

历史

1. Corn

In the late 1400s, when **Christopher Columbus** returned to Spain from **the western hemisphere**, he brought with him a **sample** of what the native Americans called **maize**, or, as we call it more often today, corn.

The corn that Columbus introduced to Europe was the distant **descendant** of a grass native to Mexico. The peoples of the Americas probably started to **domesticate** this grass as early as 5000BC. After about a thousand years, they had developed a highly productive **strand** of corn which later became the basis for the great **pre-Columbian** civilizations.

Figuratively speaking, both the cities of the **Incas** and the temples of the **Mayas** were built on corn. Domesticated corn and the people who **cultivated** it developed together.

Without humans to care for it, domesticated corn could not survive. The **kernels** are crowded together beneath the strong protected **husk** and silk. And the young corn shoot is not strong enough to break through the husk on its own. If people did not **strip** away the husk and plant individual kernels, the corn would die out.

哥伦布

n. 西半球

n. 样品/ n. 玉米

n. 子孙, 后代

v. 驯养

n. 绳索之一股

adj. 哥伦布发现美洲大陆以前的

比如说

印加人/ 玛雅人

v. 培养, 耕作, 栽培

n. 核, 仁

n. 外壳

v. 剥去

2. Life of Farmer

One of the most popular **myths** about the United States in the nineteenth century was that of the free and simple life of the farmer. It was said that farmers worked hard on their own land to produce whatever their families needed. They might sometimes **trade** with neighbors; but in general they could **get along** just fine by relying on themselves, not on **commercial ties** with others. This is how Thomas Jefferson **idealized** the farmer at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and, at that time, this may have been close to the truth, especially on the frontier. But by mid-century, **sweeping** changes in agriculture were well **under way** as farmers began to specialize in the **raising** of crops such as **cotton** or **corn** or **wheat**. By late in the century, **revolutionary** advances in **farm machinery** had vastly increased production of specialized crops. And the extensive network of railroads had **linked** farmers throughout the country to markets in the East and even **overseas**. By raising and selling specialized crops, farmers could afford more and finer goods and achieve a much higher **standard of living**, but **at a price**. Now, farmers were no longer **dependent** just on the weather and their own efforts. Their lives were increasingly controlled by banks, which had power to **grant or deny** loans for new machinery, and by the railroads, which set the **rates** for shipping their crops to market. As businessmen, farmers now had to worry about national **economic depressions** and the influence of world **supply and demand** on, for example, the price of wheat in **Kansas**. And so, by the end of the nineteenth century, the era of Jefferson's independent farmer had **come to a close**.

n. 谜、传说

v. 交换
生活、相处
商贸联系
v. 理想化

adv. 发生、在进行
n. 种植
棉花、玉米、小麦
adj. 革命性的
农用机械
v. 连接

adj./adv. 海外

生活水平/付出代价
adj. 依赖于

批准或拒绝
n. 速度/费用

n. 经济萧条
n. 供给
堪萨斯州

v. 终结

3. Monticello

Before starting our tour of **Monticello**, I'd like to give you some historical facts that might help you **appreciate** what you see today even more. Monticello was the very much loved home of Thomas Jefferson for over fifty years. Jefferson, who was, of course, President, was also a great reader and language **enthusiast**. He read widely on different subjects, including architecture. He wasn't **formally** trained in architecture, but as a result of his study and observation of other buildings, he was able to help design and build the house. He chose the **site** himself, naming the **estate** "Monticello," which means "little mountain" in Italian. In fact, many of the ideas behind the design also came from the Italian **architect** Andrea Palladio, who lived in the sixteenth century and who had a great influence on the architecture of England. Jefferson, however, ignored one of Palladio's principles, that is, not to build in a high place. Monticello's **elevation** made the transportation of what was needed at the house—for example, food—especially difficult. But the view from the estate would not be as **spectacular** if Jefferson had followed Palladio's advice; there really is no boundary between the house and the nature around it, and so Jefferson was able to look out on his **beloved** state of Virginia from his wonderful **vantage point**. Now we'll go on to Jefferson's library.

地名，美国密西西比州西南部

v. 欣赏、理解

n. 热衷者狂热者

adv. 正式正规地

n. 选址

n. 不动产

n. 建筑师

v. 不重视

n. 高度、海拔

adj. 壮观的

adj. 心爱的

4. Rodeos

The **cattle ranching** industry started in the new western United States in the late 1800s. As the industry developed, so did the horse riding contests that we called **rodeos**. Rodeos weren't always the big entertainment shows that we see nowadays. The first ones were small contests started as a form of competition among people historically referred to as **cowboys**, although they did include both men and women. One duty of the cowboys was to guide **herds** of cattle from the grassy **ranges** into towns around the railroad lines where the cows were loaded onto trains. The cowboys would gather near these cow towns to compete for the unofficial title: best horse rider. They would demonstrate the riding skills they had learned as a matter of **survival**. The audience was composed mainly of other cowboys who watched the competitors critically since they knew what the events were all about. Rodeo contests took a different turn in the 1890s when organizers began to hold cowboy sports during yearly agricultural **fairs**. What was different was the audience. It consisted mostly of people who were unfamiliar with life on the range. They were amazed by the skill of the riders and the intelligence of the horses. Rodeo at agricultural fairs became so popular that **ranchers** and business people began to organize rodeos as independent events, separate from fairs.

