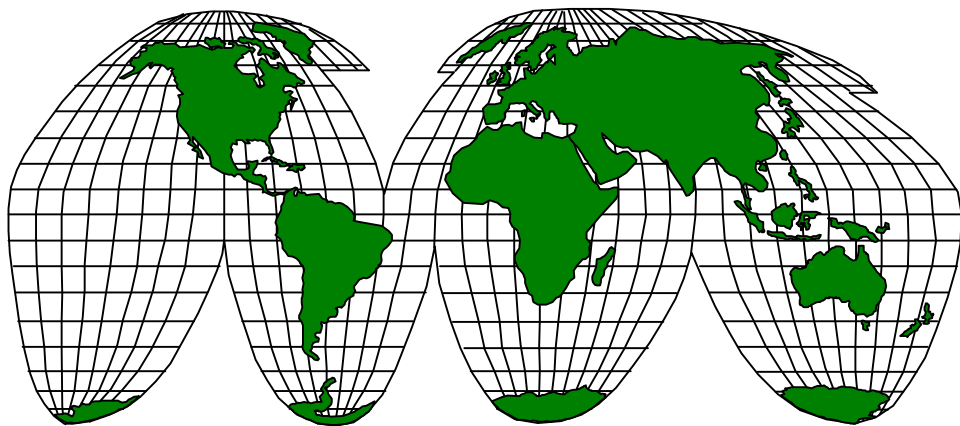


И.Н. Багинская, Н.В. Потягалова

ПОСОБИЕ ПО ФОРМИРОВАНИЮ СТРАНОВЕДЧЕСКОЙ КОМПЕТЕНЦИИ

**(для студентов и аспирантов,
изучающих английский язык)**

Учебное пособие



Министерство общего и профессионального образования
Российской Федерации
Ивановский государственный химико-технологический университет

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КОМПЕТЕНЦИИ**

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изучающих английский язык)**

Учебное пособие

Иваново 1998

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Пособие предназначено для студентов и аспирантов. Цель пособия - обучить навыкам построения монологического высказывания, а также различным видам чтения: ознакомительному, изучающему, поисковому и просмотровому на страноведческом материале об англо-говорящих странах. Текстовый материал является аутентичным и содержит сведения об англоязычных странах, их природе, культуре, достопримечательностях. Тексты снабжены заданиями, направленными на усвоение и закрепление полученной информации, что позволит овладеть базовыми навыками построения монологического высказывания, анализа информации и обеспечит возможность чтения текстов различной тематики.

При составлении пособия были использованы следующие источники:

Falk R. Spotlight on the USA. Oxford, 1992.

Timanovskaya N. Spotlight on the USA. Тула, 1996.

Tomakhin G.D. Across the Countries of the English Language. М., 1993.

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PART I. INTRODUCTION
ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

I. Read some short information about five English-speaking countries:

These countries have different histories, cultures, traditions, governments and geography.

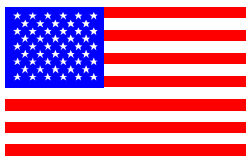


1). **The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** is situated on the islands in the northwest of Europe. The Atlantic ocean is on the north of it and the North Sea to the east. The English Channel (21 miles) separates it from the continent.

Great Britain is the largest island. The three main parts of it are Scotland, England and Wales. Northern Ireland is situated on the island called Ireland.

The population of the United Kingdom is about 60 million and its capital is London.

The United Kingdom is a highly developed country. Its main cities are London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.



2). **The United States of America (USA)** is located in North America. It is one of the largest countries in the world. The population of the USA is about 250 million people. The USA has 50 states. Its capital is Washington D.C. (the District of Columbia). Its main cities

are New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Boston.

It is a highly developed country. People of very many nationalities live in the USA.



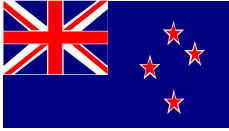
3). **Canada** is situated in North America. Three oceans surround it: the Atlantic, the Arctic and the Pacific. The capital of the country is Ottawa. About 30 million people live in Canada. It is a great industrial country. Its main cities are Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal and

Vancouver.



4). **Commonwealth of Australia** occupies the continent of Australia and a number of islands (the main of which is Tasmania). It includes 6 states and 2 territories with a population of about 20 million people.

Its capital is Canberra and the main cities are Sidney and Melbourne.



5). **New Zealand** consists of several large and many smaller islands. Its population is about 4 million people. The capital is Wellington. The chief cities are Auckland, Dunedin and Nelson. It is a highly developed agricultural country.

II. Complete the chart, using the information of English-speaking countries:

Countries	Geographical characteristics	Population	Capital	Main towns
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III. Which of the countries would you prefer to visit? Why? Put them in order of preference.

IV. Write down as many facts from the text I as you can. Exchange papers with a partner.

PART II.
GREAT BRITAIN

I. Read the text about Great Britain:



The official name of the country whose language we study is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In everyday use, however, the word “Britain” is quite possible. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has several different names. Some people say “Great Britain”, or “Britain”, or “the United Kingdom”, or just “the U.K.” and “G.B”.

Great Britain is an island that lies off the north west of Europe. It is the largest island in Europe. It is 500 km wide and nearly 1 000 km long. There is the Atlantic Ocean on the north of it and the North Sea on the east. The English Channel which is about 21 miles separates the U.K. from the continent. Its closest continental neighbours are France and Belgium. Recently the channel Tunnel which links France and England has been built.

There are four countries in the United Kingdom: England, Scotland, Wales and

Northern Ireland. England, Scotland and Wales are three main parts of Great Britain.

Scotland is in the North. Edinburgh is its capital. It is one of the most beautiful cities in Britain. Wales is in the west. The capital city of Wales is Cardiff.

Ireland, which is also an island, lies off the west coast of Great Britain. Besides Northern Ireland there is the Irish Republic (Eire) on this island. Belfast is the largest city in Northern Ireland and its capital.

Great Britain together with Northern Ireland constitutes the United Kingdom (U.K.) The capital city of Great Britain is London which is situated in the south-east of England. London is more than a thousand years old.

II. Use some additional sources of information and answer some questions about Great Britain:

- 1). What are the names of a) the longest river;
b) the largest country;
c) the highest mountain;
d) the largest lake;
e) the largest city except London;
f) the busiest port in the British Isles?
- 2). Which rivers do the following towns stand on:
a) Glasgow; b) Hull; c) Newcastle; d) Oxford; e) Stratford; f) Cambridge?
- 3). How wide is the English Channel at its narrowest part?
- 4). What is the name of the biggest passenger seaport on the English Channel?
- 5). What are the national emblems of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?
- 6). When did Romans come to England? How and why did they call Great Britain?

III. Define the main idea of the text and the field of knowledge to which the text belongs:

The English

Almost every nation has a reputation of some kind. The French are told to be amorous, joyful, fond of champagne; the Germans dull, formal, efficient, fond of military uniforms and parades; the Americans boastful, energetic, gregarious and vulgar. The English are

reputed to be cold, reserved, rather haughty people who do not yell in the street or change their governments as often as they change their underclothes. They are steady, easy-going and fond of sport.

The foreigner's view of the English is often based on the type of Englishmen he has met travelling abroad. Since these are largely members of the upper and middle classes, it is obvious that their behaviour cannot be taken as general for the whole people. There are, however, certain kinds of behaviour, manners and customs which are peculiar to the English.

The English are a nation of stay-at-homes. *There is no place like home*, they say. And when the man is not working he withdraws from the world to the company of his wife and children and busies himself with the affairs of the home. "*The Englishman's home is his castle*", is a saying known all over the world; and it is true that English people prefer small houses, built to house one family, perhaps with a small garden. But nowadays the shortage of building land and inflated land values mean that more and more blocks of flats are being built, and fewer detached and semi-detached houses, especially by the local councils.

The fire is the focus of the English home. What do other nations sit round? The answer is they don't. They go out to cafes or sit round the cocktail bar. For the English it is the open fire, the toasting fork¹ and the ceremony of English tea. Even when central heating is installed it is kept so low in the English home that Americans and Russians get chilblains, as the English get nervous headaches from stuffiness in theirs.

Foreigners often picture the Englishman dressed in tweeds, smoking a pipe, striding across the open countryside with his dog at his heels. This is a picture of the aristocratic Englishman during his holidays on his country estate. Since most of the open countryside is privately owned there isn't much left for the others to stride across. The average Englishman often lives and dies without ever having possessed a tweed suit.

Apart from the conservatism on a grand scale which the attitude to the monarchy typifies, England is full of small-scale and local conservatism, some of them of a highly individual or particular character. Regiments in the army, municipal corporations, schools and societies have their own private traditions which command strong loyalties. Such groups have customs of their own which they are very reluctant to change, and they like to think of their private customs as differentiating them, as groups, from the rest of the

world.

Most English people have been slow to adopt rational reforms such as the metric system, which came into general use in 1975. They have suffered inconvenience from adhering to old ways, because they did not want the trouble of adapting themselves to new. All the same, several of the most notorious symbols of conservatism are being abandoned. The twenty-four hour clock was at last adopted for railway timetables in the 1960s - though not for most other timetables, such as radio programmes. In 1966 it was decided that decimal money² would become regular form in 1971 - though even in this matter conservatism triumphed when the Government decided to keep the pound sterling as the basic unit, with its one-hundredth part an over-large “new penny”.

References:

¹ the toasting fork - a long fork on which bread is toasted before the fire to make it crisp;

²decimal money - the new decimal monetary system introduced in 1971, the pound being made up of 100 pence (pennies); previously the pound consisted of twenty shillings and each shilling of twelve pence.

IV. Read the text, make the logical plan of it:

Wales is a country of hills, mountains, old hard rocks and with deep rivers and valleys. There are three National Parks there. The pride of Wales in scenery is Snowdonia¹. Over three million people live in Wales. About 75 per cent of the population live in towns and urban districts. Cardiff is the capital of Wales. It is situated near the mouth of the Taff River. The most important towns and cities are Swansea and Newport. Wales has been united with England for seven hundred years. Prince Charles became the Prince of Wales in 1969.

Wales has its own Welsh language. About 20% of the people in Wales speak Welsh and children learn it in Welsh schools.

A large part of South Wales is industrialized. Wales is famous for its production of coal and steel. Wales is an important centre for electronics, steel and chemicals production. The main activities of the north Wales are sheep and cattle rearing.

Wales attracts many tourists though castles all over Wales were built by the English

and there is little else in Wales that is noticeable as architecture except four cathedrals and a few old churches. Wales has always been a poor country. The living standards of people in Wales are lower than in England, the unemployment rate is higher.

The most popular sport in Wales is rugby.

References:

¹Snowdonia - national park in the north of Wales.

V. Express the contents of each abstract in one or two sentences:

The Welsh

Who are the Welsh and how did they come to live in Wales? The two languages, Welsh and English, are totally different and so are the two nations. There is no other part of the British Isles where national spirit is stronger, national pride more intense or national traditions more cherished than in Wales. The Welsh still proudly wear their national dress on festive occasions; the Welsh language is still very much a living force and is taught side by side with English in schools; and Welshmen, who have a highly developed artistic sense, have a distinguished record in the realm of poetry, song and drama.

About 2 500 years ago the Welsh came to England from Europe but were driven westward by the other people from Europe who followed them, until they found themselves confined to this mountainous country of Wales. Welsh, as distinct from the British history, really begins with the Anglo-Saxon victories¹ in the 6th and 7th centuries which isolated the Welsh from the rest of their fellow-Britons. Henceforth, the people of Wales were vulnerable on two fronts: on the east they were constantly harried by the English chieftains, and until the 11th century the vikings made frequent raids on the coasts. Then came the Normans who penetrated into the south of the country and established many strongholds in spite of strong resistance organized by the Welsh.

The English crown sent invading armies to conquer Wales. The subjection of the people was completed by Edward I² who built many castles and made his son, afterwards Edward II, the first Prince of Wales³. But it was not until 1536 that an "Act of Union"

placed Wales under the authority of the English crown. The Act of Union denied Wales its national rights, abolished its laws (until the 14th century Wales had a tribal society) and made the Welsh language illegal. In official documents the Welsh language is still forbidden. England and Wales are now administered as a unit and Wales does not have a local Government Act, as has Scotland.

