



UNIT

5

The Pillars of a Great Power

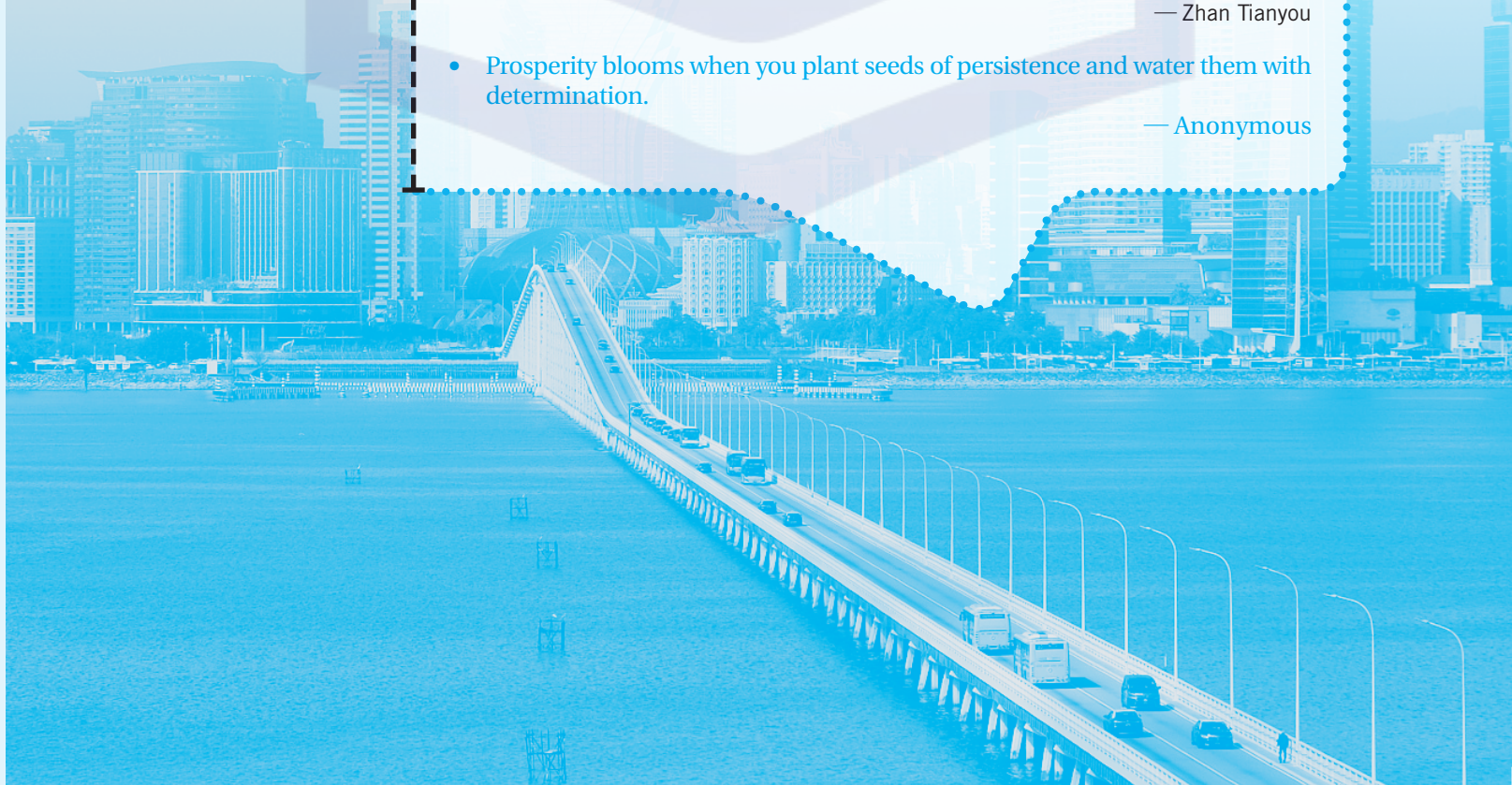
Unit Objectives

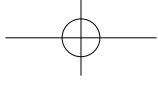
In this unit, you will:

- read and learn about the holistic technological innovation and engineering marvel of China;
- accumulate words and expressions related to the topic;
- develop the skill of applying descriptive language in expository writing;
- translate and discuss the marvels of China's development using relevant lexical chunks.

