

新东方背诵文选80篇：65北美早期殖民

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65 The Early Settlers in North America The North American frontier changed some of the characteristics of the pioneers of the 1750s and intensified others.

They were, as a group, semiliterate, proud, and stubborn, as dogged in their insistence on their own way of life as pine roots cracking granite to grow. Perhaps their greatest resource was their capacity to endure. They outlasted recurrent plagues of smallpox and malaria and a steady progression of natural accidents. They were incredibly prolific. Squire Boones family of eight children was small by frontier standards. James Roberson, an eventual neighbor of Boones and the founder of Nashville, had eleven children. Twice married John Sevier, the first governor of Tennessee, fathered eighteen. his longtime enemy, John Tipton, also twice married, produced seventeen. The entire assets of one of these huge families often amounted, in the beginning, to little more than an axe, a hunting knife, an auger, a rifle, a horse or two, some cattle and a few pigs, a sack of corn seed and another of salt, perhaps a crosscut saw, and a loom. Those who moved first into a new region lived for months at a time on wild meat, Indian maize, and native fruits in season. Yet if they were poor at the beginning, they confidently expected that soon they would be rich. In a way almost impossible to define to urban dwellers, a slice of ground suitable for farming represented not just

dollars and cents, but dignity. The obsession brought shiploads of yearners every week to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charles Towne, and Savannah. It sent them streaming westward into the wilderness after their predecessors to raise still more children who wanted still more land. 北美早期殖民者北美的边远地区改变了18世纪50年代拓荒者的一些特点，而强化了他们的另一些特点。作为一个整体，他们是半文盲，高傲并且顽固。他们坚持自己的生活方式就象松树根在花岗石中爆缝生长。也许，他们最大的资源是忍耐能力。他们熬过了经常性的天花、疟疾等瘟疫及一系列自然灾害。他们出奇地多育。依他们的标准，斯夸尔布恩有八个孩子是少的了。最后成了布恩的邻居并且是那士维的建造者的詹姆士罗伯逊有11个孩子。曾结过两次婚的约翰塞维尔--田纳西州的第一位州长，生了18个孩子，他长期的仇敌，约翰提普敦也结过两次婚并有17个孩子。最初，在这些庞大的家庭中，全部的财产合起来也不过是一把斧头、一把猎刀和一根钻子，一条步枪，一两匹马，牛和猪，一袋玉米种子和一袋盐，或可能还有一把锯子和一台织布机。那些新到一个地区的人们一连数月靠野味、印第安玉米和季节性野果维持生活。然而，即使最初很贫穷，他们自信很快就会富起来。一块适合耕种的土地不仅仅代表着金钱，更意味着尊严。这一点是无法向城市居民解释的。这一固执的想法每周都将整船整船的渴望者带往波士顿、纽约、费城、巴尔的摩、查尔斯城和萨瓦那。跟随着他们的先行者，这些渴望的人们象潮水一般涌向荒野，去生养更多的子女，而这些子女又将需求更多的土地。 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com