To understand Wales today it is necessary to know something about its history in the 19th century. The century began with poverty, low wages, long hours of work, scarcity of food, had housing accommodations. The industrial development of Wales was integrated with the British economy with the result that Wales was severely hit in the economic crises, especially between the two World Wars. There was a large-scale migration for England or abroad (more than 500 000 people). The result is that the population of Wales today is hardly more than it was 50 years ago.

But what kind of people are they who live in this country? The Welsh are a nation and they are conscious of it. The Welsh call their country Cymru and themselves they call Cymry, a word which has the same root as “camrador” (friend or comrade). However similar with the English they may be in appearance, as soon as they begin to speak the difference is manifest. The Welsh are quick and impetuous in speech. They are highly-gifted in the art of self-expression in word, they speak fluently and confidently nor are they afraid of being poetic in speech, of using bright and pictorial descriptions of men and events in ordinary conversation. The Welsh like listening to good speaking and they are critical as an audience.

They are a nation of singers. Wherever they meet, they sing. There is no need “to arrange” singing, it will happen spontaneously and it will be good. This custom dates back to a period long before any written music was available to the people. The standard of singing is high and the love of good music is widespread. Wales has not, however, produced a great composer.

The love of reading is also widespread. Welsh literature has an ancient history and has made its contribution to the legends of King Arthur of Britain. Prose, romance and poetry are its chief glory.

References:

¹Anglo-Saxon victories (by 607 A.D.) - England was conquered by Germanic peoples - Angles, Saxons and Jutes who merged to form the Anglo-Saxon people;

²Edward I - king of England (1272-1307), who annexed Wales to the Crown of England in 1284;

³Prince of Wales - a title till this day conferred on the English king's eldest son.

VI. Divide the text into logical parts and head them:

Scotland takes up one third of the territory of the British Isles, but its population is not very big. At the beginning of the 6th century Scotland was ruled by Scottish kings and queens but was divided between different groups of people: the Picts and Celts, who were the oldest inhabitants; the Scots, who came from the Northern Ireland; the Britons, who were driven north by the Anglo-Saxon invaders of England, and the Angles¹, who originally came from what is now Germany. Scotland was an independent kingdom, often at war with England until 1603. In 1603 King James VI of Scotland became the King of England too, as James I, and from that time the countries were under the same monarch. In 1707 the Act of Union incorporated Scotland with England in the United Kingdom.

Edinburgh was created capital of Scotland in 1437 when the King of Scotland left the more northerly city of Perth. Edinburgh was once part of Northumbria in England. It got its name from a castle built by the King of Northumbria, called "Edwin's Burgh". The city was made part of Scotland in 1341. Edinburgh is built on hills, and the city walls, built in 1450, forced people to build upwards, so much of the old city now has a crowded look. Edinburgh has a strong cultural life and history and is sometimes called the Athens of the North.

There are only about five million Scots, and most of them live in the southern half of the country called "the Lowlands", where the major cities are situated. Besides, there are the Highlands, which is the most northern and the most unpopulated area with a harsh climate, and the Southern Uplands with hills which border on England. Although Scotland has its own language - Gaelic, most Scottish people speak English. The English language is spoken all over Scotland with a variety of regional accents, but all of these can be at once recognized as Scottish, with the sounds pronounced more nearly as written than in standard English. Besides, many Scottish people still use some Scottish words when they speak English. "Wee", meaning "small", is often heard in such expressions as "wee laddie" - "small boy". If someone answers your questions with "aye", they agree

with you: "aye" means yes.

One of the things that people associate with Scotland is the kilt². It is a relic of the time when the clan system existed in the Highlands. Everybody in the clan had the same family name, like MacDonald or MacGregor (Mac means "son of"). The clan had its own territory and was ruled by a chieftain. Each clan had its own tartan³.

The sport of golf originated in Scotland.

References:

¹Angles - a Low-German tribe which settled in Northumbria, Mercia, and East Anglia (English Kingdoms, 607-1013);

² the kilt - a checked pleated skirt;

³tartan - a traditional Scottish pattern of fabric with crossed narrow and wide coloured stripes.

VII. Abridge the text , excluding the abstracts which supplement or specify the information:

Who are the Scots?

The Scots are not English. Nor are the Scots British. No self-respecting Englishman calls himself a Briton, neither does any self-respecting Scot. The words *Britain*, *Briton* and *British* were uneasily disinterred after a long burial as a kind of palliative to Scottish feeling when the Scottish Parliament was merged with the English one¹ at Westminster. But the attempt was not successful.

The two nations of the United Kingdom have each derived from mixed sources, racially and, as it were, historically. Each has developed strong national characteristics which separate them in custom, habit, religion, law and even in language.

The English are amongst the most amiable people in the world; they can also be very ruthless. They have a genius for compromise, but can enforce their idea of compromise on others with surprising efficiency. They are generous in small matters but more cautious in big ones. The Scots are proverbially kindly, but at first glance are not so amiable. They abhor compromise, lean much upon logic and run much to extremes. They are penny-wise

but can be prodigally pound-foolish. They can be dour and grey, or highly coloured and extravagant in gesture and manner.

In general the nation of modern Scotland derives from three main racial sources. The Celts², the Scandinavians or Teutons³ and the mysterious and shadowy Picts⁴, historically speaking, were the first inhabitants of what we now call Scotland. They were a small tough people. They have left their strain in the blood and occasional marks in the land and language. They were conquered by the invading Celts from Ireland who, incidentally, were called Scots and from whom the name of the modern nation comes.

Two and three centuries later, however, the Celts retreated into the north-western hills and islands, their place in the east and south lowlands being taken by the Scandinavians, Teutons and Angles. Hence the celebrated division of the Scottish people into Highlanders and Lowlanders. It was a division which marked the distinction between people of different culture, temperament and language.

It is from the Celts that there comes the more colourful, exciting and extravagant strain in the Scots. The Gaelic language and song, the tartan, the bagpipes, the Highland panache and so on. It is in the contemplation of the debasement of this lively, attractive and touching tradition in Scotland and the Scottish temperament for commercial purposes that the natives have to endure the greatest embarrassments and discomforts.

It is from the Lowland strain that there comes the equally celebrated Scottish tradition of dourness, pawkiness, implacability and splendid courage in defence, providing a complementary virtue to the splendid Highland courage in attack. The cautious, dry, humourless, mean, red-nosed Scot is, of course, a stock figure⁵ for stage, fiction and comic picture postcard use. The legend of this alcoholic miser, the hero of all Scottish stories, has, of course, little more than the most remote origin in fact (no more indeed than has the stock, garrulous, insensitive, over-eating Englishman of some North-of-the-Border stories about the neighbours). But in so far as this admittedly highly comical and sometimes even affectionately regarded figure, touches reality at all he derives from certain Lowland characteristics.

The truth is that since the break-up of the old Highland system in the 18th century people in Scotland are all so mixed up in blood that most of them combine something of the characteristics of both Highlander and Lowlander. A little over two hundred years ago nearly all Scotts living north and west of the Highland line which, geographically

speaking, still runs diagonally across Scotland were true Celtic Highlanders. That is to say they spoke the Gaelic language, lived under the ancient Celtic system of land tenure and, of course, as members of clans, bore Highland names. South and east of that line in the Lowland towns, villages and in the countryside, Highland names were rare.

References:

¹merged with the English one - the Act of Union passed in 1707 provided that the two kingdoms (England and Scotland) should be united into one under the name of Great Britain, hence the two countries were under one Crown and one Parliament;

²the Celts - Indo-European peoples akin to the ancient Galli who constituted the ingenious population of Britain at the time of the Roman Conquest (55 B.C.) and right up to the time of the Anglo-Saxon Conquest (607 A.D.), the two main divisions being the Brythons (Britons) who inhabited the southern part of Britain and the Gaels who inhabited Ireland and the west and north of Scotland (in modern times Bretons, Cornish, Welsh, Irish, Manx and Gaels);

³Teutons - Germanic peoples first mentioned in the 4th century B.C. and supposed to have dwelt in Jutland. Also includes in widest sense Scandinavians, Anglo-Saxons as well as Germanic races;

⁴Picts - one of a possibly non-Celtic people older than the Gaelic and Brythonic, who carried on continual border wars with the Romans, and about the 9th century became finally amalgamated with the Scots;

⁵a stock figure - a usual figure, one commonly seen.

VIII. Prepare your own report about Ireland, using the information from the text and some additional information:

Ireland

Ireland consists of a broad central lowland with a few hills and is surrounded by a rim of higher land. There are many lakes in Ireland. No part of the island is more than 70 miles from the sea. The island has a typical west maritime climate with mild, damp winters and cool cloudy summers. Grass grows well in such a climate and it makes the

island look green and beautiful. Irish poets call Ireland “the Emerald Isle”.

Northern Ireland is the smallest component of the United Kingdom. It is divided into six counties. It has a population of about 1.5 million people. 53 per cent of the total population live in urban areas.

Belfast became the capital of Northern Ireland in 1920. It is the largest city and the principal seaport and industrial centre in Ireland with a population of over 444 000. Belfast can boast the biggest shipyard in Europe. Its chief industries are also the production of linen and other textiles, clothing and engineering.

Since 1922 Northern Ireland has been a part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland has a Governor and a Parliament consisting of a Senate (26 members) and a House of Commons (52 members) which legislates for its own area except for matters of imperial concern. It returns 12 members to the House of Commons at Westminster.

The whole economy of Northern Ireland is closely integrated with that of Great Britain. Agriculture, textiles and shipbuilding are developed in Ulster. The largest industry is agriculture conducted for the most part on small family farms. It occupies about 72 per cent of the land area.

IX. Expose the realias, statistic data, dates of important events:

The Irish

Before the Treaty of 1921¹ put a border between Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland, Ulster (Northern Ireland) comprised 9 counties and was one of the four ancient kingdoms of Ireland. That treaty cut off 3 counties - Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan - from the rest, and left the Irish in the other six. But the history goes back further than 1921. The first date is 1609 when thousands of Scots Prebyterians² were brought over for the Plantation³ of Ulster.

The hatred between colonised and coloniser was underlined by the difference in their religion, and the Irish were persecuted not only for being the natives but on the basis of being Catholics as well. From then they never quite sorted out religion from politics.

The march of the Orange Order⁴ which was founded in 1795 to keep up the traditions of Protestantism in Ulster takes place every year. In fact, it is a semi-religious, semi-political organisation. All over Northern Ireland on July 12th, branches of the Orange Order march off some three or four miles to a field where a meeting is held. Having blasphemed their fellow-Christians, they do another Christian stomp home again, get drunk, sing Orange songs and take in the Union Jack⁵ to be put away till next year.

It's the same thing, but in reverse, when it comes round to the 1916 Commemoration day, or to August 15th. This day is the feast of the Assumption⁶ of the Blessed Virgin, and what that has to do with politics nobody knows. But the Nationalists, the Catholic Tories of Northern Ireland, keep it as their day and sing anti-Orange songs, meaning every bitter word they sing.

Both the Protestant Unionists and the Catholic Nationalists deny the discrimination against each other, but both use religion to divide and rule the working class. It is only less serious on the Catholic side because there are fewer Catholic bosses and fewer Catholic local authorities in a position to practise discrimination. It is a tactic which has made the ruling minority look like majority and kept the Unionist Party in power since Northern Ireland existed.

Separated by this tactic into their religious sects and set against each other the ordinary people have not been able to combine and fight politically for their real interests. At the bottom of the social pyramid with nothing to lose, the Catholic working man doesn't really fear the Protestant; but the Protestant working man, who has very little, feels the need to hang on to his Protestant identity in case he loses what little he has. He fears the Catholic because he knows that any gain made by the Catholic minority will be his loss, for the businessmen and the landowners, Orange or Nationalist, are not going to suffer losses on anybody's behalf.

