

# English Newspaper Reading

## 热点聚焦

### The horse-head bronze statue comes back home



外教带你读

#### 马首铜像终归故土

2020年12月,国家文物局正式将十二生肖马首铜像划拨入北京圆明园管理处收藏。至此,这尊珍贵铜像终于结束百年流离,正式归家,成为第一件回归圆明园的流失海外重要文物。



In December 2020, the famous horse-head bronze statue finally came back home to Yuanmingyuan, or the Old Summer Palace. It was one of 12 Chinese zodiac signs adorning a water-clock fountain (装饰水力钟喷泉的十二生肖). They were stolen by invading Anglo-French forces (英法联军) in 1860.

It was bought by Macao-based collector Stanley Ho in 2007 and was **donated**<sup>1</sup> to the National Cultural Heritage Administration (国家文物局) in November 2019. The horse head is the first of the 12 animal-head statues to be returned to Yuanmingyuan. And it is also the first important cultural relic (文物) from the Old Summer Palace to be returned to and housed at its **original**<sup>1</sup> site after being repatriated from overseas (从海外回归).

"The loss and return of this object tells us that the

**destiny**<sup>2</sup> of cultural relics is closely connected with (紧密相连) that of the nation," said Liu Yuzhu, director of the National Cultural Heritage Administration. "It's no more a private royal collection (私人皇家收藏), but heritage shared by all people."

Seven of the 12 statues have so far been returned to China. The other six are also in Beijing, at the National Museum of China and the Poly Art Museum.

1. How long has the horse-head bronze statue stayed overseas before it was returned to China?

2. What does the loss and return of the horse-head bronze statue tell us?

Level ★★★ Words 185 Time 5'18" (Jane)

## 主题探究

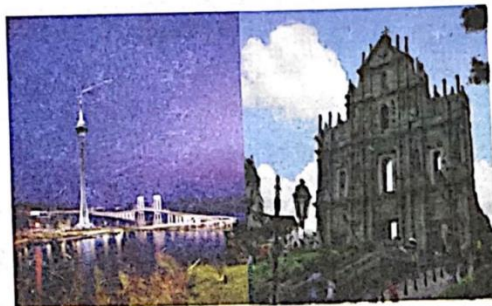
### Macao welcomes you



外教带你读

#### 澳门欢迎你

历史变迁在澳门这片土地上留下了什么痕迹? 回归后的澳门又有怎样的新变化?



2021 marked the 22nd anniversary (周年) of Macao's return to the motherland. With only 29 km<sup>2</sup> of land area, Macao might be small, but it's **certainly**<sup>1</sup> not short of things to see or to do.

The Ruins of Saint Paul's (圣保罗教堂遗址) is one of the places that you shouldn't miss. Done in 1580, the St Paul's and buildings nearby bring Western and Eastern styles together. It was also the largest Catholic church<sup>2</sup> of its time in East Asia.

If you'd like something exciting, try the sky jump (蹦极) in Macao Tower, one of Macao's landmarks. The 338-metre-tall Tower was finished on the 2nd anniversary of Macao's return to China, and it offers amazing views across Macao and the South China Sea.

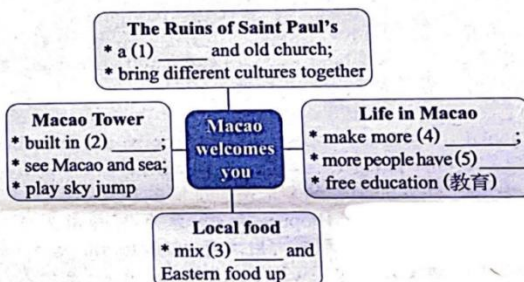
Feel like to try some local food? Macao won't let you down. Because of its history, Macao's food shows the perfect mixture of Western and Eastern food cultures. You can taste the Portuguese egg tart (葡式蛋挞) and pork chop bun, which is the Macanese style hamburger.

Life in Macao is much better. After its return to China in 1999, the city's GDP grew from 4.73 billion<sup>3</sup> to

44.03 billion pataca (澳门币), and the number of people without jobs went down from 6.3% to 1.8%. Now students in Macao go to school for free from kindergarten to high school.

What other features does Macao have? Come and find them by yourself!

根据文章内容完成思维导图。



Level ★★★ Words 253 Time 6'45" (Barry)



## 主题探究

# Nanjing honoured "City of Literature"



## 南京入选“世界文学之都”

六朝古都南京拥有近两千年的文学脉络,见证了众多名家与名著的诞生。时至今日,各色书店、文学社代表的“崇文”精神仍是南京的一张名片。2019年10月,南京这座富有文学腔调的城市获封联合国教科文组织创意城市网络“文学之都”。



On 30 October, 2019, came the news from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) that Nanjing became China's first Creative City in the category of Literature. Nanjing, together with 10 other cities around the world, takes the City of Literature total to 39.

### Why Nanjing?

Nanjing's literary tradition<sup>1</sup> goes back to 1,800 years ago. As the capital city of China during six dynasties in history, it saw many great works and great men. It is the birthplace of the *Yongle Encyclopedia* (《永乐大典》), the largest paper encyclopedia in the world. And it is also the growth<sup>2</sup> place of Cao Xueqin, who wrote *A Dream of Red Mansions*, one of the four great classical Chinese novels. Later on, famous writers like Lu Xun and Ba Jin started their career<sup>3</sup> of literature in Nanjing.

Today, Nanjing is still a book-loving city.

Bookstores are everywhere, and each has its own style. Nanjing Librairie Avant-Garde was seen as one of the world's top ten beautiful bookstores by BBC. This city is also home to one of China's largest publishing companies (出版社), Phoenix Group. Besides, life in Nanjing gives ideas to writers like Bi Feiyu and Gerard Greverand.

The literary blood over 1,800 years is forever in Nanjing's body. She was, she is, and she will be a city of literature.

◆ 1. What does the underlined part probably mean in Chinese?

◆ 2. Why is Nanjing able to become a Creative City according to the passage?

Level ★★ Words 226 Time 6'03"  
(Lillian)