The organizers built large **arenas** and earned money by requiring **spectators** to pay for **admission**.

One of the most **notable** rodeos of this type is still held **annually** in **Wyoming**.

It's called **Frontier Days**. While Frontier Days is not the first independent rodeo, it is the annual show, taking place each year since 1897.

n. 牛/ n. (从事)
农牧场工作

n. 牛仔竞技表演
(如驯服野马、用
绳圈套牛)

n. 牛仔

n. 兽群

n. 山脉

n. 生存

n. (出售动物或农
产品的) 市场集市

n. 大牧场主

n. 竞技场

n. 观众/ n. 入场费

adj. 重要的

一年一度/怀俄明州
拓荒者日

5. Sailing ship

Last week, you **recall**, we discussed the early development of railroads in the United States. Today I want to mention an even earlier form of **transportation**, one that brought the first European **settlers** to America. And that's the wooden sailing ship. From **colonial times**, sailing ships were **vital** to the economy.

Many **coastal** towns depended on fishing or **whaling** for employment and income. This was especially true in the northeastern states. And there the wood from **nearby** forests and the skills of local designers and workers also formed the basis of an important **shipbuilding** industry. But the big profits were to be made on trade with **faraway** places. And since sea **captains** often became part of owners of their ships, they had a strong interest in the **commercial** success of their **voyages**.

So these **Yankees**, that's what US sailors and officers came to be called, they carried on a very profitable trade with other parts of the world. The **high point** of this trade came in the mid-19th century with the introduction of the **clipper** ship, the **enormous** Yankee clippers with huge sails reaching nearly two hundred feet into the sky. He'd carry **passengers** and **cargo** from New York around South America to **San Francisco** in less than three months and clear to China in just half a year. At that time this seemed unbelievably fast and **efficient**.

But in the 1860s, more reliable **steam-powered** ships began to take over. And soon the important role of sailing ships in the US economy would come to an end.

v 记得、回忆

n. 运输

n. 移居者

殖民地时期 / adj.

至关重要的

adj. 沿海的 / n. 捕

鲸 (业)

adj. 附近的

n. 造船

adj. 遥远的

n. 船长

adj. 商贸的

n. 航行

n. 美国北部各州的

人, 北方佬

高峰

n. 快速帆船

adj. 巨大的庞大的

n. 乘客

n. 船货, 货物

旧金山

adj. 效率高的

adj. 蒸汽驱动的

6. Civil War

Last time, we outlined how the **Civil War** finally got started. I want to talk today about the political management of the war on both sides, the north under **Abraham Lincoln**, and the south under **Jefferson Davis**. An important task for both of these presidents was to **justify** for their citizens just why the war was necessary. In 1861, on July 4th, Lincoln gave his first major speech in which he presented the northern reasons for the war. It was, he said, to **preserve democracy**. Lincoln suggested that this war was a noble **crusade** that would determine the future of democracy throughout the world.

For him, the **issue** was whether or not this government of the people, by the people could maintain its **integrity**; could it remain complete and survive its **domestic foes**? In other words, could a few **discontented** individuals and by that he meant those who led the southern **rebellion**, could they **arbitrarily** break up the government and **put an end to** free government on earth?

The only way for the nation to survive was to **crash** the rebellion. At the time, he was **hopeful** that the war wouldn't last long, and the **slave owners** would be put down forever. But he **underestimated** how difficult the war would be. It would be harder than any the Americans had thought before or since, largely because the north had to break the **will** of the southern people, not just by its army. But Lincoln **rallied** northerners to a deep **commitment** to the cause. They came to **perceive** the war as a kind of democratic crusade against southern society.

n. 美国内战

亚伯拉罕·林肯

杰斐逊·戴维斯

v. 证明...有道理;
为...辩护

v. 保护, 维护

n. 民主

n. 十字军东征、改革运动

n. 事件、问题

n. 完整

adj.国内的/n. 敌人

adj. 不满意的

n. 叛乱、谋反

adv.武断地专横地/

v. 结束、了结

v. 击垮, 迫降

adj. 怀有希望的

n. 奴隶主

v. 低估

n. 意愿

rally: v.召集集合

n. 奉献, 献身

v. 发觉, 认为