Where discrimination hurts most is in employment and housing. One comes to a factory looking for a job and they ask which school one went to. If its name was "Saint Somebody", they know one is a Catholic and doesn't get taken on. Until the civil rights campaign forced a promise of reform, housing was the burning issue in Northern Ireland because only householders have a vote in local elections. So it is very important where people build houses and for whom they build them. Too many houses for Catholics could upset the majority on a Protestant council, or vice versa. The policy in

both the Protestant-run councils, which are the majority, and the few Catholic-run councils is to control the way the votes go by having separate housing estates for people of different religions and by awarding tenancies in the interests of political dominance.

Little is heard about the main body of the Republican movement which continues the socialist, workingclass-oriented traditions. However, Republicanism is a deep and strongly held tradition in Ireland, widely supported in both north and south. In the mid-1960s it raised its voice against the increasing repression of Catholics and the attacks on the civil rights movement.

References:

¹the Treaty of 1921 signed by Great Britain and Ireland providing that Ireland should have the status of Dominion within the framework of the British Empire. Northern Ireland remained outside the Free Irish Republic as a part of the United Kingdom;

²Prebyterians - members of one of the branches of the Protestant church;

³Plantation - a settlement in a new country or region; colony;

⁴Orange Order - an ultra-right secret political society organised in the North of Ireland to defend the British Sovereign and to support Protestant religion; probably named after William of Orange, king of England (1689-1702);

⁵Union Jack - the national flag of the United Kingdom;

⁶Assumption - rel. Вознесение.

X. Translate into English:

1. England является самой большой из трех стран Great Britain.
2. Scotland находится на севере от England.
3. Wales расположен на западе от England.
4. The English Channel, ширина которого составляет около 21 мили, отделяет the U.K. от континента.
5. Cardiff - столица Уэльса и крупный порт .
6. Belfast стал столицей Northern Ireland в 1920 году.
7. London, столица Соединенного Королевства, расположен на реке the Thames.
8. Northern Ireland делится на шесть counties.

9. Население London превышает 8 миллионов, а население Glasgow и Birmingham превысило миллионную отметку.

10. England, Scotland and Wales - три основные части Великобритании.

XI. Can you answer these questions?

1. What are the main countries of the U.K. and their capitals?
2. Why is the U.K. also called Great Britain, England or the British Isles?
3. Which countries of the U.K. occupy the two main islands?
4. What is the Lake District known for?
5. Which is the largest, most industrial and most densely populated country of the U.K.?
6. What languages are spoken in the U.K.?
7. Why has the sea been important in the history of England?

XII. Try to make a back translation:

Великобритания является монархией, но власть королевы не абсолютная, а конституционная. Полномочия королевы ограничены парламентом. Парламент - законодательный орган Великобритании. Он располагается в Вестминстерском дворце на берегу реки Темзы, в самом сердце Лондона. Кроме двух главных палат - палаты лордов и палаты общин - во дворце целый лабиринт канцелярий, библиотек, помещений для заседаний различных комитетов, ресторанов и кафетериев. В этом же комплексе и башня, на вершине которой знаменитые часы "Биг Бен". Поблизости, на улице Уайтхол, расположены здания главных министерств, а по соседству с ними - официальная резиденция премьер-министра на Даунинг Стрит. Премьер-министр обычно является лидером партии, которая имеет большинство в палате общин. Крупнейшие политические партии - консервативная, лейбористская, либерально-демократическая.

В отличие от большинства других стран в Британии нет письменной конституции. Существующая парламентская система, которая беспрестанно развивалась с XIII века, основывается на множестве отдельных законов, прецедентов и обычаев. Постановление парламента не может стать законом без согласия монарха, правда, в таком согласии не было отказано ни разу с 1707 года.

Члены верхней палаты - палаты лордов - не избираются всеобщим голосованием. В нее входят епископы англиканской церкви, представители наследственной аристократии - эти группы заседали в парламенте со времени его основания. Кроме них, в палату лордов входят некоторые верховные судьи (их называют "судебные лорды"), которые стали заседать в палате лордов с конца прошлого века; а также возникшая в 1958 году категория "пожизненных пэров", представляющая собой бывших членов палаты общин или других выдающихся людей, проявивших себя в различных сферах общества. Считается, что всего в стране 1 100 лордов, но в заседаниях регулярно участвуют около 320 лордов.

В палате общин 650 избираемых членов парламента. Партия, имеющая большее число мест в палате общин, формирует правительство. Наиболее важные министерские посты обычно занимают члены палаты общин. Партия, обладающая самым большим числом мест после правящей, именуется "официальной оппозицией". Председателем палаты общин является Спикер, сидящий на специальной возвышении и облаченный традиционно в парик и черную мантию. Спикер должен быть беспристрастен в своих суждениях и не занимать сторону ни одной из партий.

Члены парламента от правящей партии сидят по правую руку от Спикера, а члены оппозиции - по левую. В первом ряду сидят министры правительства и члены так называемого "теневого кабинета" - представители официальной оппозиции.

Парламент заседает круглый год, прерывая свою работу только на короткие периоды во время праздников и на более длинные летние каникулы. На официальных открытиях парламентских сессий королева зачитывает свою речь.

Законодательная процедура чрезвычайно сложна и длительна. Чтобы билль прошел все стадии обсуждения и утверждения и стал законом, может потребоваться около двух лет. Когда палата общин принимает решение об окончательной формулировке законопроекта, он поступает в палату лордов. Если лорды решат внести изменения, то законопроект должен вернуться в палату общин для окончательного голосования. Когда-то у лордов было право наложить вето на любое законодательное решение нижней палаты, но теперь они могут лишь замедлить процедуру. Только после утверждения обеими палатами законопроект

поступает на подпись королеве, чтобы стать законом.

Если билль не успел пройти все стадии и не стал законом до того, как закончилась парламентская сессия, на следующей сессии все начнется сначала. Особенно уязвимы в этом отношении частные билли, ждущие своей очереди после биллей правительства.

XIII. Write an annotation of the article:

Danger of a Monarchy

by Paul Johnson (from "Daily Mail")

Wordlist:

pillar	- столп, опора
Edwardian era	- время правления короля Эдуарда VII (1841-1910)
uphold	- поддерживать, защищать
to breed	- порождать
summit	- верх
to reign	- править, царствовать
morals	- нравственность
domesticity	- семейная жизнь
appropriate	- соответствующий
resplendent	- блистательный
to glitter	- сверкать
court	- двор (короля)
spectacle	- зрелище
to review	- принимать парад
guards	- гвардия
to impose	- навязывать
flunkey	- лакей
reason	- благоразумие
utility	- полезность
to hold in awe	- держать в страхе
to edify	- поучать
desertion	- оставление (семьи)
to keep up	- соблюдать приличия
to break ranks	- нарушать правила
courtier	- придворный
group captain	- полковник авиации
commoner	- человек из народа
to divorce	- развестись

steely	- суровый
resolution	- решительность
in due course	- со временем
spell	- обаяние
rectitude	- высокая нравственность
breakdown	- распад
to damage	- позорить
intrusiveness	- назойливость
corner	- затруднение
to inflict	- наносить
abdication	- отречение
to grasp	- понять
quarter	- <i>перен.</i> круг, сфера
staunch	- стойкий
loyalty	- преданность
exempt	- освобожденный
forthright	- откровенный

The monarchy was one of the central pillars of British social stability from the 1840s until the end of Edwardian era. It was also, paradoxically, a powerful democratic force, for in many respects it reflected the views and upheld the standards of the great majority of the ordinary people.

It bred popular content because it persuaded British men and women of all classes that at the summit of their society was a reigning family which despite its wealth and privilege were like themselves in the things that really mattered - patriotism, principles, morals, domesticity, tastes, love of sport and contempt for intellectual pretentiousness.

It was not always thus.

But a considerable change has come over the British Royal Family in the past two decades. There is a widespread feeling, not so much among the ordinary people of the country as among those who wish to influence them - opinion-formers - that "in a democratic age" (as they put it), the Royal Family should be "more like the rest of us".

That is a foolish error.

There is no evidence whatever that most people want a monarch to live like themselves. Quite the reverse. They expect the Queen to wear the crown on appropriate occasions, they want her to be resplendent in glittering jewels at a court ball, they enjoy the spectacle when, in full uniform, she reviews the guards Trooping the Colour.

It was not, then, the people but the opinion-formers who started to rewrite the script.

They argued that the younger Royals should be allowed to "live their own lives" and

make decisions without “restrictions imposed by court flunkeys from an earlier era”.

In particular, they insisted that young princes and princesses should be allowed to marry whom they chose, and not those whom their parents and advisers thought suitable.

It is at this point that the opinion-formers showed the lack of historical understanding. Royalty is a show. It must be a show because it has little to do with logic or reason or utility. It is there to delight, to impress, to hold in awe and to edify. It is part theatre, part religious service.

Divorce or desertion is out of the question. At all costs, appearances must be kept up. The princess is taught this from birth. She is told that God put her on earth not to be happy, but to be royal. And in her own way, by doing her duty under difficulties, she is happy, too.

Hence by 1950s, princes of reigning houses were beginning to look around for themselves. The opinion-formers, the modernisers, were encouraging them to do so. Princess Margaret was the first to break ranks. Her eye fell on a handsome courtier, Group Captain Peter Townsend, a war hero, but a commoner. Alas, he was divorced. But when the princess’s eye then fell on a photographer, Anthony Armstrong-Jones, no one had the steely resolution to break her heart again. So she married him and he was made Lord Snowdon; they had children and in due course they were divorced.

Thus the spell of royal rectitude was broken. It indicated that the Royals were beginning to behave like rich, titled members of the society, treating marriage as an exercise in pleasure seeking.

In due course three of the Queen’s children married commoners; an army officer, the daughter of an earl, the daughter of a polo manager. In due course these three marriages too ended in breakdown.

This might not have damaged the monarchy but for another factor - the growing intrusiveness and impudence of the media.

When the marriages of the Queen’s children broke down, one by one, there was nothing to protect the family from an intrusive media. The Duchess of York and the Princess of Wales, not being born royal, made no effort at all to observe the rules of the monarch’s trade union and decided to fight their corners.

The Duchess of York, indeed, conducted her own publicity, and soon enabled the media to cover her in ridicule. The Princess of Wales enabled Andrew Morton to get the

material to tell her side of the marriage breakdown, and his book “Diana, Her True Story”, was the most grievous blow inflicted on the British monarchy since Edward VIII’s abdication.

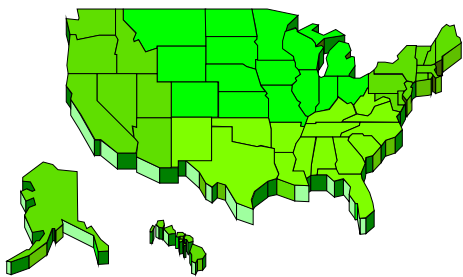
It was important to grasp that the damage was essentially self-inflicted.

By allowing her children to marry whom they chose and still keep their rights of succession, the Queen made a serious error of judgement.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the conduct of the Royal Family has come under increasing criticism in early 1990s, often from quarters normally staunch in their loyalty. The Queen herself was usually exempt from criticism, but even she is held partly responsible for some abuses, especially financial ones. Junior members of the Royal Family came in for forthright condemnation.

PART III.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



1. The United States of America, popularly called “The States”, “U.S.A.”, “The Land of Liberty” and “The Land of the Free”, is a vast country stretching across the middle of North America. This country which at one time inhabited by Red Indians, is now the home of a “nation of nations”, as people from every part of the world have gone to live in this land of wealth and promise. These settlers met, mingled and worked with great enterprise and, as a result of their efforts, the United States has become one of the most important countries in the world.

2. In 1620 the *Pilgrim Fathers*, a band of Puritans in England who sought freedom of worship, set forth for America in the sailing-ship *Mayflower*. Three months after leaving Plymouth Harbour, they reached the shores of what is now called New England, and founded the America township of Plymouth. Although they often had difficult times with the native Red Indian tribes, the colony soon prospered and more and more settlers joined them. The Indians used a new kind of grain, which the settlers called “Indian corn” (now termed maize) and they ate strange birds called turkeys. On the fourth Thursday of November the Americans celebrate Thanksgiving Day with a feast of turkey and Indian corn.