Unit Quotes

- 各出所学，各尽所知，使国家富强不受外侮，足以自立于地球之上。
—— 詹天佑
We should make the best use of what we know to make our country strong, prosperous, and free from foreign invasion, so that we can stand on our own feet on the earth.
— Zhan Tianyou
- Prosperity blooms when you plant seeds of persistence and water them with determination.
— Anonymous





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Reading to Explore the Theme

Cloze

Directions: *In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please write the corresponding letter for each item in the corresponding blank. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.*

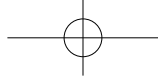
China's first 1. _____ made commercial aircraft, the COMAC C919, was heralded as a breakthrough achievement for the country and a symbol of China's own technological and 2. _____ development.

Despite this, the aircraft came under attack from critics who highlighted that it still required Western-made components in its supply 3. _____, attempting to pour cold water over China's achievements. These critics miss the point.

First of all, the fact China has been able to create an indigenous commercial aircraft model and compete with Western giants is a demonstration of how far China has come, demonstrating its economic rise from "low-end" simple manufacturing into high-end manufacturing. The origin of certain COMAC C919 components does not mean that it is any less of an achievement. China is no longer merely 4. _____ goods but making its own world-leading products.

Secondly, the fact that the C919, like other aircraft manufacturers, has a/an 5. _____ supply chain is a demonstration of what is described as "win-win" cooperation through global collaboration. Supply chains are very complex things that can 6. _____ over many countries and create worldwide trading networks, 7. _____ many fields of labor and technological niches, which often create a self-enforcing sense of "convenience" in order to bring down costs while increasing efficiency.

The successful commercial maiden flight of the C919 marks a big step forward for China's 8. _____ industry. The further development of China's homegrown airliners makes it possible for the country to become one of the suppliers of civil aircraft and related products and services to the world, which enables the country to 9. _____ in technological cooperation with other countries so as to achieve 10. _____ benefit and win-win results.



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- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A) localized | F) collecting | K) integrating |
| B) internationally | G) globalized | L) aviation |
| C) economic | H) engage | M) span |
| D) chain | I) assembling | N) economical |
| E) bridge | J) domestically | O) mutual |

Pause, Think and Share

Directions: *Share your ideas with others about the following questions.*

1. Why was the C919 heralded as a breakthrough achievement for the country and a symbol of China's own technological and economic development?
2. In what aspects do you think a country's prosperity and strength are reflected?

Reading for Details

Timed Reading Practice

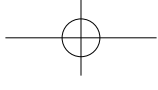
Directions: *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the question by writing the corresponding letter in the blank before each statement. You should finish the exercise in ten minutes.*

Amazing Modern Bridges in China

- [A] Bridge construction in China appears to be something of a magic trick. Of the world's 10 tallest bridges, eight can be found in China.

Sanyuan Bridge

- [B] Sanyuan Bridge is an important traffic corridor in Beijing. The central columns of this bridge, on a major Beijing highway, were dismantled in just six hours and cleared away within 24 hours. Then 70 minutes later, new beams were already in place! After concreting and laying asphalt, the entire job was completed in 43 hours. Locals going to work on Monday didn't even notice the bridge had been renovated!



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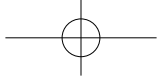
- [C] Foreigners were impressed by the footage of the process, commenting that comparable projects typically take years and cost many times more in their countries.

Beipanjiang Bridge

- [D] The Beipanjiang Bridge in southwest China is 565 meters high and stands equivalent to a 200-storey skyscraper! So, you could put the Empire State Building under this bridge and still have enough space for 100 more storeys!
- [E] It also has amazing “bones” — the steel-cables, which are as significant as other parts. If connecting the cables and pulling them straight, they would extend longer than the distance between Beijing and New York. No wonder an awestruck reporter called it “China’s impossible engineering feat.”
- [F] Despite the complicated geology of the area, this bridge was completed in just five years. Meanwhile, a combination of various technologies was employed, including “smart” concrete for automatic even flow and data recording on bridge conditions. The construction was completed in such a short time with a futuristic design. How much would this cost? Just 150 million US dollars! For the scale of this project, it is so cost-efficient that foreign countries are bursting with envy.
- [G] The Beipanjiang Bridge has reduced travel times between the city of Liupanshui in Guizhou Province and the city of Xuanwei in Yunnan Province from six hours to one hour.

