

# Contents

## Unit 1 People

- Passage 1** Galileo Galilei and His Experiments 3
- Passage 2** Henry Ford 7
- Passage 3** Jenna Bush Gets the “Cute Guy” 11
- Passage 4** The Origin of Darwin and a Brilliant Biologist 15

## Unit 2 Festivals

- Passage 1** How to Enjoy a Green Christmas This Year 21
- Passage 2** Holiday’s History of Romance 25
- Passage 3** Mother’s Day 29
- Passage 4** The Origin of Halloween 33

## Unit 3 Family Love

- Passage 1** The Giver Who Was the Gift 39
- Passage 2** The Hours That Are Important in My Life 43
- Passage 3** She Forgave 47
- Passage 4** Grandmom Can Be Fun but Only Mom Knows Best 51

## Unit 4 Science and Technology

- Passage 1** Life in the Greenhouse 57
- Passage 2** The Future 61
- Passage 3** Nature and Nurture 64
- Passage 4** Fathering Sons, Daughters May Be in Man’s Genes 67

## Unit 5 Marriage

- Passage 1** Is Early Marriage a Solution? 73
- Passage 2** The Traditional American Wedding 77
- Passage 3** Different Roles in Marriage 81
- Passage 4** Just Love Doesn’t Keep a Marriage Going 84

## Contents

### Unit 6 **Geography**

- Passage 1** The Open Ocean: Motion and Might 91  
**Passage 2** Egypt — Life along the Nile River 95  
**Passage 3** New Seven Wonders of the World 98  
**Passage 4** Yellowstone National Park in the USA 102

### Unit 7 **Education**

- Passage 1** In the US, High School Writing Assignments Are Dead 107  
**Passage 2** Like Father Like Son When It Comes to Higher Education 111  
**Passage 3** What Should Be Taught at College? 115  
**Passage 4** Open Education 119

### Unit 8 **Friendship**

- Passage 1** Friendship Never Fades 125  
**Passage 2** Friendship of American Style 129  
**Passage 3** What is Friendship? 133  
**Passage 4** What If You Said Hello to Everyone in Your Path for a Month? 137

### Unit 9 **Learning Strategy**

- Passage 1** From Simple Speech to Complex Thoughts 143  
**Passage 2** Books and Reading 147  
**Passage 3** Qualities in Learning a Language 151  
**Passage 4** School Stress Relievers 155

### Unit 10 **University Life**

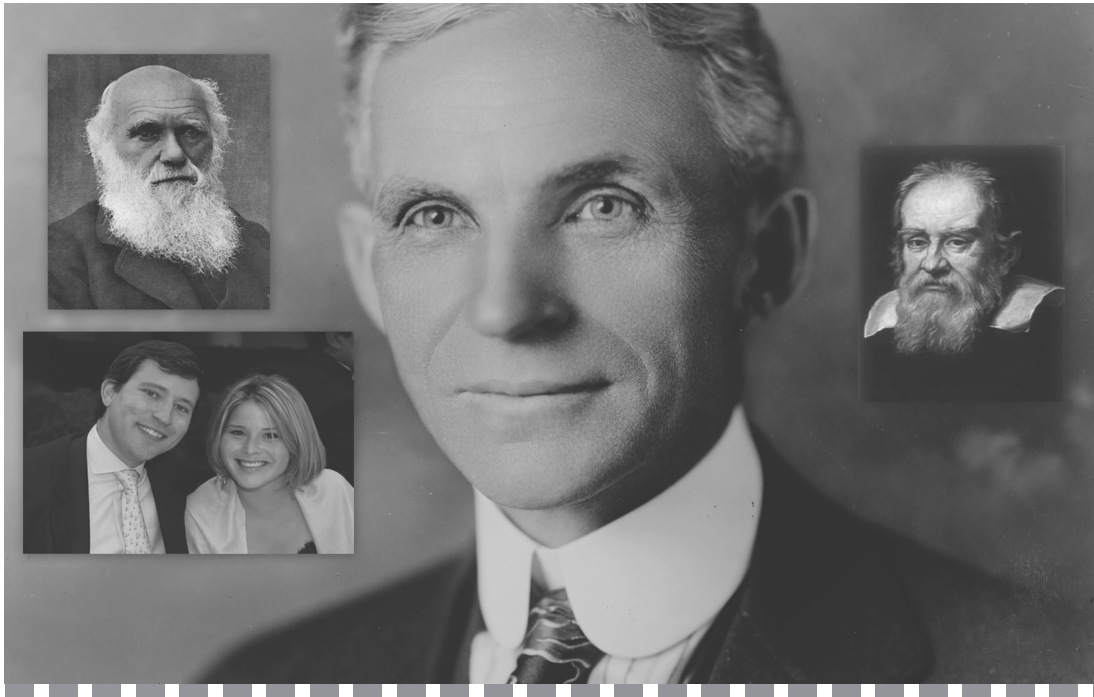
- Passage 1** Are Dorm Rules out of Date Today? 161  
**Passage 2** British University Unions Fight for Student Rights 165  
**Passage 3** Student Shock 169  
**Passage 4** Students Caught in Cultural Identity Crisis 172

