

B2 全场景覆盖表达  
口语主题陈述—历史类

# KEY VOCABULARY

We divide time up in many ways, for example:

- **seconds**
- **minutes** (60 seconds = 1 minute)
- **hours** (60 minutes = 1 hour)
- **days** (24 hours = 1 day)
- **months** (28–31 days = 1 month)
- **years** (12 months = 1 year)
- **decades** (1 decade = 10 years)
- **centuries** (1 century = 100 years)

# KEY VOCABULARY

Two common terms for dividing up most of human history.

- Anno Domini (AD)
- Before Christ/Before Common Era (BC)

These are terms used to label or number years in the Gregorian calendar (公历), which is the calendar used in America and most of Europe. The term Anno Domini is Latin and translates in English to ‘In the year of the Lord.’ These terms are used to talk about eras (era = a long period of time) in human history. These two terms are based on the year of the birth of Jesus Christ (who is considered the incarnation (化身) of the “the Lord” in Christianity).

AD is used for counting years from the start of this current era in which we live. BC is used for counting years before the start of the current era. The years in the BC era are counted backwards from the way in which the years are counted in the AD era. There is no year zero in this system, so the year AD 1 immediately follows the year 1 BC. Using this system we are now in the year 2014 AD.

# KEY VOCABULARY

Periods of time and eras in the Western world

- **The Middle Ages:** This period of time took place in Europe from the 5th - 15th century; this is the name for a long period of time that connects what is considered 'ancient times' and 'modern times.' It is in the middle of ancient times and modern times, so it is called the "middle" ages.
- **The Renaissance:** This period of time took place in parts of Europe from 1300 - 1600; this time was characterized by a cultural movement that revolved around learning about and from the past.
- **The Age of Discovery (The Age of Exploration):** This period of time took place in Europe (and highly influenced other parts of the world) from 1400 - 1700; this was a time of exploration when Europeans travelled to new lands and "discovered" the Americas.

## KEY VOCABULARY

- **The Elizabethan Period:** This period of time took place in the United Kingdom from 1558 - 1603; this was the period of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. This time is often thought of as the “golden age” or time of great progress in English history.
- **The Age of Enlightenment:** This period of time took place in Europe in the 18th century; it is an often talked about cultural movement in Europe, which emphasized reason and individualism over traditions.
- **The Industrial Revolution:** This period of time took place in Europe, the United States, and other areas around the world in the 18th and 19th centuries; this was the era in which manufacturing was introduced and became a very large force in society.

## KEY VOCABULARY

- **The Victorian Era:** This period of time took place in the United Kingdom from 1837 - 1901; this was the period of the reign of Queen Victoria and was known for being a time of peace, prosperity, and British self-confidence and pride.
- **The Progressive Era:** This period of time took place in the United States from the 1890s - 1920s; this was a period of social activism and political reform during the terms of three progressive American Presidents: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson.
- **The Information Age (or Computer Age or Digital Age):** This is now! This is the name many people use for the era that we are currently living in, in which technology has become so important and prevalent in our everyday lives and work.

# 历史类常见问题

- Do you like (to learn about) history?
- Yes, I am a big fan of reading historical stories. When I was a little boy, I always took some historical books from my father' s bookshelf and read the historical events. I feel that history not only can cultivate my mental development, but also give me a better picture of human society.
- Yes, I find it quite interesting. To be honest, I have a bad memory and so I don' t really remember that much. However, that' s ok because I can just learn it again and it feels new to me!



- What historical event do you find most interesting?
- Personally I am fond of the Battle of Red Cliffs happened in the early period of Three Kingdoms, which was a decisive battle at the end of the Han Dynasty. It was also the typical battle in Chinese history renowned for the fewer and weaker defeating the more and stronger.

- Do you think history is important?
- Yes, the main factor is that like our native language, history forms a cultural identity and keeps a unique record of country, and also we can learn the experiences from history to correct our current actions.
- Yes, history is essential, because our present, as well as the future, is depending on the events which were happening in the past. So if we know our history or past, then we can think about our present and can plan the future very well.

- Do you like to watch programs on TV about history?
- Yes, I enjoy watching some documentaries about history on TV because I can see a lot of video materials that can not be seen in the textbooks. I always watch them at home during my time off with my sister to learn something about history.