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

- [H] If you think the above bridges are impressive, just take a look at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. The 55-kilometer-long bridge is the world’s longest sea crossing bridge and tunnel system. It links Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai together. The bridge, which shortens the traffic distance between the three places and allows the economy, culture, and technology of the three places to communicate with each other, opened up a new world. Now tourists and travelers traveling to and from Hong Kong on one side and Macau and Zhuhai on the other side across the straight may use it as an alternative to taking the ferry.
- [I] The bridge and tunnel set world records. How does the tunnel balance the forces of gravity and buoyancy? How come it doesn’t sink? And how was it built under the sea? Whatever the complex construction and calculations involved, Chinese engineers have figured them all out! So forget the math and just enjoy the ride!

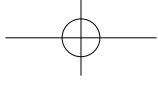


Sidu River Bridge

- [U] Then take a look at the Sidu River Bridge. It's big. Very big. And it's high up. Very, very high up. The Sidu River Bridge is at one point reaching 496 meters from the river below, and runs just over 1,222 meters in length. Its longest span, seen above, stretches 900 meters. So as you can imagine, building it was hardly easy. To make matters worse, the terrain isn't all that conducive to bridge-building: the river is so far down that it cannot be covered in the same picture, the cliff faces are steep, and the canyon zigzags through the landscape. Just getting the bridge started seemed impossible.
- [K] After evaluating the site conditions and other options, an innovative cable placement method using a military rocket was developed. A special launching system using rockets attached to chinlon rope pilot cables was designed. On October 9, 2006, two rockets were fired to take the two 1,300 meters long ropes made of chinlon, a highly elastic yarn, over the canyon, a distance of roughly 1,100 meters. The margin for error in any direction was plus or minus 40 meters, and the cables landed within 10 to 15 meters of their intended locations. To achieve this precision, a trajectory simulation model of the flight of the rocket and cable system had been created that took into account such factors as wind and temperature.
- [L] The entire process was completed in a short period — perhaps 10 seconds — and the cost savings were significant. To the best of our knowledge, this was the first time ever that a rocket has been used to launch a bridge suspension cable. Until today, the Sidu River Bridge appears to also retain the honor of being the only time a rocket has been used to transport a pilot cable.

Lvzhijiang Bridge

- [M] Stretching 798 meters over a river valley, Lvzhijiang Bridge's mere length may not sound all that extreme when compared to some other bridges. But the complexity of the project is earning it recognition as an engineering marvel.
- [N] The bridge hangs above Lvzhijiang and protrudes from tunnels that emerge from steep mountain faces on each side of the valley. Built in a mountainous V-shaped valley, it is the world's first single-tower, single-span suspension bridge; it's only held up by one tower and is supported at both ends by cables. There are no additional columns, giving it a dramatic, gravity-defying look. The bridge's single span — the distance between two supports — is 780 meters. In addition, officials say it has the world's steepest tunnel anchorage, which is angled at 54 degrees.



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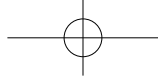
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[O] The Lvzhijiang Bridge is a key section of the 190-kilometer-long Yuchu Expressway and the 9,000-kilometer Yunnan Highway network. Traveling in China's scenic Yunnan province is about to get a bit easier and more thrilling.

[P] As "Infrastructure Magician," China hasn't slowed down its pace. Today, Chinese engineers continue to create splendid works. They are determined to open up road access to people in the remotest villages. Let's keep looking forward to more impressive infrastructure. So, what will our travel look like in the future?

(999 words)

- _____ 1. If the cables are connected and straightened, their length will exceed the distance between Beijing and New York.
- _____ 2. Being "Infrastructure Magician", China continues to create brilliant works and will open up roads to people in the remotest villages.
- _____ 3. All the complex construction and calculations involved have been figured out by Chinese engineers clearly.
- _____ 4. Although the geology of the area is complicated, Beipanjiang Bridge was built in just five years.
- _____ 5. A new and advanced cable placement method using a military rocket was applied, and a special launching system using rockets attached to chinlon rope pilot cables was designed.
- _____ 6. As the world's first single-tower, single-span suspension bridge, Lvzhijiang is only held up by one tower and is supported at both ends by cables.
- _____ 7. According to the comments of the people from other countries, it will take years and cost many times more to complete a project like Sanyuan Bridge in their countries.
- _____ 8. This bridge shortens the traffic distance among Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao and facilitates economic, cultural, and technological exchanges, opening up a new world for them.
- _____ 9. The river with a huge drop, the steep cliff and the zigzag canyon made it seem impossible to get the bridge started.
- _____ 10. The Sidu River Bridge is renowned as being the only time a rocket has been used to transport a pilot cable until today.



