

2010年6月英语六级考试王长喜标准阅读(第32篇)英语六级考试 PDF转换可能丢失图片或格式，建议阅读原文

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The life story of the human species goes back a million years, and there is no doubt that man came only recently to the western hemisphere. None of the thousands of sites of aboriginal (土著的) habitation uncovered in North and South America has antiquity comparable to that of old World sites. Man's occupation of the New World may date several tens of thousands of years, but no one rationally argues that he has been here even 100,000 years. Speculation as to how man found his way to America was lively at the outset, and the proposed routes boxed the compass. With one or two notable exceptions, however, students of American anthropology soon settled for the plausible idea that the first immigrants came by way of a land bridge that had connected the northeast corner of Asia to the northwest corner of North America across the Bering Strait. Mariners were able to supply the reassuring information that the strait is not only narrow it is 56 miles wide but also shallow, a lowering of the sea level there by 100 feet or so would transform the strait into an isthmus (地峡). With little or no evidence to sustain the Bering Strait land bridge, anthropologists (人类学家) embraced the idea that man walked dryshod (不湿鞋的) from Asia to America. Toward the end of the last century, however, it became apparent that the Western Hemisphere was the New World not only for man but also for a host of animals and plants. Zoologists and botanists showed that

numerous subjects of their respective kingdoms must have originated in Asia and spread to America. These findings were neither astonishing nor wholly unexpected. Such spread of populations is not to be envisioned as an exodus or mass migration, even in the case of animals. It is, rather, a spilling into new territory that accompanies increase in numbers, with movement in the direction of least population pressure and most favorable ecological conditions. But the immense traffic in plant and animal forms placed a heavy burden on the Bering Strait land bridge as the anthropologists ahead envisioned it. Whereas purposeful men could make their way across a narrow bridge, the slow diffusion of plant and animals would require an avenue as a continent and available for ages at a stretch.

1. The movement of plants and animals from Asia to America indicates \_\_\_\_\_. A. that they could not have traveled across the Bering Strait B. that Asia and the Western hemisphere were connected by a large land mass C. that the Bering Sea was an isthmus at one time D. that migration was in the one direction only

2. The author is refuting the notion that \_\_\_\_\_. A. life arose in America independently of life in Europe B. the first settlers in America came during the sixteenth century C. a large continent once existed which has disappeared D. man was a host to animals and plants

3. By using the words “boxed the compass” (in Line 7) the author implies that \_\_\_\_\_. A. the migration of mankind was from West to East B. the migration of mankind was from East to West C. mankind traveled in all directions D. mankind walked from Asia to America

4. One reason for the migration not mentioned by the author is \_\_\_\_\_.

A. overcrowding B. favorable environmental conditions C. famine 采集者退散 D. the existence of a land bridge

5. We may assume that in the paragraph that follows this passage the author argues about\_\_\_\_\_.

A. the contributions of anthropologist B. the contributions of zoologists and botanists C. the contributions made by the American Indians D. the existence of a large land mass between Asia and North America

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