3. A great many emigrants went from European countries to America and thirteen colonies were formed, all of them under English rule. The government in England, however, took little interest in the American colonies, except from the point of view of trade. When certain taxes and laws were ordered by the English Parliament, the colonists opposed them and it gradually led to war. At first the colonists fared badly, but later they rallied and eventually won final victory, under the able leadership of George Washington.
4. The American Declaration of Independence was signed on the 4th of July, 1776. This day is still celebrated as the “birthday” of this great nation and is called Independence Day. The leaders of the new country decided they would form a Republic, which would have no king but would have a President, chosen every four years by a vote of all the people. George Washington, who had led them so successfully in the war, became the first President and was called “The Father of the United States”.
5. The Americans” dwelt in the eastern part of the country, but many of them decided to explore further inland, and settle on the rich farming land there. These pioneers travelled in covered waggons or prairie schooners, which rocked and rolled their way westward over the open, flat country.
6. Shortly after the discovery of the New World by Columbus, many Spaniards travelled northward from Mexico and settled along the western coast of America. That is why many places in this such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Santa Barbara have Spanish names. In 1849 the chance discovery of gold brought many people to California and numerous mining towns sprang up in a very short time. “The Golden Gate” (the channel connecting the harbour of San Francisco with the Pacific Ocean) was so called because many of the seekers of the precious yellow metal passed this way to and from the rich gold fields.
7. In the lower basin of the Missouri-Mississippi (the longest river in the U.S.A.) stretch the great cotton plantations, once tilled by black slaves taken forcibly from Africa, and still cultivated by negro labour. The northern states of America did not use negroes as slaves like cotton states of the south, and they tried to stop this evil. In 1861, while Abraham Lincoln was President, a dreadful Civil War broke out. After four years of bitter fighting, the southern states were defeated and slavery was abolished.
8. In American cities men have built huge buildings (skyscrapers), some as many as fifty flats high. The national capital of the United States is Washington and the White House

is the home of the President. The Famous Statue of Liberty in New York harbour was a gift from France. The following table gives a rough idea of the value of the money used in America: a cent (1 c.), a nickel (5 c.), a dime (10 c.), a quarter (25 c.), a half (50 c.), a dollar (\$ 1.00).

9. While English is the national language of the country, some immigrants have continued the manners, customs and even tongue of their homeland, and newspapers in all languages may be seen in the book-stalls. Here are some common English words for which the Americans have different names: sweets - candies; shop - store; motor-car - automobile; motor - lorry truck; tram-car - street-car; pavement - sidewalk; petrol - gas; lift - elevator; dust - bin; garbage - can; holiday - vacation; trousers - pants; waistcoat - vest; laces - shoe-ties; tin - can; a jug - pitcher. There are also differences in the spelling of certain words: colour - color; honour - honor; programme - program.

10. The national banner of the United States of America, commonly known as “The Stars and Stripes” or “Old Glory”, is a flag bearing 50 stars and 13 stripes. Each star represents a present-day state and each stripe stands for one of the original colonies. The national anthem is the “Star Spangled Banner”, and the national emblems are the eagle and the buffalo. The national sport may be said to be baseball.

I. Answer the questions:

1. What is a popular name for the United States of America?
2. Who were the original natives; the first white settlers?
3. What is “Indian corn”?
4. Who led the victorious forces of the colonists against the British?
5. When was the American Declaration of Independence signed?
6. What is a Republic?
7. What was a “covered wagon”?
8. What are some American coast towns with Spanish names?
9. Which is the longest river in the world?
10. Who was the President when the American Civil War broke out?
11. What is the national capital of the United States?
12. What famous monument stands at the entrance of New York harbour?

13. What are the American coins?
14. Do you know more common English words for which the Americans have different names (spelling)?
15. What is the national banner (emblem) of the United States?

II. Read the text:

Discovery of America

Mystery surrounds the early history of the North American continent. The original settlers, the Indians, are believed to have migrated from northern Asia to Alaska, and from there down into warmer climates. The physical appearance of the American Indians, with their black hair, copper tint and high cheekbones, suggests their Oriental origin. Some scientists think that some 20 000 years ago, during the most recent glacial period, North America and Asia were linked at the Bering Strait.

Probably the first white men to see American shores were Scandinavians who in their round trading ships travelled in Arctic seas to make their way to Greenland in about the year 985 A.D. From this vast island their ships went still farther westward and there is some evidence that about the year 1 000 Leif Ericson and his crew landed in what is now the United States.

The Scandinavians left almost no documents describing their voyages. So it was Christopher Columbus who came, saw, described and helped to colonize the West Indies in 1490's (1492) and is the discoverer of America. Columbus was mistaken in thinking he had reached India, that is why he called the first people he saw "Indians". It is not known how they called Columbus.

The discovery of America was a pure accident. Vast, fast growing empire of Turkey of the 15th century was blocking Western Europe's trade with Asia, a trade that had started in the days of Marco Polo¹ (1254-1324). So the Western European countries decided to get to Asia another way. If the world was really round, as most geographers believed, why wouldn't it be possible to sail westward from Spain and keep going till land was reached. And surely that would be Asia. Neither Columbus nor his contemporaries knew about North and South America were standing on the way of reaching Asia by sailing

westward.

So Columbus and other explorers found the Bahamas, Panama and South America and thought they had reached Asia. Columbus himself did not live to know that he had reached only America not India. The error was not discovered until 1519-22 when an expedition under Ferdinand Magellan of Spain² sailed around the tip of South America and on across the Pacific Ocean to Asia. Magellan was killed by the natives in the Philippines but his men carried on. They sailed down around Africa and back to Spain and proved not only that the earth was round but also that there were more of it than the geographers had supposed.

America gets its name from Amerigo Vespucci³ (1451?-1512), an Italian who explored the coast of Brazil in 1501. On his return to Europe he wrote so much of his travels that his reputation became more famous than Columbus'. Map-makers, seeking a name for the New World, chose to honor Vespucci (an irony of history) considering how much greater were the achievements of Columbus.

References:

¹ Marco Polo (1254-1324) - famous Venetian explorer and traveller, who made through China, India and other eastern countries and published the record of his various wanderings, recounting the many marvels and wonders he had seen - a record which seemed for the most part beyond credence to his contemporaries but now largely confirmed;

²Ferdinand Magellan (1480?-1521) - famous Portuguese navigator and commander of the first expedition (1519) to sail round the world. Since 1517 he was in the service of Spain;

³Amerigo Vespucci - famous Italian navigator. The accounts of his voyages were published in 1507 by Martin Waldseemuller, a German geographer, who suggested the new lands be named "America".

III. Answer the following questions:

1. When was the North American continent settled?
2. Who were the original settlers?

3. What proofs are there of the Oriental origin of the American Indians?
4. Who were the first white men to see American shores?
5. Who received credit for discovering America and why?
6. What important fact did the Magellan expedition establish?

IV. Explain why, according to the author, “mystery surrounds the early history of the North American continent”. Pick out the words and constructions used by the author in making his point.

V. Mention the factors that caused the discovery of America.

VI. Make out a list of arguments used by the author to prove that the discovery of America was a pure accident. Express your opinion.

VII. Support or challenge the following statement:

“Map-makers, seeking a name for the New World, chose to honor Vespucci (an irony of history) considering how much greater were the achievements of Columbus”.

VIII. Write a summary of the text II, using the words:

mystery	- тайна
to link	- связывать
settler	- поселенец
origin	- происхождение
shore	- берег
evidence	- свидетельство
vast	- обширный
to sail	- плавать (на корабле, под парусом)
explorer	- исследователь
to discover	- открывать, обнаруживать
to reach	- достигать
error	- ошибка
service	- служба
to prove	- доказывать
achievement	- достижение

IX. Divide the text into logical parts and head them. Name the abstracts without which the text is misrepresented:

The “Anglo-Saxons” and the American Character”

Wordlist:

ancestry	- происхождение
descendant	- потомок
to adopt	- перенимать
reunion	- вечеринка
flamboyantly	- ярко, кричаще
to boast	- хвастать
with tongue in cheek	- иронически
dam	- дамба
to amass	- накапливать
well off	- состоятельный, зажиточный
under-privileged	- бедный
hard	- скупой

“Anglo-Saxon” Americans, those Americans of British ancestry, rarely think of themselves as an ethnic group. What’s the difference between an American and a European really?

First, many of them are descendants of the original settlers. Second, they are widely distributed throughout the nation. Nevertheless, the “Anglo-Saxons” remain the largest single ethnic group in America comprising about 45 per cent of the population.

It would be a mistake to imagine as some foreigners do that Americans of other ethnic groups have imitated an “Anglo-Saxon” way of life or adopted “Anglo-Saxon” customs. In the middle of the 19th century the people of the USA were still predominantly “Anglo-Saxon”, but even before the flood of non “Anglo-Saxon” immigrants the Americans were already far more American than they were British.

Whatever their ethnic origins, the Americans of New England, the Midwest, the Far West, the South and Southwest all have special characteristics of their region. Yet they also have certain things in common.

Most Americans have great vigor and enthusiasm. They prefer to discipline themselves rather than be disciplined by others. They pride themselves on their independence, their right to make up their own minds. They are prepared to take the initiative, even when there is a risk in doing so. They have courage and do not give in easily. They do not care to be looked after by the Government.

They will take any sort of job anywhere rather than be unemployed. The average American changes his or her job nine or ten times during his or her working life. In Europe there are people who have lived in the same house and been in the same job for 20, 30, 40 years. Americans like to “move away”, to change homes and jobs. They seem to be constantly pulling down old and often quite beautiful houses or throwing away things merely because they are old. They have none of the Englishman’s sentimental love for the things because they are old.

But Americans have a warmth and friendliness which is less superficial than many foreigners think. They are considered sentimental. When on ceremonial occasions they see a flag, or attend parades celebrating America’s glorious past, tears may come to their eyes. Reunions with family or friends tend to be emotional too. They like to dress correctly, even if “correctly” means flamboyantly. They love to boast, though often with tongue in cheek. They can laugh at themselves and their country, and they can be very self-critical, while remaining always intensely patriotic. They have a wide knowledge of everyday things, and a keen interest in their particular city and State. Foreigners sometimes complain, however, that they have little interest in or knowledge of the outside world.



The Americans have a passion for grandeur. They are terribly impressed with mere size: to them “bigger” and “better” seem to mean the same thing. Their skyscrapers, bridges and dams often have a splendor which matches in beauty and scale the country’s natural wonders. The Cathedral¹ in New York is the largest Gothic Cathedral in the world; the finger of the Statue of Liberty is eight feet long and forty people can stand inside its head; the Rockefeller Centre² cost 100 million to build, has 13 000 telephones and its hanging gardens are four times the size of the famous hanging gardens of Babylon³; Macy’s (the famous department store) employs 11 000 shop-assistants and sells a million dollars’ worth of goods every day; and if all the people in the skyscrapers came out at once, the streets couldn’t hold them. As for their newspapers there is no doubt at all that, for the number of pages, they certainly take the prize, the daily edition of a newspaper has anything from 60 to 100 pages, and the Sunday editions remind you in size of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

The Englishman prizes privacy, the American prefer sociability. One often hears of the

Englishman's "reserve"; how he likes "to keep himself to himself"; and how on a long railway journey, with four Englishmen in the carriage, often there won't be a word spoken during the whole journey. That wouldn't be the case in America. The Englishman thinks it is ill-mannered to ask personal questions. The American doesn't feel that at all. In the short ride from the port or station to your hotel the taxi driver will tell you all about himself, his wife and family and probably the towns in England he was in during the war. He will inquire where you have come from, what your job is, how you like America and how long you are staying in New York.

Is the sole aim of most Americans to make money and possess luxuries which could be called excessive? The majority of Americans would certainly deny this, though most feel proud to amass wealth and possessions through hard work. In the USA about 90 per cent of the population is well enough off to expect a brighter future. The USA still has one of the highest standards of living in the world, although, at the present time 10 per cent are below what the Government considers to be the "poverty level". While these under-privileged people receive help from the Government, they have no high hopes for their future. It is from this "underclass" and those who take advantage of it, that most of the violence springs - the violence which is one of the least pleasant aspects of American society.