Pause, Think and Share

Directions: *Share your ideas with others about the following questions.*

1. Why do these bridges manifest China's comprehensive development?
2. What do you think a country's prosperity depends on?

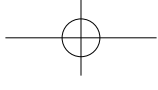
Comprehensive Reading

The Road to Heaven: The Qinghai-Xizang Railway

- [1] The lofty snow-capped Kunlun Mountains are veiled in a thin mist as the train climbs up a steep mountain pass, trudging toward Lhasa. Through the window, great expanses of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau roll into view: grasslands dotted with black yaks and prayer flags fluttering from gold-topped temples. This is definitely the “roof of the world.”
- [2] For centuries, Xizang was cut off from the outside world by its remote location, extreme climate and geographic environment. This far-flung region prevented all but the boldest travelers and explorers. On July 1st, 2006, the Qinghai-Xizang Railway was fully operational, creating a miracle in the history of railway construction worldwide. It connected Xizang to the rest of China, broke the transportation bottleneck that hindered the development of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau and ended the history of Xizang being without a railway.
- [3] The Qinghai-Xizang Railway passes some of the most spectacular high-mountains in the world. Those seeking the romance of Xizang will find the Qinghai-Xizang Railway an evocative journey that transports you to a different world, one far from the neon signs and skyscrapers of urban China. The train rolls its way through the back country and high mountains of remote Qinghai and into Xizang, snaking past glaciers, peaks, shimmering salt lakes and charming villages.

An engineering marvel

- [4] The Qinghai-Xizang Railway holds the record for the world's highest train route, reaching altitudes over 5,000 meters. The railway line, which cost US\$4.2 billion to build, is an extraordinary feat of modern engineering. Sometimes hailed as the “sky road”, the railway traverses a region known for earthquakes, low temperatures and low atmospheric pressure.
- [5] As 960 km of the line sits at 4,000 meters, the designers and engineers had to tackle three



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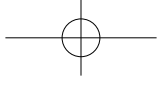
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main challenges during construction: the fragile ecosystem, the lack of oxygen and permafrost. Many foreign experts had thought that it was impossible for the Chinese to conquer these difficulties. However, a few years later, they were shocked at this man-made world wonder, and reputed it as a miracle in engineering.

- [6] Since its operation, the Qinghai-Xizang Railway has become one of the busiest railways in Asia. Millions of travelers flock to the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau to experience this great work on the snowfields. Many travelers have collected abundant information about the highest railway in the world, including how the engineers overcame the challenges of its construction, where travelers can take a train to Lhasa, how to book train tickets to Xizang, what travelers can experience along the railroad, and the impacts of the railway, etc.
- [7] To provide proper aid for the construction workers, the government built dozens of medical facilities and oxygen-making stations along the way to alleviate the effects of altitude sickness. The route was also carefully chosen to avoid destruction of vegetation and the natural habitations of wild animals, and they tried to ensure stability in permafrost regions by installing gravel embankments.

Dreams of many generations

- [8] “It is impossible to build a railway to Lhasa across the Kunlun Mountain Range”, was written by the modern railway travel expert Mr. Paul in his book *Travel around China*. In such complex geological conditions, it was extremely difficult to build roads and rail tracks on the snow land. But the Chinese government determined to construct Xizang Railway and sent a team to the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau to investigate the feasibility of constructing the railway in 1955.
- [9] In 1958, phase one of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway, from Xining to Golmud, began construction, and was completed in 1984. Limited by the economic power at the time, and the technical challenges of the plateau and frozen soil, the Golmud-Lhasa portion of the railway was forced to stop.
- [10] In July of 1994, the Party Central Committee held its third National Conference on Work in Xizang. The Ministry of Railways proposed multiple plans for constructing railways to Xizang, and recommended building the Qinghai-Xizang Railway.
- [11] In February of 2001, the Party Central Committee and the State Council approved phase two of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway, starting work on the Golmud-Lhasa portion. The railway had to go through 550 km of frozen soil, which was untouched for decades. It is the most



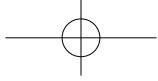
challenging construction project in the history of railway construction.

