人之處非森巴舞學校的遊行莫屬，這個一年一度的遊行是在大遊行會場 (Sambadrome arena) 舉辦。不妨想像數以千計精心打扮的舞者，有的穿戴彩色羽毛，有的幾近全裸，並隨著森巴舞音樂的節奏擺動身軀，身旁還有大型花車緩緩駛過伸展台。這個令人興奮的活動是森巴舞學校辛苦了一整年的成果，也是他們互相競逐「里約嘉年華森巴舞遊行冠軍」這個頭銜的機會。

里約嘉年華的核心精神是在這個時間，社會規範被暫時拋在一邊。無論貧富老幼，大家一同慶祝生命，並且記得到頭來人人平等。想要參加嘉年華這個風格獨具的慶典，沒有其他地方比里約嘉年華這個地表上最大的舞會更適合的了。

你知道嗎……

最早天主教將嘉年華當作食物慶典來慶祝，因為它是在開始禁食一亦即大家所熟知的「四旬期」一之前，人們可以盡情吃喝的最後一段時間。由於人們會持續遵守四旬期的齋戒超過 40 天，直到復活節，而復活節的日期又年年不同，因此嘉年華慶典的日期也會每年改變。

里約嘉年華起源自西元 18 世紀，它的特色融合了葡萄牙與非洲文化。葡萄牙人帶來歐洲的宗教慶典，而非洲人則貢獻了他們的音樂與舞蹈。1933 年的嘉年華第一次舉辦森巴舞學校比賽。同年，有一項傳統也誕生了，就是里約熱內盧的市長會將市鑰交給嘉年華之王—莫莫王，此舉正式宣告嘉年華會開始。

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