Americans are beginning to realize that this terrible problem of poverty is their problem, and not just the Government's. It has been said that the individual American is generous, but that the American nation is hard.

The USA is reputed to be a classless society. There is certainly not much social snobbery or job snobbery. The manual worker is usually quite at ease in any company. This is partly explained by the fact that people of all income groups go together to the same schools. Americans are far more race-conscious than they are class-conscious.

References:

¹the Cathedral - the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York (Protestant Episcopal);

²Rockefeller Centre - privately owned business and entertainment centre - 15 skyscrapers housing large corporations such as the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) and American and foreign press agencies,

theaters, radio and television studios (Radio City);

³the hanging gardens of Babylon - the ornamental gardens planted on the terraces of a temple in Babylon, an ancient city in Asia on the Euphrates River - one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.

X. Read the story. Discuss it using the information of the previous text. Retell it as if you were:

a) an American; b) an Englishman:

An American came to London and his English friend decided to show him the city.

“How long did it take to build this house?” the American asked his friend as they passed a large hotel building.

“Why, about six months”.

“Six months!” cried the American. “Why, in New York they build a house like that in no more than six weeks”.

They passed a quite new office building.

“And how long did it take to build that?”

“About four weeks”, answered his friend.

“Four weeks!” said the American. “In New York we build a place like that in four days”.

The Englishman was growing angry.

At last they came to the House of Parliament.

“Well, that’s not a bad looking place. How long did it take to build it?”

“Which one?” asked the Englishman as if not understanding his friend.

“Why, that large building over there”, said the American pointing to the Houses of Parliament.

“Well, you may not believe me”, answered the Englishman, “but that building wasn’t there when I was here last night”.

XI. Can you answer the following questions?

1. What river is the capital of the United States situated on?
2. What are the names of the two islands on which New York is situated?

3. Can you name the five boroughs which compose the city of New York?
4. What is the longest river in the USA?
5. What states are the following cities the capitals of:
Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York?
6. The national flag of the United States of America is called “the Stars and Stripes”.
What is its other name?
7. What does the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour commemorate?
8. Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the USA. When is it held? What does it honour?

XII. Read the text. Name other countries which are similar to the United States in this respect. Try to find out if there are one nation countries in the world:

The “Melting Pot”

The United States is called a “melting pot” because people from all the world have mixed together to create modern American society. The earliest immigrants came from every country of the world. And in America individuals of all nations were melted into a new race of men. The millions of immigrants though in the main conforming to the new ways of life which they found there, could not help leaving some impress upon the mixture of which they formed a part.

American culture is by no means homogeneous. There are at least six regional cultures: a New England¹, an Old South², a Middle West, a Rocky Mountain and Great Plains, a Southwest and a Far West culture. In fact, even these can be subdivided.

The American English of these regions is not entirely uniform. Everyone is aware that certain features of speech are peculiar to New England and that others are characteristic of the coastal South. Besides, the various Indian influences, American English reflects the other non-English cultures which the colonists met in their conquest of the continent.

In the westward expansion of their territory the English-speaking colonists came into contact with French. The French borrowings include words pertaining to exploration and travel or descriptive features of the landscape.

References:

¹a New England culture - the culture of the north-eastern part of the USA characterised by traditional links with the Old World, especially England;

²an Old South culture - the culture of the Southern states based on traditions that existed before the Civil War and are still cherished by the Southerners.

XIII. Name different countries and the corresponding nationalities.

XIV. Read the text, define the main idea of it:

The Boston Tea-Party

In so far as any single episode may be said to spark a decisive political revolution, this is true of what contemporaries and all ages know as the Boston Tea-Party. On December 16, 1773 about 50 or 60 sober-minded Boston working men disguised as Indians dumped 342 chests of tea, belonging to the powerful monopoly known as the East India Company, into the water of Boston harbor. The identity of almost all these men remains a mystery, though it is fairly certain that a leader amongst them was the silversmith and engraver, Paul Revere.

Hundreds of additional chests of tea had been sent to the American colonies by the East India Company - to New York and Philadelphia and Charleston, as well as Boston. As part of the King's Party¹ political efforts to tighten the reins on the colonies and to place some of the fiscal burdens of the Empire more fully upon those colonies, the Tea Act was passed early in 1773. In April 1773, British Parliament remitted all duties and taxes on teas exported to America, and permitted the Company to sell its teas to its own selected agencies in America, those selected being merchants who had refused the earlier colonial non-importation agreement, rather than by public action in England. The only duty left was a three penny one to be paid in the colonies; with this it was clear that the agents of the East India Company would be able to undersell all other merchants and therefore would have a monopoly of that important trade.

It was this question of monopoly - and not a petty tax - plus the idea of Parliament's renewed assertion of its right to tax the colonies - that lay behind the tremendous popular resistance to the 1773 legislation. One must bear in mind also that the East India Company controlled trade in china-ware, drugs, calico, spices and silks from England.

The struggle reached its most intense point in Boston. There repeated mass meetings were held of 5 000 to 7 000 people - immense numbers when one recalls that the total population of Boston at that time was not over some 30 000.

All proposals for a peaceable resolution of the crisis - such as had been reached in New York City, in Philadelphia and in Charleston - were rejected by the King's Governor. Planning committees were established by mass organisations and the decision to dump the tea by force was reached and carried out.

As the crisis continued, surrounding towns sent their men to stand with the Boston population. This was a united people - a new people conscious of their rights, organised and determined that no King was to rule them and to force upon their economy so frightful a monopoly as the East India Company.

The King and the King's Party responded in reaction's usual manner - more force, more repressions. After the Tea-Party came the Intolerable Acts² - the blockading of Boston in order to starve its inhabitants into submission; Massachusetts' capital was moved to Salem; the members of the Council, chosen by the province's lower house, were to be appointed by the King; the Governor was empowered to appoint all law-enforcement officers; and juries were now to be selected by the sheriff. Royal officers were to be tried for alleged crimes only in England, and town meetings were to be held only with the written permission of the Governor, and the Governor was to determine the agenda of such meeting; and the quartering of troops upon the civilian population was to be enforced.

The response of the colonies was to unite in support of the people of Boston, to unite in rejecting these moves of the King and to create in 1774 the First Continental Congress. So began that "great, really liberating, really revolutionary war".

References:

¹the King's Party - a party created in both Houses of Parliament (in the period between 1770--82) attached to King George III;

²Intolerable Acts - those Acts measured of reprisal taken by the British after the Boston Tea-Party which took the shape of a series of laws called by the colonists "Coercive Acts".

XV. Read the text:

The White House is an important part of Washington, D.C. It is where the President lives and works. George Washington is the only president who did not live there.

John Adams was the first president to live in the White House. He and his family moved into the house in 1800.

The White House has 132 rooms. Visitors may tour some of the first-floor rooms; the second floor is “home” for the president and his family. The White House has many special rooms. It even has a private bowling alley and a movie theater.

XVI. Is it true or false?

- 1). George Washington did not live in the White House.
- 2). John Adams was the first president to live in the White House.
- 3). The president and his family live on the first floor.
- 4). There are 132 rooms in the White House.
- 5). Visitors can tour all of the rooms in the White House.
- 6). The current president lives and works in the White House.
- 7). The White House is located in the state of Washington.

XVII. Take a journey from New York to San Francisco, from Chicago to Los Angeles, from Seattle to Washington. Choose a kind of transport, a route. Tell about your impressions from the journey.

XVIII. Make a report on the Governmental Organization of the United States. Use the chart and some additional information. Answer the following questions:

- 1). When does the Inauguration ceremony take place?
- 2). How is the ceremony held?
- 3). What are the duties of the President?
- 4). How many presidents were there in the United States?
- 5). What are the departments of the Government of the USA?

Governmental Organization of the United States

Legislative



The Congress
Senate
House of Representatives
General Accounting Office
Government Printing Office

Library of Congress

Executive



The President

Judicial



The Supreme Court
Circuit Courts of Appeals
District Courts
Court of Claims
Court of Customs and
Patent Appeals
United States Custom
Courts

By tradition the Cabinet (the President's Cabinet) is composed of the President and the heads (Secretaries) of the Government departments. It consists of: 1) Secretary of State, 2) Secretary of the Treasury, 3) Secretary of Defence, 4) Attorney-General (Department of Justice), 5) Postmaster-General, 6) Secretary of the Interior, 7) Secretary of Agriculture, 8) Secretary of Commerce, 9) Secretary of Labour, 10) Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, 11) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 12) Secretary of Transportation. All the mentioned departments compose the Executive Office of the President.

Each of the above Cabinet officers holds office during the whole term; the Postmaster-General alone must be reappointed and confirmed at the beginning of a President's second term, the others merely continuing in office. The President may invite others to meet with the Cabinet, for example, the Vice-President or the Ambassador to the United Nations.

Besides, there are the Independent Offices and Establishments which belong neither to the departments nor to the Executive Office of the President. They are the Atomic Energy Commission, Small Business Administration, Civil Aeronautics Board, Panama Canal Company, United States Postal Service, Farm Credit Administration and others. They do not have the department rank though several have attained or even surpassed the size or importance of some departments. They undertake investigations and make reports at the request of the President or Congress. Their influence and authority is great in making decisions and affecting the policy of the US Government.

XIX. Define the problems described in the text:

Americans Find Britons Speak Another Language

Of course, the British speak a foreign language. Americans have suspected it since the time of Benjamin Franklin. Oscar Wilde said it best years ago: “We and the Americans have much in common, but there is always the language barrier”.

Still, that barrier is getting more attention lately, perhaps because the Language Problem is in fashion everywhere. Belgium has one. So does Canada. Ireland can't decide what tongue to speak. It seems that America and Britain are simply joining the crowd.

Thus Noel Coward¹ elicits an easy laugh in his play, “Shadows of the Evening”, when he translates *smart cookie*² (American) into *clever biscuit* (English). An enterprising Mayfair³ restaurant, The Diplomat, has issued a four-page word *guide* for baffled American visitors. For example, in this city *hair braids* are *plaits*, *bangs* are *fringes* and *bobby-pins* are *hair grips*.

In recent and authoritative second edition of “Fowler’s Modern English Usage”⁴ a long entry lists no fewer than 108 Americanisms. Only in America, it is noted, are hogs and families *raised*. Here, they are *bred* and *reared*, respectively.

But so far no one has produced a simple, practical manual for the tourist who wants to master enough basic *Bringlish* (British English, that, that is, as against American English) to handle everyday problems with the natives. Such a book might begin with a sample conversation like:

At the Petrol (Gas) Station:

Motorist: “Pardon me, sir, do you see that caravan parked near the hoarding just beyond the round about? My roadster is there - the one with the dent in the wing. Can you repair the flat tyre? Tools are in the boot. Also, the wind-screen is dirty and the silencer broken. Somehow, a bee got in the bonnet. Yes, I do see that “No waiting” sign”.

In American this would come out:

Driver: “Hey, mac, see that trailer parked near the billboard just beyond the traffic circles? That’s my car, the one with the dent in the fender. Can you fix that flat? The jack is in the trunk. Also, the windshield is dirty and the muffler is busted. A bee got under the hood. Well, yeah, I do see that “no parking” sign”.

If you say it aloud a few times, you get the hang of it pretty well... And so on. Finally, the student ought to deal seriously with weekly exercises, like this:

In the Boutique (Selected Clothing Store):

Question: Do suspenders hold up pants in Britain?

Answer: Never. Suspenders (American) are braces (English). Braces hold up trousers - and pants (American) are underwear (British).

Question: Does one buy a suit with a vest?

Answer: Not done. One buys a suit with a waistcoat. Vest (American) is an undershirt (British).

Question: If all else fails, how does one get what one wants?

Answer: Ask, in a slow voice, if anyone speaks American.

References:

¹Coward Noel (1899-1973) - an English playwright, author, actor and composer;

²smart cookie - Am. slang - a pretty-looking girl;

³Mayfair - a fashionable London district where, formerly, a fair was held in May;

⁴Fowler, Henry Watson (1858-1933) - an English lexicographer.