- [12] In June of 2001, the Golmud-Lhasa portion began construction on the Qinghai-Xizang Railway. On July 1st, 2006, the Qinghai-Xizang Railway was completed and the railway began operation.

The train route

- [13] Extending 1,956 km across the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, the rail journey officially starts from Xining, capital of Qinghai province, and ends in Lhasa, capital of Xizang. From start to end, the trip takes only one day (20 hours 55 minutes to be exact), and there are trains plying the same route every day. It is possible to make stops along the journey, but this is not a spontaneous hop-on/hop-off affair. You'll need to decide your route in advance and buy tickets for each leg.
- [14] The journey is a spectacular tour of the elevated highlights of Qinghai and northern Xizang: the boundless Qiangtang Prairie, the desolate, golden Gobi Desert and the wildlife-rich Kekexili Nature Reserve (where you can spot antelope and wild yak).
- [15] There are plenty of dramatic moments as the train zips past spearmint-blue Qinghai Lake, trundles alongside the sparkling white Qarhan Salt Bridge, and skirt the edges of the legendary Namtso Lake. But, without a doubt, the highlight is seeing the Tanggula Mountains covered with snow all year round.
- [16] Passing the Tanggula Glacier, you really get a sense of the altitude at which you're moving. At a soaring 5,068 meters above sea level, Tanggula is home to the world's highest railway station. It will literally take your breath away — the oxygen levels drop by a drastic 60% at this point.
- [17] Over the past decade or so, this high-altitude railway, which is the highest, longest, and fastest in the world, has transported a total of 273 million passengers and 8.42 billion tons of goods. Starting from July 1st, 2023, the Fuxing Electric Multiple Unit, with a speed of 160 kilometers per hour, officially operated on the Xining to Golmud section of the





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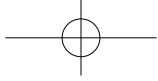
Qinghai-Xizang Railway, marking the era of high-speed trains on the Qinghai-Xizang Railway.

- [18] Thanks to the booming railway sector, Xizang is seeing an upgrade of transportation infrastructure, a better business environment, and thriving socio-economic development. These contribute to the region's high quality development and lasting stability.

(1,055 words)

Key Words and Expressions

lofty /'lɒfti/ <i>adj.</i>	(of buildings, mountains, etc.) very high and impressive (建筑物、山等) 巍峨的; 高耸的
trudge /trʌdʒ/ <i>v.</i>	to walk slowly or with heavy steps, because you are tired or carrying sth heavy (因疲劳或负重而) 步履沉重地走; 缓慢地走
yak /jæk/ <i>n.</i>	an animal of the cow family, with long horns and long hair, that lives in central Asia 牦牛
spectacular /spek'tækjələ(r)/ <i>adj.</i>	very impressive 壮观的; 壮丽的; 令人惊叹的
evocative /ɪ'vɒkətɪv/ <i>adj.</i>	making you think of or remember a strong image or feeling, in a pleasant way 引起记忆的; 唤起感情的
neon /'ni:ən/ <i>adj.</i>	霓虹的
glacier /'glæsiə(r)/ <i>n.</i>	a slowly moving mass of ice 冰川
shimmer /'ʃɪmə(r)/ <i>v.</i>	to shine with a soft light that seems to move slightly 闪烁; 发出微弱的闪光
hail /heɪl/ <i>v.</i>	to describe sb/sth as being very good or special, especially in newspapers, etc. 赞扬 (或称颂) ...为... (尤用于报章等)
traverse /trə'veɜ:s/ <i>v.</i>	to cross an area of land or water 横越; 穿过
fragile /'frædʒaɪl/ <i>adj.</i>	weak and uncertain; easily destroyed or spoilt 脆弱的; 不牢固的
permafrost /'pɜ:məfrɒst/ <i>n.</i>	a layer of soil that is permanently frozen, in very cold regions of the world 永冻土层; 永冻层
repute /rɪ'pjʊ:t/ <i>v.</i>	to look on as or consider 把...称为; 认为
habitation /,hæbrɪ'teɪʃn/ <i>n.</i>	(formal) a place where people live 住处; 聚居地
gravel /'grævl/ <i>n.</i>	small stones, often used to make the surface of paths and roads 沙砾; 砾石; 石子