- Do you think you can really learn history from films and TV programs?
- I don't feel that watching the current TV series can make you be aware of the history, you know, TV programs are more engaging than books, however the true historical events in most of the TV series have been distorted by the producers to cater for the audience. It's really shame as the young people will misunderstand the history by these irresponsible productions.

- Do you think the internet is a good place to learn about history?
- Yes. History is full of debates so you can find both of the two sides of opinion online which will help you be aware of the true facts and think critically. I always google some engaging historical materials about the Song Dynasty, for example, to know about the truth.

- Can you name a person from history who you would like to learn more about? Why would you like to learn more about him/her?
- The people I' d like to learn about is Wu Cheng' en, the author of A Journey to the West. He combined the folk tales and his own imagination to write the great fairy story in the 16th century. I want to know about his personality as much as possible and I believe that his imagination is what is lack of nowadays.

- How do students in your country study history?
- In high school - well most high schools - history is a compulsory subject. It is mainly focused on significant periods and events in Chinese history, like dynasties or historical events. *Unfortunately*, studying history here often revolves around memorizing names and dates, so it can be a little tedious and dry.

- When was the last time you read a book about history?
- Well, last month I read a book about Napoleon Bonaparte titled Napoleon: A life , written by Andrew Roberts which is a biography of this great soldier as well as statesman.



- Why don't people like to study history?
- I think there are two main factors. First off, there is a problem with the teaching methodology. Students are simply expected to rote-learn - to learn by heart - a huge pile of names and dates and just spit these out in a test. Second, I think many people just lack an interest in the past. They don't think it is relevant to their lives now, so they simply don't care.

- What do you think we can learn by studying events of the past?
- I think that it is really important to learn about the past because we can use that to avoid future mistakes. For example, World War II was such a devastating event that people have tried to avoid anything similar for the past seventy-five years. It is only by remembering those horrific moments that we can make the difficult decisions necessary to avoid repeating them. As soon as people forget the past, they blindly start to follow the same roads that people took and history will repeat itself.

- How were you taught history when you were at school?
- I mostly learned about our national and many international historical events from our academic books, journals and TV programs. Teachers used to teach us the history books we had in our syllabus. They first emphasized on the history that were part of our class lessons and some of the teachers were really good as they explained the history in details. This covered mostly the national history. Sometimes the school arranged trips to national historical places as part of our lessons and the local tour guides told us a lot about the historical significance of such places. We also learned from the story our teachers told us about numerous historical events especially about our freedom fight and Second World War. Sometimes the teachers inspired us to read history books and gave us assignment on a particular historical event and we had to complete our assignment as part of our academic exams. This was an excellent way to learn more about the history

- Is the history useful for the coming generations? Why?
- If people are interested in it, then it can be useful, yes. You can learn how the world was in the past, which countries had wars with each other and how and why cities developed where they did... and many other interesting things. Without history we wouldn't have any sense of belonging to a place as people.
- Maybe people many years in the future will look back at us in the 21st century and be amazed at the things we did and how we lived. They'll probably have more than just buildings to study... they'll be able to see cars, TVs and all the other things which make up life for us at the moment...so yes it could be useful for them as a way to understand what was happening in the world.

- Why do people like to visit historical places?
- Well, we can't go to future places, and the present is familiar and maybe uninteresting, so it makes sense that people want a chance to get a small window into what life was like in the past. There's a big difference between reading about a historic location in a book and then actually experiencing the atmosphere of the place firsthand.

- Are all historical buildings well maintained and managed?
- I think buildings are preserved for their historical significance and their economic value. By that I mean, if a place generates a lot of tourism, then there will be more investment in it so that it can continue to be profitable in the future. Other places that were the location of a major event are also looked after because of their cultural importance. However, many other historical places are left to fall into disrepair and are ignored until they have to be demolished.

- Who should pay for the maintenance of historical buildings and objects?
- From my perspective, it seems that the preservation of historical buildings, monuments, and artifacts should be the responsibility of everyone. In other words, their upkeep should be funded from tax revenue and also from visitors paying a small entrance fee to view them.