PART IV.

CANADA

I. Make a logical plan of the text:

The Discovery of Canada



Who first found Canada? How long has it been known to the white man? These are the questions which cannot be answered for certain.

Nearly a thousand years ago men from Norway called Norsemen, voyaged to this side of the Atlantic Ocean and when they returned home they told of visiting “The Land of the Vine”. This may have been the mainland of Canada, it may have been the United States, but one thing is certain - they “discovered” America about five centuries before Columbus.

Five hundred years later John Cabot¹ sailed from England to the shores of Canada, seeking a new way to China. Cabot was disappointed with the rocky coast which he found. He saw no living soul, and soon returned to England. He died, not realizing that the land he had found would yield as great riches as any of the countries of the East.

About 40 years later Jacques Cartier² made two voyages from France. On the first voyage he visited some of the islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. On the second voyage, a year later, he sailed up the broad St. Lawrence River as far as the Indian village, Hochelaya, where Montreal now stands. Later he spent the winter at Quebec. It is said that Quebec is an Indian word meaning “narrows”. The city is located at the first narrow place in the St. Lawrence River.

In 1603 Samuel Champlain³ sailed from France to explore Canada. He travelled up the St. Lawrence River as far as Montreal. Above Montreal he found rapids where the river flowed swiftly over ledges of rock, making it impossible for his ships to go further. These rapids were one of the reasons for the growth of Montreal which was said to be at the “head of navigation”, since it was as far as most ocean going ships could sail. With the building of the St. Lawrence seaway, the rapids have disappeared. Ocean going freighters

can now sail as far inland or away from the ocean as the head of Lake Superior.

The following years Champlain returned to the new land with his fellow-countrymen and a group of Frenchmen to form a colony, that is to make homes for themselves in this country. But they chose a poor place for a colony at the mouth of a river now known as the St. Croix. As winter came the explorer found they had no hills to protect them from the bitterly cold winds which blew from the North.

In the spring they looked for a better place and chose a fine protected bay and to this spot they moved their colony. In Canada the early explorers found a people who were strange to them and whose language they did not understand. They were the Indians. It is natural that there are many place names which come from the Indians: Wabane, Chicoutimi, Saskatchewan, Miramachi. An the Canada itself is said by some people to come from an Indian word.

References:

¹John Cabot (1450-1498) - an Italian explorer, first reached Newfoundland; in 1498 he settled in England;

²Jacques Cartier (1491-1557) - the French explorer of Canada;

³Samuel Champlain (1567-1635) - an explorer and a writer, the founder of Quebec.

II. Make a report about Canada, using some additional information of your own:

What is Canada like?

Canada is the largest self-governing country in the Commonwealth of Nations. With a population of about 30 million people it is the most densely populated. Canada is divided into ten self-governing provinces and two territories which are administered by the federal government.

Since 1931 Canada was dependent on the British Parliament for legislation only. In 1949 the Canadian Parliament was given power to amend the constitution on matters within federal jurisdiction. The federal Parliament has exclusive legislative authority in all matters relating to the regulation of trade and commerce, defence, navigation and shipping, banking and currency, taxing. The provinces have exclusive control over all

matters relating to education, municipal government property and civil rights within the province, licences etc.

The beauty and wonder of Canada is the Niagara Falls. And above all Canada is a forest country. The forests are the source of a third of all Canadian exports, pulp and paper being about 70 per cent of it. Canada also exports wheat which is grown in the west.

The capital of Canada is Ottawa. Many interesting historical and cultural buildings are found in Ottawa such as the Museum of Natural History, Museum of Man, National Gallery and the National Arts Centre. But the most important buildings are the Parliament Buildings.

Ottawa has been called the Tulip City because every spring the city comes alive with thousands of tulips from the Netherlands. Queen Juliana started sending 15 000 tulips a year to Ottawa in 1946 as a way of thanking the Canadian people for the time spent in Canada with her daughters during World War II.

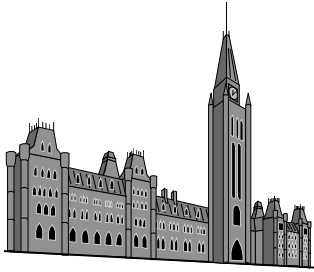
III. Read the text. Name the differences from and the similarities with the English

Parliament:

Wordlist:

Governor General	- генерал-губернатор
Royal Assent	- королевская санкция
to dissolve	- распустить парламент
to enforce	- обеспечивать соблюдение
Crown	- королева
page	- служитель в законодательном собрании
mace	- булава, жезл
club	- дубинка
Hansard	- официальный отчет о заседаниях парламента
motion	- предложение
to incorporate	- регистрировать
constituency	- избирательный округ
constituent	- избиратель
expenditure	- расход

Canada's Parliamentary System



Canada's Constitution establishes Parliament's authority and sets out its powers for making laws. Parliament is composed of the Queen, the Senate and the House of Commons. The Queen is the formal head of state in Canada and is represented by the Governor General. No bill can become law without the Royal Assent given by the Queen or her representative.

The Senate is an appointed upper chamber of 104 Members who examine legislation introduced by the House of Commons and initiate their own bills.

The House of Commons consists of 295 elected Members and is responsible for most of the legislation produced in Parliament. Two of key features of the system of government are that it is responsible and representative. The Cabinet (an executive council of ministers with specific duties) is responsible to the House of Commons for the way it runs the government. If the House indicates by a vote that it does not have confidence in the Cabinet's ability, the Cabinet must either resign (and the Governor General will ask the Leader of the Opposition to form a new government) or the Prime Minister will ask that Parliament be dissolved and an election held. A representative government is one which is elected by the people to act on their behalf.

The Speaker holds the position of highest authority in the House and sits in a raised chair (a replica of the chair that stood in the British House of Commons in 1921) at the north end of the Chamber. It is the Speaker's duty to maintain order and enforce the rules of procedure impartially. The Speaker represents the House in dealings with the Senate and the Crown, and protects the Members' rights and privileges, the most important of which is the right to freedom of speech. The Speaker is also responsible for the administration of the House of Commons.

The House of Commons employs first-year university students to work as *pages*. They sit below the Speaker and carry messages, deliver reading material and make photocopies for Members.

The House of Commons is a rectangular room divided by a central aisle. The Government sits on the Speaker's right and the Opposition on the left. On the Government side, the Prime Minister sits in the middle of the first row and the Cabinet

Ministers sit in the centre seats of the first two rows. The Leader of the Official Opposition (the leader of the party with the second largest membership in the House of Commons) sits directly opposite the Prime Minister, surrounded by the senior Members of his or her party. Leaders of smaller opposition parties sit in the front row farther away from the Speaker. The mace is an ornamental club which represents the authority of the House of Commons. When the House is sitting, it lies on the Clerk's table.

Hansard is a parliamentary publication containing the official report of each day's debates. Two Hansard reporters (one English and one French) sit at desks in the centre of the Chamber and record the debates.

Interpreters seated in glassed-in booths at the south end of the Chamber provide simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings into English or French for Members and the public.

Decisions are made in response to a motion which is a proposal moved by a Member and debated by the House. When the debates has ended, the Speaker asks if the House wishes to adopt the motion. If no one disagreed the motion carries. If there is disagreement the Speaker takes a voice vote by asking for those supporting the motion to say "yea" and those opposed to say "nay". The Speaker judges whether the yeas or nays have a majority.

A *bill* is a piece of legislation in draft form submitted to Parliament for its consideration. There are two types of bill: public and private. Public bills concern policy matters like health, the environment or human rights and can be introduced by the Government or by Private Members.

Private bills concern the interests of private individuals or groups, such as a bill to incorporate a private company. Most of Parliament's time is spent considering public bills.

Member's responsibilities are not limited to attending debates and proceedings in the House of Commons. Much of their work is done outside the Chamber, in their Ottawa offices and in their constituencies. Their busy schedules include meetings with constituents and other visitors, media interviews, political functions and committee work. Most Members serve on legislative committees and on more than one of about 28 permanent or standing committees that examine matters relating to government operations and expenditures as well as special issues.

IV. Compare the linguistic problems in Canada with other English-speaking countries.

Do you think the author of the article is English?

Canadian English

Canada is officially a bi-lingual country: about a third of its inhabitants are French speaking direct descendants of the settlers in New France. Canadian French is a stable and well-defined language and has a strong and well-defined literary tradition. The rest of Canada offers nothing so simple. There is a jocular definition of the Canadian as one who is always mistaken for an Englishman in the United States and for an American in England.

“Perplexed” is the word which best describes the state of the Canadian in Britain. He himself is confused and uncertain, and nowhere is this more evident than in his speech. He has been brought up to speak English with an American accent, but at the same time, he has been taught to admire the way English is spoken in England. While a Canadian fears that his native accent is inferior, he feels that for him an English voice is unnatural. He always falls between two stools. So Canadians abroad festoon themselves with flags and maple leaves in the hope of preventing the inevitable misinterpretation of their accent.

What does it matter which word you use as long as your meaning is clear? Didn't Shakespeare himself say (even though he was English) “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet”? It really doesn't matter, that, if you are in London, you have to decide whether you are walking on the *sidewalk* on your own or on the *pavement* like everybody else. Such decisions have far-reaching consequences. You have to decide whether to maintain your own accent and vocabulary in the face of the way the English speak, or to abandon your own language, the very words you learned since your childhood.

The English language was brought to Canada by Americans who formed the original population of Ontario and New Brunswick. The Canadians listen to the American radio stations, see mainly American films, read American magazines and fiction. Some counter-balance to American influence has also been provided by Canadian participation in the two wars. Young Canadians served for various periods, almost always alongside troops from the United Kingdom. They brought back a rich vocabulary of English idiom and slang.

But strong as the American influence is, there is the growing national self-confidence in Canada. Canadian speech has tended to preserve a national identity. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) announces news and dramas, offering something which is not a copy of British English, nor yet of American English.

PART V.
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

I. Name the main historic events in discovering of the two countries:

The Discovery of Australia and New Zealand

Wordlist:

vague	- невыразительный
to be anxious	- стремиться
endeavour	- стремление
to claim	- заявить права на что-либо
bay	- бухта, залив
convict	- осужденный
to descend	- происходить



Australia and New Zealand were discovered in 1642 by the Dutch explorer Tasman, but more than a hundred years after that they remained vague lines on the map. It was thought that they were part of a Great South Land in which civilised human beings lived and they were called Terra Australia Incognita.

Dutch navigators first found the South Land. Janszoon entered the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1606. Hartog visited the west coast at Shark Bay in 1616. By the mid-seventeenth century most of the north, west and south coasts of Australia had been charted. But the Dutch were disappointed with their discoveries. Cartenz reported in 1623 that he had found the new land “the most arid and barren region that could be found anywhere on earth”. So, too, thought the first British captain to see the new continent. This was

William Dampier, who visited the north west in 1688 and 1699 and considered the natives to be “the miserablest people in the world. Dampier left his diaries with detailed description of the new land.

Scientists in Britain were anxious to find out what this land was really like. So in 1768 they sent an expedition to the southern seas to look for it. The leader of the expedition was Captain James Cook of Royal Navy, one of the greatest explorers of all time. He took with him on board his ship “Endeavour” scientists and artists whose job was to make a record of all the strange things they might discover on the voyage. Cook reached Cape Everard on April 20, 1770. He never discovered the mysterious South Land, but far down in the southern ocean he discovered the east coast of New Zealand, and he raised Union Jack to claim it for Britain. He then sailed right around the two islands, making maps of the whole coast and naming mountains and bays and islands which still bear the same names today.

Cook and his companions came face to face with the Maoris, the native people who had come to New Zealand from the South Pacific Islands in the 14th century. They were more warlike than South Sea Islanders. And they were cannibals.

After leaving New Zealand, Cook sailed north west. He believed that with luck he might find another land, and nineteen days later that was exactly what he did. It was Australia. They landed in a bay on the North East coast which is today part of Sydney, and to their astonishment they saw plants and creatures that no white man had ever seen before: kangaroos and wombats and koalas, brilliantly coloured birds and butterflies, and grey-green eucalyptus trees of all kinds. Cook named the place “Botany Bay”. They also met the dark-skinned Aborigines. The crew were scornful of them and called them animals, but Cook admired their simple way of life. He wrote in his diary: “With all our possessions and comfortable way of life we do not seem as happy as they are”.