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embankment /ɪmˈbæŋkmənt/ *n.*

feasibility /ˌfiːzəˈbɪlɪti/ *n.*

ply /plaɪ/ *v.*

hop-on/hop-off

spontaneous /spɒnˈteɪniəs/ *adj.*

leg /leg/ *n.*

elevated /ˈelɪveɪtɪd/ *adj.*

prairie /ˈpreəri/ *n.*

desolate /ˈdesələt/ *adj.*

antelope /ˈæntɪləʊp/ *n.*

trundle /ˈtrʌndl/ *v.*

a long artificial mound of stone or earth (公路和铁路) 路堤
the possibility that sth can be made, done, or achieved, or
is reasonable 可行性; 可能性

(of ships, buses, etc.) to travel regularly along a particular
route or between two particular places (船、公共汽车等) 定
时往来; 定期行驶

随上随下

not planned but done because you suddenly want to do it
自发的; 自然的

one part of a journey or a particular stage or portion of a
trip 一段路程; 一段旅程

higher than the area around 升高的; 高的

a wide area of flat land, covered with grass 大草原; 牧场

empty and without people, making you feel sad or frightened
荒凉的; 荒无人烟的

an African or Asian animal like a deer, that runs very fast
羚羊

to move or roll somewhere slowly and noisily (使缓慢、轰鸣
地) 移动; 滚动

hold the record for

be hailed as

flock to

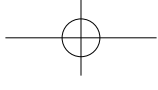
take...breath away

to have achieved the highest or best result in a particular
field or activity 保持记录

be praised or recognized as 被称作; 被誉为

to gather or move in large numbers to a place 蜂拥而至; 成
群结队地走向...

to cause sb to feel extremely amazed, astonished, or
overwhelmed 令人屏住呼吸或感到惊叹



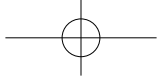
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Reading Comprehension

Directions: *The following questions are based on the passage you have just read. Answer each of them by deciding on the best choice. Try to finish this task in 10 minutes.*

1. Which of the following is the impact of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway when it was fully operational in 2006?
 - A. The boldest travelers and explorers will not be prevented from the far-flung region.
 - B. It created a miracle in the history of railway construction only in China and ended the history of Xizang being without a railway.
 - C. It connected Xizang not only to the rest of China but also to the entire world.
 - D. It broke the transportation blockage that held back the development of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau.
2. Why did many foreign experts say that it was impossible for the Chinese to build the Qinghai-Xizang Railway?
 - A. Because of the low temperatures and low atmospheric pressure.
 - B. Because of the highest altitudes of over 5,000 meters.
 - C. Because of the complex geological conditions on the snow land.
 - D. Because of the sturdy ecosystem, the lack of oxygen and permafrost.
3. What information have travelers collected to know more about the highest railway in the world according to the passage?
 - A. Where travelers can take a train to Qinghai.
 - B. How the engineers overcame the challenges of its construction.
 - C. How to book plane tickets to Xizang.
 - D. What travelers can experience arriving in Lhasa.
4. Which of the following statement is TRUE concerning the construction of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway?
 - A. The Chinese government determined to construct Xizang Railway but did not work on it because of the limit of the economic power in 1955.
 - B. The railway from Xining to Golmud was not completed in 1984 due to the limit of the economic power, and the technical challenges of the plateau and frozen soil.
 - C. In 1994, the Ministry of Railways proposed one plan for constructing railways to Xizang, and recommended building the Qinghai-Xizang Railway.
 - D. Phase two of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway, the Golmud-Lhasa portion, had to go through 550 km of frozen soil, which is the most challenging construction project in the history of railway construction.



5. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE about the train route of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway?
- A. Passing the Tanggula Glacier will take your breath away because of the breathtaking scenery.
 - B. The highlight of the route is seeing the Tanggula Mountains covered with snow all year round.
 - C. In the spectacular journey, travelers can see the boundless Qiangtang Prairie, the desolate, golden Gobi Desert and the wildlife-rich Kekexili Nature Reserve.
 - D. You can stop during the journey, but you need to decide the route in advance and purchase tickets for each stop.

Reading for Global Understanding

Directions: Fill in the blanks with NO MORE THAN three words with information from the text to grasp the structure and main idea of the text.

Outline

Part I: Introduction (Paras. 1–3)

The text begins with a vivid 1. _____ of the beautiful 2. _____ along the 3. _____, and proceeds to the 4. _____ of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway and the 5. _____.