**Answers** 176

# UNIT 1

## People

- Passage 1** Galileo Galilei and His Experiments
- Passage 2** Henry Ford
- Passage 3** Jenna Bush Gets the “Cute Guy”
- Passage 4** The Origin of Darwin and a Brilliant Biologist





# Galileo Galilei and His Experiments

- [A] Galileo was born in Pisa, in the Italian Republic of Tuscany, in 1564. Growing up, he was a clever boy. But more important than that, he was curious and observant. He was especially curious about how things move — not just stars and planets, but everything around him. To satisfy his curiosity, Galileo did what very few people up to that time ever did: he experimented.
- [B] One day, Galileo was in church. He saw that a lamplighter had accidentally knocked a chandelier, which swung back and forth on its long chain, making an arc through the air. To anyone else who noticed, the swinging light was probably annoying. But to Galileo, it was a fascinating experiment.
- [C] As Galileo watched the chandelier, he noticed that the swinging arc got smaller and smaller. He measured the time of each swing with his pulse. To his surprise, the large swings took exactly the same amount of time as the small ones!
- [D] Galileo repeated this experiment many times and used a weight hung on a chain. When the swing was large, the weight moved faster, so it took the same amount of time as the smaller swings. The smaller swing was slower. Galileo had discovered the law of swinging motion. He used this discovery to design a pendulum clock, like a grandfather clock.
- [E] When he was 25, Galileo became a professor of mathematics at the University of Pisa. He kept experimenting with motion.
- [F] At Pisa, Galileo made another discovery. Most people at the time believed that heavy objects fall faster than lighter ones. It made sense, and therefore no one tried to prove it or disprove it. But Galileo thought that all objects would fall at the same speed.
- [G] There is a story about how Galileo proved his point. He dropped a heavy cannonball and a lighter cannonball from the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The balls hit the ground at the same time. Galileo was right! No one knows if he really did carry out this experiment from the tower. But we know for sure that he did similar experiments rolling balls down a ramp.

## Unit 1 People

[H] You might think Galileo's experiment would convince everyone, but most other professors in the field were not impressed. They still believed the old ideas, which quite annoyed Galileo. He criticized other professors for teaching things that were wrong. As a result he made many enemies and was forced to leave the university.

(402 words)

	1	2
Target reading time	4'2"	3'21"
Actual reading time		
Your reading rate	_____ wpm	

## Comprehension Exercises



**Complete the following exercises without referring back to the passage you have read.**

**I. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).**

- In order to satisfy his curiosity, Galileo did lots of experiments as many people did at that time. (     )
- Galileo succeeded in convincing other professors of his discovery by dropping balls from the Leaning Tower. (     )

**II. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter.**

- People in Galileo's time thought it reasonable that heavy objects should fall faster than lighter objects. (     )
- Few people at that time experimented, but Galileo did lots of experiments because he was always curious about everything. (     )
- Galileo didn't succeed in convincing other professors of his discovery that the heavy cannonball and the light cannonball would fall onto the ground at the same time. (     )
- It is not known for sure whether Galileo had ever done his experiment on the Leaning Tower of Pisa. (     )
- Galileo found the swinging chandelier in the church interesting while others might not think so. (     )
- Having repeated his experiment many times, Galileo discovered the law of swinging motion. (     )
- Galileo was forced to leave the university because he always criticized other professors. (     )

**Your comprehension rate: \_\_\_\_\_ %**

**Notes:**

- Pisa** (地名) 比萨
- Tuscany** (地名) 托斯卡纳
- lamplighter** *n.* 灯夫

*e.g.* A lamplighter is a person whose job was to light lamps in the street in the past. 灯夫