- Do you think historical museums should be opened for free?
- Well, it is of great importance for people, especially young people to learn history of their own country. Historical museums, where valuable traditions are preserved and these are ideal places for people to cherish the past. (Reason) I think it's better to reduce the entrance fee to historical museums because they need a certain amount of money to be operated. (Example) Local officers should have special offers for those when they come to museums as a way of encouraging people to learn history. In addition, it is a good idea that more historical shows TV are produced to make history an important part in people's life.

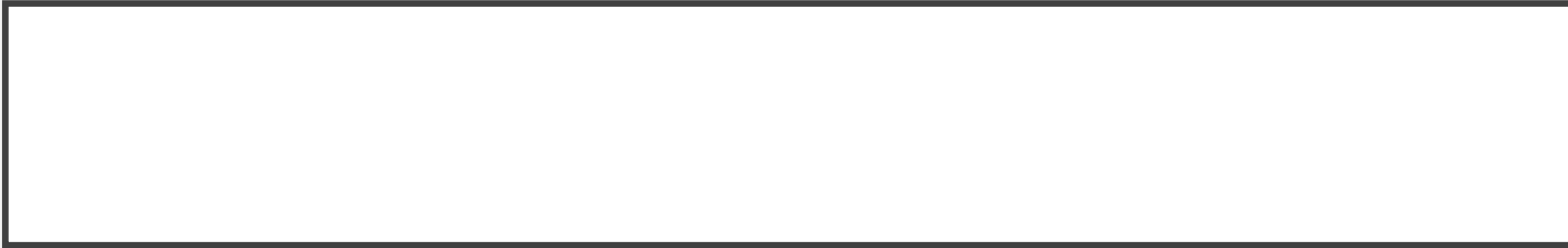


- What qualities do most historical figures share in common?
- The characteristics that are similar among many famous historical people are dedication and achievement. These individuals were able to accomplish significant tasks in their lifetimes by never giving up on their beliefs and eventually they were recognized by many people across time, such people include Abraham Lincoln and St. Teresa.

- Why is it important for society to immortalize some people in history?
- It is essential to commemorate certain people in history so that we learn of their achievements and adopt a moral compass for humanity. In this way, we can mature to be both better individuals and a better society. Abraham Lincoln is commemorated because of his belief in equality and abolishing slave labor.

- Is all information about historical figures accurate, why or why not?
- I definitely don't believe that all of the historical data about famous people in the past is accurate because it is manipulated throughout time by various interested parties. Some political groups may make an individual out to be a hero like the way the SOVIETS idealized Stalin, however, later on, the same individual may be depicted as a villain, such as the liberal Russians who believe that Stalin caused much suffering for citizens.

# 历史类口语主题陈述



Describe a historic building that you visited.

You should say:

- where it was
- what people do(or, were doing) there
- why you went there
- and explain how you felt about this building

- Well, I'd like to talk about the Siheyuan in Beijing, which is the product of 3000 years of accumulated cultural wisdom and building practices. An average Siheyuan is situated in the north and faces south, and usually has its main gate located near the southeast corner of the courtyard with a screen wall just inside, maintaining the privacy of the residence. The courtyard is square, vast and of a suitable size. It contains flowers and is set up with rocks, providing an ideal space for outdoor life.
- In the past, most Beijingers used to live in these courtyard buildings. Just from the size and style, you would be able to tell whether a courtyard house belonged to an average family or a powerful and rich one. But nowadays, living in a courtyard building is definitely a kind of a social status symbol in Beijing because the existing Siheyuan is really scarce and pricey.
- The Siheyuan in Beijing attracts floods of tourists every day around the world, including me, to experience the unparalleled creation that was left behind by ancient Chinese craftsmen and its unique cultural treasure. Every time I bumped into some Siheyuan, I particularly adored the roof, the big wooden gate and the traditional Chinese ornaments. In addition, there are always large extended families living there together which normally made me feel warm.