Part II: Body (Paras. 4–17)

Subheading 1: An engineering marvel (Paras. 4–7)

- The 6. _____ overcome during the construction of the Qinghai Tibet Railway

Subheading 2: Dreams of many generations (Paras. 8–12)

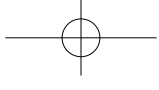
- The 7. _____ of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway

Subheading 3: The train route (Paras. 13–17)

- 8. _____ on the Qinghai-Xizang Railway

Part III: Conclusion (Para. 18)

The text summarizes the 9. _____ and 10. _____ of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway to the surrounding region.



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Language Enhancement



Directions: Scan the QR code and take a test.

Pause, Think and Share

Directions: Share your ideas with others about the following questions.

1. How has the Qinghai-Xizang Railway transformed the socio-economic landscape and accessibility of Xizang?
2. What unique ecological and cultural vistas does the Qinghai-Xizang Railway offer passengers during their journey?

Reading Skills

Explanation



Descriptive Language in Exposition

While reading, have you ever encountered the following experience? Even when the words are there, it can be tough to get the feeling from the page. The writings might have listed and presented all the facts and events clearly and logically, but you don't feel engaged. Something's missing. That something is descriptive language.

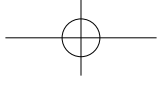
Descriptive language adds purpose, aesthetic value and emotion to a text. Instead of just saying "I like you," descriptive language makes it possible to say things like "I burn for you like the sun as it sits fixedly in the bright sky."

Without the use of descriptive language, the world of literature would be a mighty boring place. Descriptive language needn't be overly flowery or wordy, but it should be thoughtfully placed to give purpose and description to the image it is trying to create in the mind of the reader. Sometimes descriptive language is to add a poetic touch to the text, but more often than not it simply serves the purpose of cleverly describing a concept.

There are lots of different ways that descriptive language can be used:

1. Sensory language

Sensory language is used to create vivid and memorable images in the reader's mind, and help them feel what it is like to experience an event or object. The five senses



are sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing. When you come across sensory language in writing, you may create a more vivid and immersive experience in your mind or evoke an emotional response.

For example, in Paragraph 1 of “The Road to Heaven: The Qinghai-Xizang Railway”, the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau is depicted as “Through the window, great expanses of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau roll into view: grasslands **dotted** with **black** yaks and prayer flags **fluttering** from **gold-topped** temples.” The words “**dot**”, “**black**” and “**gold-topped**” provide strong visual impact and artistic appeal to the readers, while the lovely onomatopoeic word “**flutter**” captures a striking, intangible airiness and delicate swooshing with its light syllables and buoyant rhythm.

2. Specific language

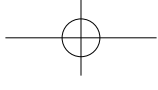
Specific language details an idea, action, sensation, event and gives clearer information than general words, evoking senses of taste, smell, hearing, sight, and touch. For example, when you read the following two sentences as “A man is walking down the street” or “A man is strolling down the street”, which one impresses you most? Of course the latter. Because the word “walk” in the former one does not give a vivid image of how the man walks. Here, “walk” is a general word while “stroll” is a specific word painting a picture for the readers. By using “strolling”, we can imagine how the man walks — he must be walking leisurely and with no apparent aim.

Still in Paragraph 1 of “The Road to Heaven: The Qinghai-Xizang Railway”, the author describes Kunlun Mountains in this way: “The lofty snow-capped Kunlun Mountains are **veiled** in a thin mist as the train climbs up a steep mountain pass, **trudging** toward Lhasa.” If “veiled” is replaced by “covered” and “trudging” by “going”, can you still get the picturesque scene easily?

3. Figurative language

Figurative language is broadly defined as using words to paint a picture in the reader’s mind. Specific uses of figurative language include similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, etc. Figurative language helps make writing more engaging and amusing. The reader has to think about the words a little more, as if deciphering a riddle, which means they’re actively participating. Another use of figurative language is to help simplify complex ideas. Scientists might use it to explain the more complicated aspects of their research that a general reader might not understand.

In Paragraph 4 of the passage, the railway is described as the “**sky road**” in the following sentence: “Sometimes hailed **as** the ‘**sky road**’, the railway traverses a region known for earthquakes, low temperatures and low atmospheric pressure.” Here, the



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author uses simile, a figure of speech that directly compares two things using the connecting words “like” or “as”. By this comparison, the readers can easily understand the complex conditions in this region.