## **Unit 1 People**

是旧时专事点燃街灯的人。

4. **chandelier** *n.* 枝形吊灯

5. **arc** *n.* 弧

*e. g.* The mountains formed an arc around the north of the city. 山脉沿城市北部形成一个弧形。

6. **pendulum** *n.* 摆

*e. g.* the swing of the pendulum (1) 钟摆的摆动 (2) (政党等的) 盛衰, 形势改变

7. **cannonball** *n.* 炮弹

8. **the Leaning Tower of Pisa** 比萨斜塔

9. **ramp** *n.* 斜面

*e. g.* Special ramps have been designed for wheelchair access. 已设计了特殊的斜坡作为轮椅通道。



# Henry Ford

The Ford family came from Ireland to the United States in 1847. Their child Henry was born in 1863. He had an interest in mechanics. He invented a moving vehicle which had four wheels — in effect had four bicycle tires and no cab.

Henry built racecars in the 1890's and even became a racecar driver. But he wanted to build cars for everyone to use, so he set up the Ford Motor Company in 1903. He created a business motto which would be one of the main reasons for his success. "The way to make cars is to make one car like another car — in fact to make them all alike." His company declared that they could make cars in any color, as long as it was black.

Henry's greatest task was to produce an engine that would be the power for his cars. He finally produced one in the kitchen basin in his house. He worked so many hours each day that his friends called him mad Henry. He was inspired to work until his invention would work effectively.

When he designed the Model T, he decided he could build it cheaply so that most ordinary people could afford it. To do this he had to design an assembly line where many cars could be built in a single day. Each worker would have only his own parts to put on each car. Then he could limit himself to the few tools needed for the task.

The Model T was introduced in 1908 and began to be produced on an assembly line in 1913. Henry Ford was the most important person in the car industry for the next 15 years. On May 26th, 1927, Henry watched the 15 millionth Model T Ford leave the assembly line. He had become the richest man in America. He was able to bring the price low enough so that most Americans could buy his car. This gave every family much independence for they could move about freely.

Because he did not change his Model T, others began

## Unit 1 People

experimenting with different types of cars. However, the Ford Motor Company still exists and all car owners are thankful to him for the creation of the modern car as we know it.

(361 words)

	1	2
Target reading time	3'37"	3'1"
Actual reading time		
Your reading rate	_____ wpm	

# Comprehension Exercises



**Complete the following exercises without referring back to the passage you have read.**

**I. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).**

1. The assembly line that was put to use in 1908 helped Ford to cut down the price so that most Americans could buy the car. (     )
2. Henry Ford didn't want to develop different models of cars but made cars all alike. (     )

**II. Choose the one that you think is the best answer.**

3. When the Model T was introduced, Henry Ford \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. began to produce it on an assembly line  
B. decided to produce it cheaply for most Americans  
C. became the richest man in America  
D. became the most important person in the car industry
4. When Henry was born, \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the Ford family had been in the US for 16 years  
B. the Ford family had had four children already  
C. the Ford family had a four-wheel car with no cab  
D. the Ford family came to the United States
5. Other car companies began to develop different models of cars because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. they were thankful to Henry Ford for the creation of Model T  
B. the Ford Motor Company didn't develop other types of cars  
C. Model T began to lose its popularity  
D. they wanted to give every family much independence

**III. Fill in the following blanks with the information you obtained from the passage.**

6. The Model T was introduced in 1908 and began to be produced on an \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in 1913.
7. Because he did not change his Model T, others began \_\_\_\_\_  
different types of cars.

**Your comprehension rate: \_\_\_\_\_ %**

## Unit 1 People

### Notes:

1. **mechanics** *n.* 机械学
2. **cab** *n.* 驾驶室
3. **motto** *n.* 座右铭  
*e. g.* “Live and let live.” That’s my motto. “待人宽如待己”,这就是我的座右铭。
4. **basin** *n.* = washbasin 洗脸盆
5. **assembly line** 流水线;装配线

## Jenna Bush Gets the “Cute Guy”

On the campus of the University of Virginia, Henry Hager, an MBA student, is a celebrity. He’s the new son-in-law of US president George W. Bush. In May 2008, he married Jenna Bush, the 26-year-old daughter of the president.

This month, Hager is scheduled to start working at Constellation Energy, an energy company in Maryland. He graduated last month. Some say the new job might be only temporary. They speculate Hager could move into politics, due to family influence.

John Hager, Henry’s father, is the chairman of the Republican Party in Virginia. In 2004, he was appointed as assistant secretary of education by Bush. In 1973, when he was 34, John was disabled due to polio infection. He has been using a wheelchair ever since.