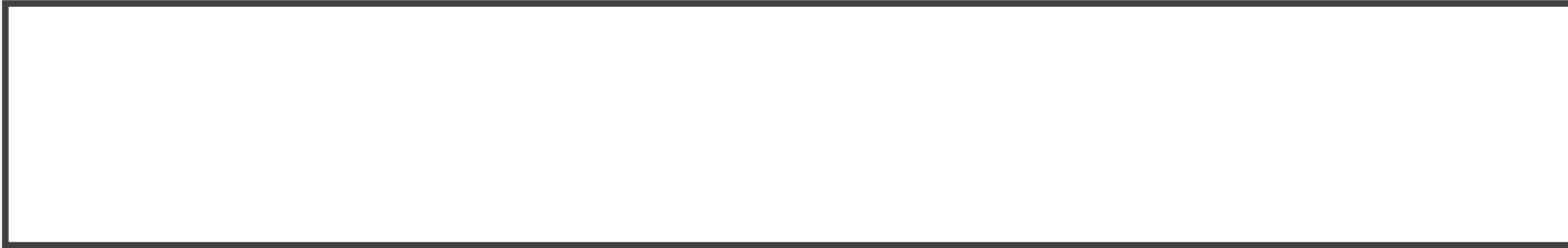
Describe a historical city you have been to.

You should say:

- what the city was
- when you went to the city
- what you did there
- and explain why you think it was a historical city.

- Let me tell you about a historic city named Dunhuang, which was a major stop on the Silk Road hundreds and thousands of years ago. Dunhuang was situated in the Gansu Province in northwest China, and as the controller of the narrow Hexi Corridor, it was the main entrance into China for Western traders.
- I went there several months ago to see the numerous historical relics, especially the famous Mogao Grottoes which is filled with Buddha statues. I was really inspired by the 750 caves which were all constructed thousands of years ago and were all filled with different types of art depicting Buddhas, Apsaras and daily life.
- The city was actually founded by Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty two thousand years ago, and the name “Dunhuang”, which was named by Emperor Wudi, indicated that he hoped this place would be flourishing and prosperous. Consequently, in the following ancient time, Dunhuang was proved to be both the trade center between China and its western neighbors and the most westerly frontier military garrison in China, with Yangguan Pass and Yumenguan Pass standing there. I learned many poems when I was in school depicting there by many famous poets, like Wang Zhihuan, Wang Wei and Cen Cang.



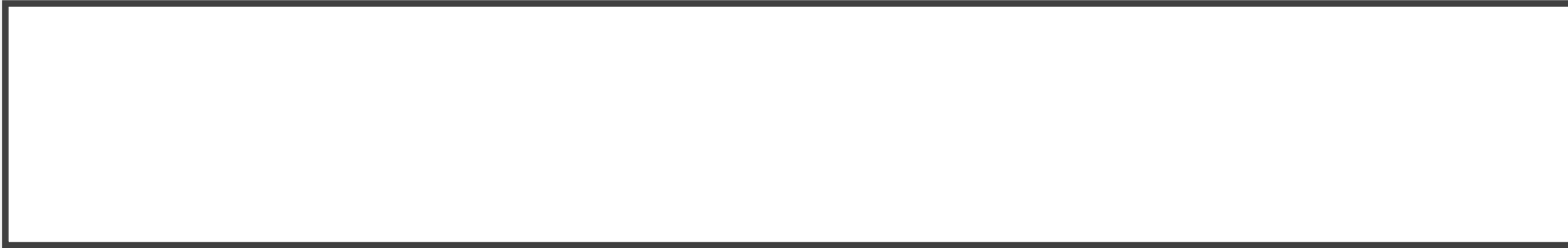


Describe a historical person that you are interested.

You should say:

- who he/she is
- what he/she did
- when you first knew him or her
- and why you are interested in him/her

- The United States of America is a land of historical events. Besides, the country is also famous for some of its heroic sons. Abraham Lincoln is one of them. I am really glad that I got the opportunity to talk about him for the next few minutes.
- I knew about Lincoln from the history class when I was in high school . Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the USA. During his reign, the situations were unusual. The country went under some serious critical moments and the Civil War was one of them. Besides, there were some political and constitutional crises as well. But Lincoln controlled the situations in an efficient manner. It is Abraham Lincoln who abolished the slavery. Before the abolition of this system, racism was at its peak. Lincoln also did some other notable activities. He is the man who also made the federal government system stronger. The modern economy actually started its journey with the association of this President. In fact, many of the facilities we are enjoying today are the gift of this smart man.
- Yes, I like him much. He is a historical figure in the history of the USA. He served the country as a great guardian and wanted to improve the existing norms and rules. Accordingly, a good number of changes took place in the country and we are bearing the legacy in the present days. It is really a matter of courage indeed to rule a nation during a bloody war and provide the right directives, working amid internal crisis and more. He also supervised and set strategies during the war so that the losses are minimal. All of his attempts were humane and he dreamt of a modern America. He emancipated the slavery in the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution for the USA. In fact, this the greatest tasks he has ever done and for this reason, a majority of the US citizens like me hail him.