Practice

Directions: *Can you find more descriptions in the passage and figure out how the author developed them to add color to the expository text?*

Reflection

- The text is an expository writing giving us an introduction of the first railroad to Xizang and the world’s highest railway. By reading the text, we can get an amount of information that an expository writing normally conveys, including the construction history of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway, the numerous difficulties overcome during the construction and the travel experience on the road.
- However, the text features vivid description of the beautiful scenery along the Qinghai-Xizang Railway. The author uses the sensory means, specific language and figures of speech to depict a marvelous picture for us. With extraordinary picturesque view along the route, the Qinghai-Xizang Railway is most impressive for the astonishing engineering reputation in China and overseas.
- In the following paragraphs of the passage, we can find more examples:
 - Para. 3 The Qinghai-Xizang Railway passes some of the most **spectacular** high-mountains in the world. Those seeking the **romance** of Xizang will find the Qinghai-Xizang Railway an **evocative** journey that transports you to a **different** world, one far from the neon signs and skyscrapers of urban China. The train **rolls** its way through the back country and high mountains of remote Qinghai and into Xizang, **snaking** past glaciers, peaks, **shimmering** salt lakes and **charming** villages.
 - Para. 14 The journey is a **spectacular** tour of the **elevated** highlights of Qinghai and northern Xizang: the **boundless** Qiangtang Prairie, the **desolate, golden** Gobi Desert and the **wildlife-rich** Kekexili Nature Reserve (where you can spot antelope and wild yak).
 - Para. 15 There are plenty of **dramatic** moments as the train **zips** past **spearmint-blue** Qinghai Lake, **trundles** alongside the **sparkling** white Qarhan Salt Bridge, and **skirt** the edges of the **legendary** Namtso Lake. But, without a doubt, the highlight is seeing the Tanggula Mountains covered with snow all year round.



Translation

Directions: *Translate the following paragraph into English.*

北斗导航卫星系统 (The Beidou Navigation Satellite System) 是中国建设和运营的一个项目, 是国家安全和经济社会发展战略的组成部分。经过多年的发展, 它已成为中国基础设施的一个重要新元素, 是我国改革开放以来科技创新的重大成果, 在任何天气下都能为全球用户提供高精度、全天候的定位、导航和授时服务。北斗导航卫星系统是“中国三大著名商标”之一, 已成为继高铁、核电之后又一张进入国际舞台的中国名片。

Unit project

In this unit, the first passage displays the nation's significant strides in technological and industrial development by unveiling China's domestically manufactured COMAC C919 aircraft. In Reading for Details, China's comprehensive development has been manifested by various bridge constructions. In Comprehensive Reading, the author presents an engineering marvel of China and the world — the Qinghai-Xizang Railway to us. All of these demonstrate China's enormous strength and development potential in different aspects.

- As millennial college students, we shoulder the responsibility to show China's development achievements to the world. Work in groups to make an English documentary introducing China's great achievements in recent years. You can use one or two examples of this unit to support your documentary.

The following are some key points to guide your project:

1. Students choose one or two topics from the passages that resonate with them the most for their documentary.
2. Students form groups based on their chosen topics. Each group conducts in-depth

research using reliable sources in English to gather information, statistics, and visuals related to their topic.

3. Collaboratively storyboard the documentary, deciding on visual elements such as footage, animations, or interviews that best complement the narrative. Using video editing software, each group compiles their footage, voiceovers, and visuals into a cohesive documentary.
4. Each group presents their documentary in front of the class, followed by a Q&A session where classmates and the instructor can ask questions and provide feedback.

Assessing and Reflecting

Assess your unit learning according to the following assessment rubrics. Go over each question and tick an answer on a scale from 1 to 5 where 3 means “Average”, 1 means “Way below average”, and 5 means “Way above average.”

Category	Focus	Rating				
		1	2	3	4	5
Theme knowledge	I have accumulated a lot of new knowledge about the technological innovations and engineering marvels of China.					
Reading skill	I have developed the skill of applying descriptive language in expository writing.					
Words and expressions	I have accumulated words and expressions related to the marvels of China’s development.					
Translation	I can translate sentences about the marvels of China’s development.					
Reading to communicate	I can introduce to the world about the marvels of China’s development.					

Reflect on what you have gone through, what you have learned, and what adjustments you may need to make in future learning.