For years, Hager has been seen driving his dad around for campaigns, pushing his wheelchair and acting as a bodyguard. Those who know him recall that Henry was serious about his father’s campaigns and had a maturity that seemed beyond his years.

At the Republican nominating convention in 2001, Henry, then 23, made a moving speech to delegates when he introduced his father, recalls Kevin Gentry, a supporter of the elder Hager. “A number of people said then, ‘Henry, when are you going to run?’”

From 2004 to 2006, he was an intern and later a staffer for former presidential strategist Karl Rove. He worked for the 2004 Bush-Cheney reelection campaign, and it was during this time that he met Jenna Bush.

They were friends at first, because he was already taken. As Jenna put it in one interview, “I said, ‘Of course, the cute guy on the campaign has a girlfriend.’” After the election, Henry worked at the commerce department before leaving to pursue his MBA. However, Jenna Bush seemed to rule out a political future for Hager when she was asked if she would ever run for

## Unit 1 People

office.

“Never, never, never,” she said. “I’m not political in that way — at all.” As for Henry, she said, “He’s ruled it out, too.”

Jenna described Hager as “smart” and a “hard worker”. “He’s extremely outdoorsy,” she said. “If he could spend every day outside, he would. He’s very into the environment, and he was as a child. He hiked a lot.”

(375 words)

	1	2
Target reading time	3'45"	3'8"
Actual reading time		
Your reading rate	_____ wpm	

# Comprehension Exercises



**Complete the following exercises without referring back to the passage you have read.**

**I. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).**

1. Henry Hager, the new son-in-law of US president George W. Bush, is a chemistry student in the University of Virginia. (      )
2. According to Jenna Bush, Henry will never become a politician. (      )

**II. Choose the one that you think is the best answer.**

3. People say Henry's new job in the energy company might be temporary because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. they knew he married the daughter of the US president
  - B. he took part in the Republican nominating convention for himself
  - C. they thought he might move into politics
  - D. he was an intern and later a staffer for a former presidential strategist
4. Which of the following statements about John Hager, Henry's father, is NOT true?
  - A. He is disabled due to polio infection.
  - B. He is a celebrity in the University of Virginia.
  - C. He is the chairman of the Republican Party in Virginia.
  - D. He was appointed as assistant secretary of education.
5. Which of the following statements about Henry Hager is true?
  - A. He graduated from Harvard University.
  - B. He met Jenna Bush in 2004.
  - C. He doesn't like hiking.
  - D. He worked at the education department before leaving to pursue his MBA.

**III. Fill in the blanks with the information you obtained from the passage.**

6. Hager has been seen driving his dad around for campaigns, pushing his wheelchair and acting as a bodyguard. Those who know him recall that Henry was serious about his father's campaigns and had a maturity that seemed \_\_\_\_\_.
7. After the election, Henry worked at the commerce department, before leaving to pursue his MBA. However, Jenna Bush seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ a political future for Hager when she was asked if she would ever run for office.

**Your comprehension rate: \_\_\_\_\_ %**

## **Unit 1 People**

### **Notes:**

1. **celebrity** *n.* 名人  
*e. g.* celebrities of stage and screen 舞台和影视界名人
2. **temporary** *adj.* 暂时的  
*e. g.* This arrangement is only temporary. 这只是暂时的安排。
3. **speculate** *v.* 推测  
*e. g.* I can only speculate that he left willingly. 我看他一定是自愿走的。
4. **polio** *n.* 小儿麻痹症
5. **campaign** *n.* 运动(为某一社会的、商业的或政治的目的而进行的一系列有计划的活动)  
*e. g.* a campaign against nuclear weapons 反对核武器运动
6. **maturity** *n.* 成熟  
*e. g.* This job calls for a man with a great deal of maturity. 这个工作需由老练持重的人去做。
7. **intern** *n.* 实习生  
*e. g.* I worked as an intern for six months. 我实习过半年。
8. **staffer** *n.* 职员  
*e. g.* How long have you been a trading staffer? 你作为一名贸易人员有多长时间了?
9. **outdoorsy** *adj.* 爱好户外活动的



## The Origin of Darwin and a Brilliant Biologist

Unlike many members of the human species, Darwin makes an easy hero. His achievements were prodigious; his science, meticulous. His work transformed our understanding of the planet and of ourselves.