Ten years later, Australia’s first settlers landed in Sydney Harbour, which was only a few miles up the coast from Botany Bay. Captain Arthur Philip, the commander of the little fleet, wrote later that they had found the finest harbour in the world. Those first settlers were convicts, women as well as men, who had been sent to that wild land as a punishment. There were also soldiers to guard them. Only 10 per cent of Australians are descended from convicts, most of whom were not really criminals. There were rebellious Irishmen, English labourers who had stolen half a loaf of bread for their starving children.

By 1823 there were only about 30 000 settlers in Sydney, but gradually Australia took shape. By 1840 the borders of six separate colonies had been decided. These colonies stretched right round the coast from Queensland in the north east to Western Australia in the far south west. But to begin with the colonists had very little say in governing themselves. Each colony was ruled by a governor appointed by the British Government. The Australians, who have never liked being told what to do, particularly by the upper class “Poms” (the Australian nickname for the English), demanded self-rule, and they got it, for the British had not forgotten how they lost the American colonies. In 1901 the six colonies formed a confederation of states which was called the Commonwealth of Australia.

The exploration of the vast unknown continent went on throughout the 19th century. In 1803 Matthew Flinders sailed right round Australia, noting how bare and uninviting most of the coast was. Then two explorers broke through the great mountain wall which runs all the way down the east coast, and discovered the outback, which stretches inland and west for hundreds of miles, getting drier until it becomes waterless desert.

New Zealand was colonised much later. In fact, it might never have been colonised by Britain at all if it hadn't been for the “old enemy”, France, who had plans to use it as a settlement for French convicts. The first colony of British settlers did not arrive until 1840, and twelve years later they were given self-rule. Like Australia, New Zealand became an independent country within the British Commonwealth and empire.

II. Use some additional information and make a report about Australia:

What is Australia like?

Wordlist:

Great Dividing Range - Большой Водораздельный Хребет
Tropic of Capricorn - Тропик Козерога
Great Barrier Reef - Большой Барьерный Риф
Tasmanian devil - дикий сумчатый волк

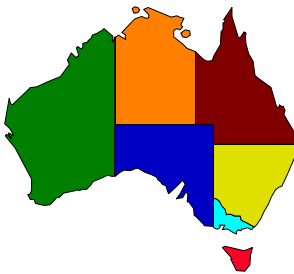


Did you know, for example, that Australia is the biggest island in the world? It is only a little smaller than the United States of America and it is bigger than Western Europe.

Did you know Australia is one of the oldest lands in the world? During millions of years, wind and water have slowly taken the earth from the hills and filled the valleys with it.

Although there are some mountains along the east coast and some along the west coast, the centre of the country is very flat. A long line of mountains runs from the north to the south of the east coast. It is called the Great Dividing Range, because it divides the green, wet coast of eastern Australia from the hot, dry lands in the centre.

Australia has three different climates. North of the Tropic of Capricorn the weather is tropical - hot and wet. In the centre the climate is very dry and the land is mainly desert. In the south it is pleasant, with cool winters and warm summers. The four great deserts of central Australia cover 2 000 000 square kilometers.



There are six different states in Australia: Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. There are also two territories: Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory with Canberra, the nation's capital city in it. Each state has its own government and its own capital city.

The state capitals are Perth, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart and Adelaide.

Where do Australians live? In fact, most of them (85 per cent) live in the cities of the east coast. But even these cities are not very big. There are only 20 million people in Australia and it's a very big country.

Australia is sometimes called "the lucky country". One reason is the wonderful riches under the earth: gold, silver, iron, coal and many precious metals. Oil and natural gas have helped to build big industries.

Sydney is the best known place in New South Wales and the oldest city. Only after 200 years after Captain Cook had stopped near the Botany Bay the city grew from nothing into a home for millions of people. Despite the history, Sydney is the most modern place in Australia. Its buildings are the highest, its fashions are the newest and its colours are the brightest. A lot of Australia's exciting cultural life is found in Sydney. Artists, writers,

opera singers and film makers all live here. So some people call the city “the Paris of the Pacific”. But that isn’t quite the same. Paris hasn’t got all that sea, sand, sun and surf. A lot of people come here to relax and take a rest. Some of them really relax. Others are too busy - jogging, swimming, riding the great waves on their surfboards.

But Australia has more. There are, for example, the Blue Mountains. They are covered with forests of blue-coloured eucalyptus trees. The air above the forest contains millions of microscopic drops of eucalyptus oil. When the sun shines the air of the Blue Mountains is a real beautiful blue. The Great Barrier Reef on the coast of Queensland is a garden under the sea. There are 1 400 different kinds of fish and more than 300 kinds of coral. Tropical fruit and flowers grow on the beautiful islands.

South Australia is the driest of all the states, but it has the Murray River. The river brings greenness and life to the state’s south-east corner. In the early days of Australian history the Murray River was South Australia’s main road. Before real roads and railways came, the river carried people and goods from the coast up into the country. Some towns on the Murray still keep the old river boats, and visitors can ride on them.

There are two kinds of gold in Western Australia. First, there’s the real gold that comes out of the ground. Gold was found in Kalgoorlie in 1893. Kalgoorlie still exports some gold, but the new gold of Western Australia is wheat. Big farms grow millions of tons of wheat every year, and wheat has become Australia’s second biggest export.

Tasmania, the island south of Australia, is small. It is the same size as England. It is also very different from the other states. There are no deserts in Tasmania. It often rains, both in winter and in summer. Only half a million people live in Tasmania. The large part of the island is still covered with wild, beautiful rain forests. These forests are full of wonderful flowers and interesting animals, like the little Tasmanian devil.

III. Discuss the problem of understanding an Englishman as if you were an Australian.

Find out some realias of Australia, using additional sources of information:

Australian English

What language do you think Australians speak? English, of course. Well, a kind of English anyway. Don’t be surprised if you can’t understand everything they say. Do you

know what a “sheep station” is, for example? It is a big sheep farm. And what about a jumbuck? That’s a sheep. But don’t worry about it. Australian English isn’t really very difficult. A lot of words are made by shortening English words. There’s a list of those ones below:

arvo = afternoon; mozzie = mosquito; Aussie = Australian; Oz = Australia; barbie = barbecue; postie = postman; beaut = beautiful; surfie = person who loves surfing; footy = football; ta = thank you; g’bye = goodbye; Tazzie = Tasmania; g’day = hello (good day); uni = university.

Then there are special words for farming and the countryside. They are quite easy to learn:

billabong = a pool in a dried-up river; bush = countryside away from towns and cities; dingo = a wild dog; jackaroo = a man who works on a big farm; squatter = the owner of a large area of land.

The others are popular Australian words that some people use all the time: amber fluid = beer; bonzer = very good; crook = ill; good on yer - a very common way of saying “well done” or “goodbye”; lollies = sweets; lolly water = non-alcoholic, sweet drink; mate = friend (this word is used all the time, even to strangers); ocker = the kind of Australian man who likes drinking and talking about sport; Pom = an English person; Seppo = an American; Sheila = a young woman; tucker = food.

Look at them. You’ll see that most of them are very short. That’s typical. Australians always prefer to use one word rather than two. And they always choose a short word if they can. That’s what gives “Strine” (Australian English) its special style - informal, friendly and often very funny.

IV. Can you understand this Australian dialogue:

- “G’day, mate. Are you playing footy today?”
- “No, I’m going to a barbie at a bush station. There’ll be plenty of the amber fluid, and the tucker’s bonzer. Why don’t you come too?”
- “Ta, I’m busy in the arvo. I’m going to see my sheila. She’s crook”.
- “Well, good on yer, mate”.
- “G’bye”.

V. Read the text. Find the passages describing:

- a) the two islands and the mountains of New Zealand;
- b) the story of Wellington.

The Long White Cloud



What is the name of the country which has volcanoes and rivers of ice, deer and sea-elephants? It is New Zealand, called the Land of the Long White Cloud by the Maoris.

As you know, New Zealand is an island country. Most of its people live in the North Island, and that is where one can find the big volcanoes like Egmont and Tongariro, and the boiling pools and geysers and lakes of bubbling mud.

South Island is larger than North Island and has the highest mountains. There you can find the snow-capped Southern Alps, rising 3 764 metres to the tip of Mount Cook. South Island is also very beautiful with its lakes, glaciers and fiords.

North Island is where you find the Maoris, the fine people who lived in these islands hundreds of years before the white men came. Most of them live near Auckland (the former capital), which along with Christchurch and Wellington, is the biggest city.

There is a lot of rich tourists here, because New Zealand is famous for its fishing, snow sports, mountaineering, sailing and hiking. The climate is pleasant at all seasons, without much difference between winter and summer. New Zealand does not have the terrible heat of Australian summers; the oceans temper her climate and the mountains bring down quite a lot of rain. Forests of exotic pines near the centre of North Island cover an area of more than 160 000 hectares. This is the largest single continuous area of planted forest in the world. All in all New Zealand has more than four hundred thousand hectares of planted forests. The most important wood is pine, which grows five times faster in New Zealand than in its native habitat in California, USA.

What do people do in New Zealand? Farm, mostly. Dairy produce, meat and wool are the main exports. New Zealand ranks second only to Australia as an exporter of wool. There are many factories there too, with hydro-electric stations to produce the power for them.

The capital of New Zealand since 1865 and one of its busiest ports, Wellington is situated among hills on the western side of a natural harbour. It is the third largest city in

New Zealand.

The Maori name for Wellington Harbour means *the great bay of Tara*. According to Maori legend, Tara was the first Polynesian settler in this place. But Nickolson (after a Royal Navy captain) was the name given to it by the first British settlers, and it is still sometimes called by this name.

In 1839 a British officer bought the site of Wellington from the Maoris; he got it in exchange for blankets and some other unimportant things. In 1840 the first settlers arrived and called their settlement Britannia. By 1842 there were 3 700 colonists in the settlement and Britannia had become Wellington.

VI. Find some information about the traditions and customs of the Maoris:

The Greatest Sailors in the Pacific

More than a century before Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic to discover America, the Maoris sailed from their home in the Society Islands in Asia over thousands of kilometres of ocean to settle in Aotearoa - the Land of the Long White Cloud. The Maoris, a Polynesian people, are aborigines of New Zealand. After long stays in Indonesia and the South Pacific, which they explored for many years, they made their great journey to New Zealand about the middle of the 14th century. They sailed in double canoes open to all weathers. They knew the winds, the ocean currents and the stars, and this earned them the name of *Vikings of the Sunrise*.

In many countries, New Zealanders, too, are known as Kiwis. The kiwi is rather an unusual bird found only in New Zealand. It has no tail, almost no wings, and its nostrils are near the end of its bill. No other bird lays an egg so large in proportion to its size. Its egg is about one-fifth of its own weight. This is a tremendous size! The bird is the symbol of the people of New Zealand.