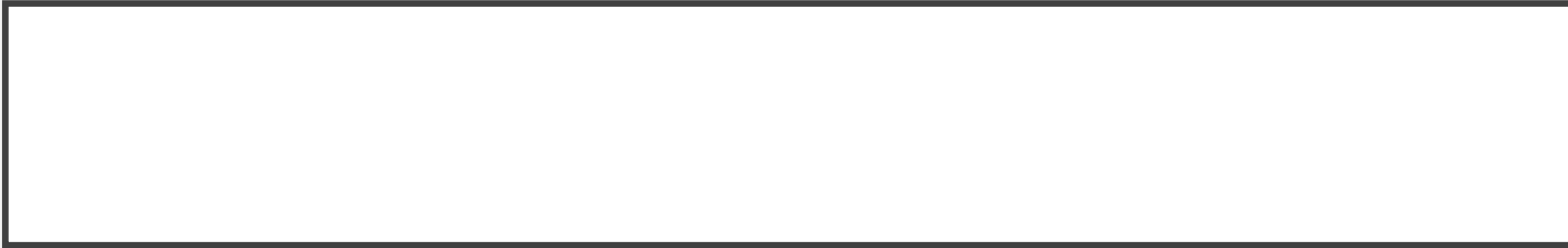


Describe a historical period that you are interested in

You should say:

- what the historical period is
- how you know it
- what happened during that period
- and say why you find it interesting

- I am really interested in the 1800s and specifically I find the history of Asia really fascinating from this time. I have read a little of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean history and I also know some things about the European colonial powers and their territories in Asia.
- This period went on throughout most of the 1800s and it encompasses many places and events, but I suppose what really fascinates me in particular are places like Southeast Asia, which were taken over by the French. I really want to know about how this happened and what people thought about it, as well as how these cultures fused together or clashed.
- I have been interested in this since I first visited Southeast Asia about fifteen years ago. I found that the place was really captivating and I naturally began to wonder about its past. When I was young, I learned a lot about my own country's history, as well as neighboring nations, and so I wanted to know what people thought about or how they acted in this part of the world long ago.
- I also really wanted to learn about the environment there because now it has been totally changed by globalization. The jungles have been cut down, the animals have been killed, and the landscape has been permanently altered. Given how much natural beauty still exists, I could only wonder what it was like prior to the events of the past two hundred years, which have brought industrial and information era technologies.
- Overall, I know little about this period in this part of the world and so I would love to learn more. I feel that it would be a rewarding experience and help me better understand a part of the world that is dear to my heart.



- Some people say history is one of the most important school subjects. Other people think that, in today's world, subjects like science and technology are more important than history.
- Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.

- For as long as there have been schools, people have debated what should be taught in them. Nowadays, with economic troubles creating additional pressure for people, there is a call for school curriculums to include more practical subjects and less of the arts and humanities. This essay will look at both sides of the argument and conclude that subjects like history should continue to be taught.
- In the modern era, people often clamor for changes to school curriculums and the range of subjects is continuously changing according to social demands. People now ask that their children are taught practical subjects that can help them in their lives, and this is a very reasonable request. In the twenty-first century, science and technology are booming fields and so these areas are important for young people to study in order that they may one day contribute and get a good job.
- However, to include these subjects at the expense of traditional ones like history is misguided. History is important for a number of reasons. Perhaps one of the most overlooked aspects of studying history is that it teaches critical thinking that many people simply do not learn elsewhere in life. It is clear that people who have studied history are able to discern what is and isn't true far more easily than others. By critically assessing historical sources, they may seem to be learning an arcane skill, but in fact they are learning something that is important in life. Particularly in an era of social media and "fake news," being able to pick apart truth and lies is increasingly important.
- In conclusion, history may seem less important than more practical subjects, but the underlying skills taught in this subject are very useful for people in the modern world.