At the same time, he was a humane, gentle, decent man, a loving husband and father, a loyal friend. Judging by his letters, he was also sometimes quite funny. He was, in other words, one of those rare beings, as likeable as he was impressive. For example, after his marriage, Darwin worked at home, and his children (of the ten he fathered, seven survived to adulthood) remembered playing in his study. Later, one of his sons recounted how, after an argument, his father came up to his room, sat on his bed, and apologized for losing his temper. And although often painted as a recluse, Darwin served as a local magistrate, meting out justice in his dining room.

He practiced a kind of ideal, dream-like science. He examined the minutiae of nature—shells of barnacles, pistils of flowers — but worked on grand themes. He corresponded with lofty men of learning, but also with farmers and pigeon breeders. He observed, questioned, experimented, constantly testing his ideas.

He reported, for example, that “an asparagus plant with ripe berries floated for 23 days, when dried it floated for 85 days, and the seeds afterwards germinated.” The Atlantic current moved at 33 nautical miles a day; so he figured that would take a seed more than 1,300 miles in 42 days. Yes, seeds could travel by sea. His work *On The Origin Of Species* is what he is best known for. This volume, colossal in scope yet minutely detailed laid the foundations of modern biology. Here, Darwin presented extensive and compelling evidence that all living beings — including humans — have evolved from a common ancestor, and that natural selection is the chief force driving evolutionary

## Unit 1 People

change. Sexual selection, he argued, was an additional force, responsible for spectacular features like the tail feathers of peacocks that are useless for (or even detrimental to) survival but essential for seduction.

(344 words)

	1	2
Target reading time	3'27"	2'52"
Actual reading time		
Your reading rate	_____ wpm	

# Comprehension Exercises



**Complete the following exercises without referring back to the passage you have read.**

**I. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).**

1. Darwin was a kind, pleasant, loving man as well as a great, admirable scientist. ( )
2. In the famous book *On The Origin Of Species*, evidence was given that plants, animals rather than human species have evolved from a common ancestor. ( )

**II. Choose the one that you think is the best answer.**

3. According to the passage, Darwin was anything but \_\_\_\_\_.
 

A. kind	B. strict
C. funny	D. impressive
4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned according to the passage?
  - A. Darwin once played with his children in his study.
  - B. Darwin wrote to and received letters from farmers and pigeon breeders.
  - C. Darwin changed the way we understood the planet.
  - D. Darwin served as a research institute governor.
5. Darwin tested them whenever he had new ideas EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
 

A. by observing	B. by questioning
C. by consulting	D. by experimenting

**III. Fill in the blanks with the information you obtained from the passage.**

6. His work \_\_\_\_\_ our understanding of the planet and of ourselves.
7. Unlike many members of the human species, Darwin \_\_\_\_\_ an easy hero.

**Your comprehension rate: \_\_\_\_\_ %**

**Notes:**

1. **Darwin** 达尔文出生在英国 的施鲁斯伯里。16 岁时进入爱丁堡大学学医,后进入剑桥大学。达尔文从小就热爱大自然,尤其喜欢打猎、采集矿物和动植物标本。1831 年 12 月,达尔文以“博物学家”的身份开始了漫长而又艰苦的环球考察活动。在历时五年的环球考察中,达尔文积累了大量的资料。1842 年,他第一次写出《物种起源》的简要提纲。1859 年 11 月达尔文经过 20 多年研究而写成的科学巨著《物种起源》终于出版了。在这部书里,达尔文提出了“进化论”的思想,说明物种是在不断的变化之中,是由低级到高级、由简单到复杂的演变过程。

## Unit 1 People

2. **prodigious** *adj.* 巨大的, 惊人的  
*e. g.* a prodigious memory/achievement 惊人的记忆力/成就
3. **meticulous** *adj.* 一丝不苟的, 细心的  
*e. g.* He is always meticulous in keeping the records up to date. 他总是十分细心地补充最新的资料。
4. **recount** *v.* 讲述, 叙述  
*e. g.* He recounted his adventures. 他讲述了他的冒险经历。
5. **recluse** *n.* 隐居者
6. **magistrate** *n.* 地方法官
7. **minutiae** *n.* 微小的细节
8. **barnacle** *n.* 藤壶(附于水下岩石或船底的小甲壳动物)
9. **pistil** *n.* 雌蕊
10. **lofty** *n.* 崇高的
11. **nautical** *adj.* 航海的
12. **germinate** *v.* 开始发芽
13. **mete out** 给予, 施以  
*e. g.* Severe penalties were meted out by the court. 法庭判定予以严惩。
14. **detrimental** *adj.* 有害的, 不利的  
*e. g.* The policy will be detrimental to the peace process. 这项政策将不利于和平进程。
15. **seduction** *n.* 引诱