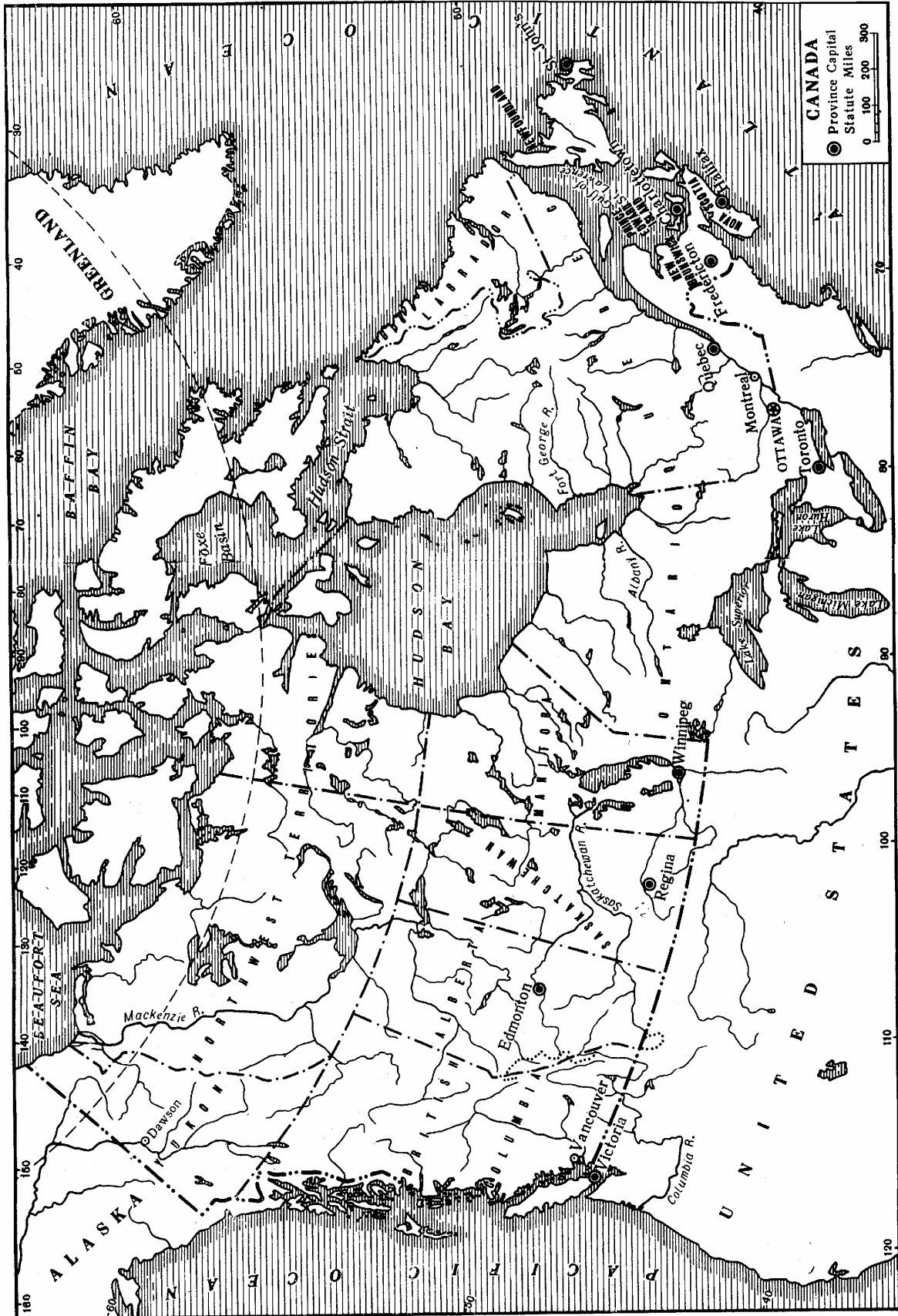
VII. Answer the following questions:

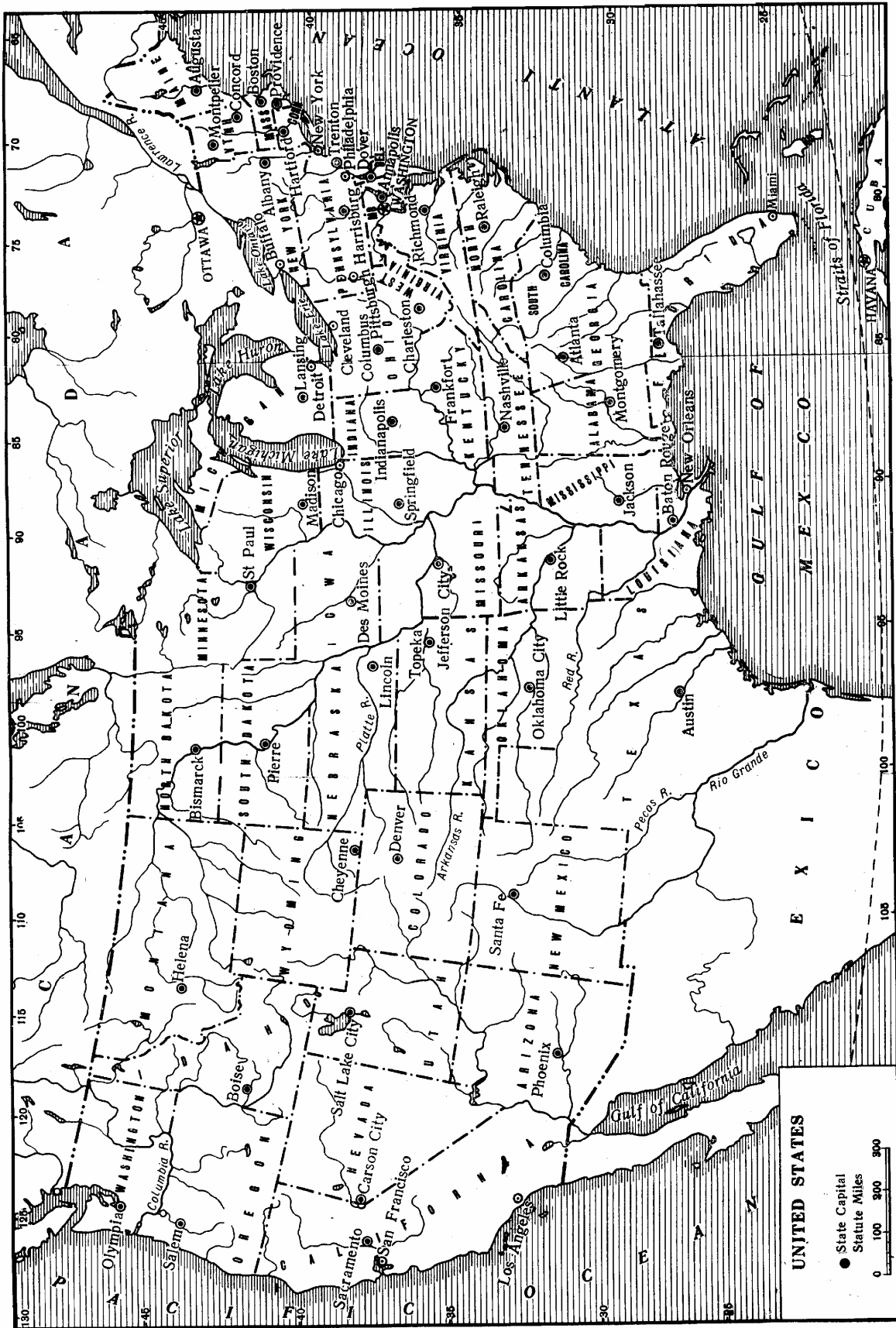
1. Why do the Maoris call New Zealand the Land of the Long White Cloud?
2. What climate has New Zealand?
3. Whom is the highest mountain named after?
4. What does New Zealand export?
5. Why is the kiwi an unusual bird?

6. What are the planted pine forests of New Zealand famous for?
7. What brought the Maoris the name of “Vikings of the Sunrise”?
8. Why New Zealanders are known as Kiwis?
9. What difference is there between the pine of New Zealand and that of California?
10. What are the former and the modern capitals of New Zealand?
11. What do the rich tourists do in New Zealand?

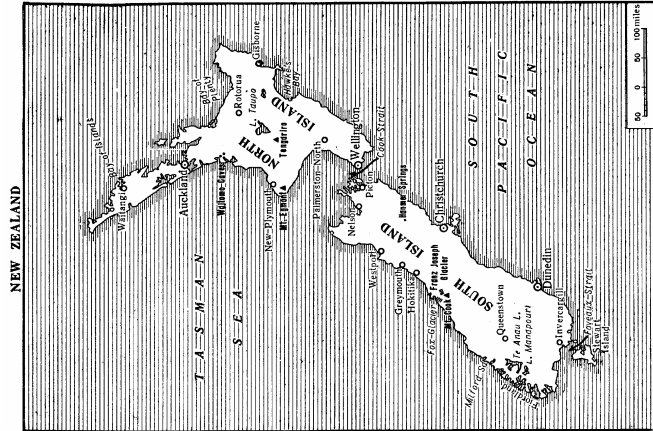
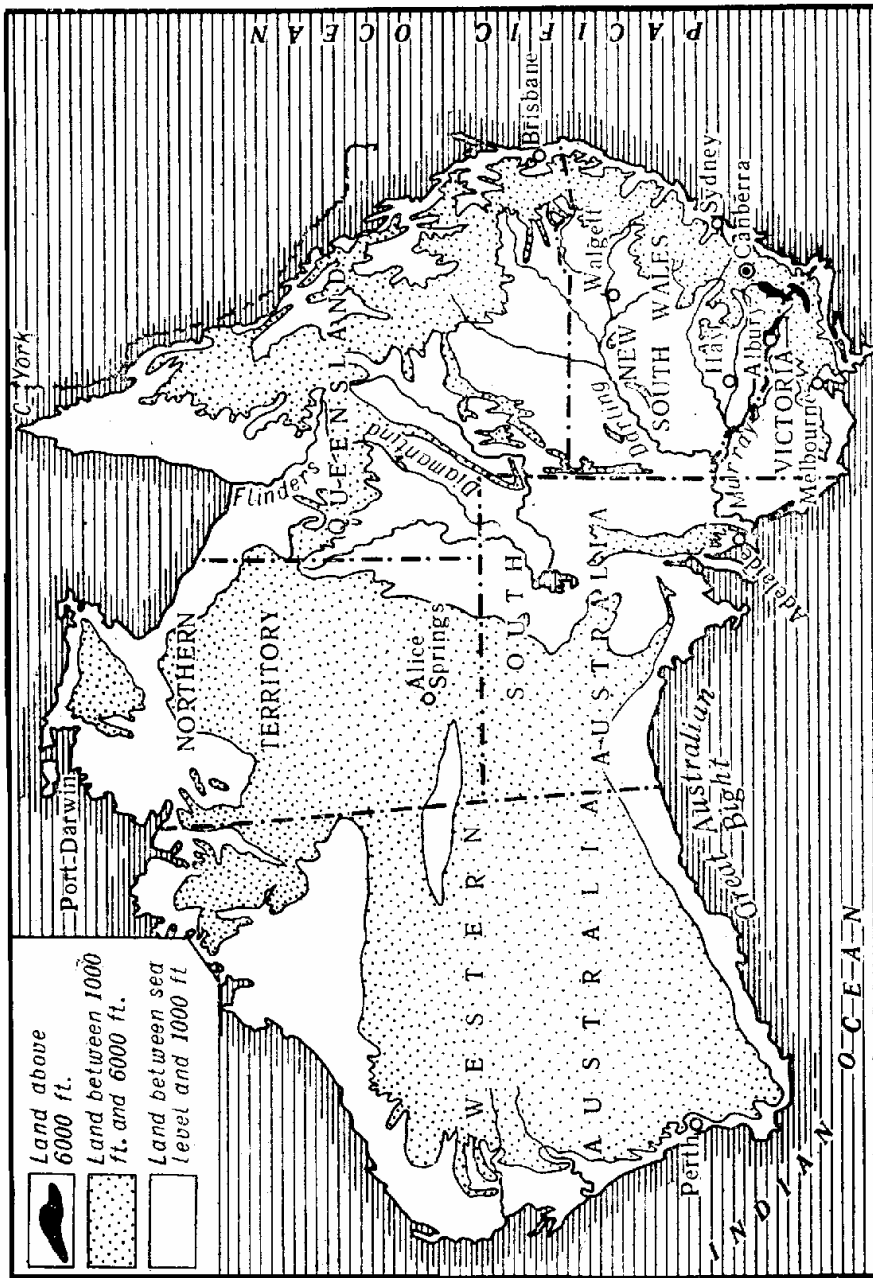
APPENDIX







AUSTRALIA



И.Н. Багинская, Н.В. Потягалова

**ПОСОБИЕ ПО ФОРМИРОВАНИЮ
СТРАНОВЕДЧЕСКОЙ
КОМПЕТЕНЦИИ**

**(для студентов и аспирантов,
изучающих английский язык)**

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