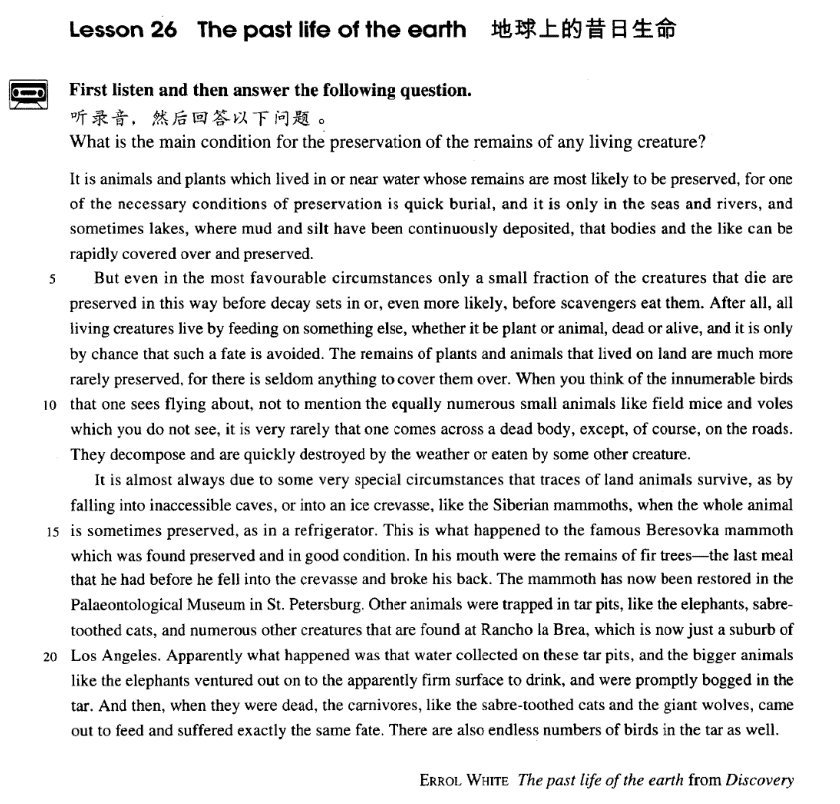
Book



课文

It is animals and plants which lived in or near water whose remains are most likely to be preserved, for one of the necessary conditions of preservation is quick burial, and it is only in the seas and rivers, and sometimes lakes, where mud and silt have been continuously deposited, that bodies and the like can be rapidly covered over and preserved.

只有生活在水中或水边的动植物尸体最有可能被保存下来，因为保存的必要条件之一是迅速掩埋，所以只有在泥沙不停淤积的海洋和江河里，有时在湖泊里，尸体之类的东西才能被迅速地覆盖而保存下来。

But even in the most favourable circumstances only a small fraction of the creatures that die are preserved in this way before decay sets in or, even more likely, before scavengers eat them.

即使是在最有利的环境中，死去的生物中也只有一小部分能在开始腐烂前，或更可能在被食腐动物吃掉之前，被这样保存下来。

After all, all living creatures live by feeding on something else, whether it be plant or animal, dead or alive, and it is only by chance that such a fate is avoided.

因为一切生物都是靠吃别的东西来活命的，不管这种东西是植物还是动物，死的还是活的因此，生物偶尔才能避免被吃掉的命运。

The remains of plants and animals that lived on land are much more rarely preserved, for there is seldom anything to cover them over.

曾在陆地上生活过的动植物的遗体被保存下来的更为罕见，因为陆地上几乎没有什么东西覆盖它们。

When you think of the innumerable birds that one sees flying about, not to mention the equally numerous small animals like field mice and voles which you do not see, it is very rarely that one comes across a dead body, except, of course, on the roads.

你可以想象出天上有看得见的飞来飞去、数不清的鸟，地上有不显眼的无数的老鼠和田鼠之类的小动物，但是，除非在路上，很少有人遇到这些动物的尸体，

They decompose and are quickly destroyed by the weather or eaten by some other creature.

因为它们腐败之后很快就被风化掉，或被别的动物吃掉了。

It is almost always due to some very special circumstances that traces of land animals survive, as by falling into inaccessible caves, or into an ice crevasse, like the Siberian mammoths, when the whole animal is sometimes preserved, as in a refrigerator.

几乎总是由于某些特殊的条件，陆地动物的遗体才被存下来，如掉进难以到达的洞穴，或掉进冰河裂缝里，或者像西伯利亚长毛象那样掉进冰窟中，有时整个动物像被放在冰箱里一样被保存下来。

This is what happened to the famous Beresovka mammoth which was found preserved and in good condition.

著名的那林索夫卡长毛象就是这样被保存下来的，而且保存得很好。

In his mouth were the remains of fir trees -- the last meal that he had before he fell into the crevasse and broke his back.

它嘴里还留着冷杉 -- 它掉进冰河裂隙折断脊椎柱之前的最后一顿饭。

The mammoth has now been restored in the Palaeontological Museum in St. Petersburg.

这头长毛象已被修复，现存于圣彼得堡古生物学博物馆。

Other animals were trapped in tar pits, like the elephants, sabre-toothed cats, and numerous other creatures that are found at Rancho la Brea, which is now just a suburb of Los Angeles.

有的动物掉进天然沥青坑里被保存了下来，如在兰桥·拉·布里——现在是洛杉矶的郊区发现的大象、剑齿虎和许多其他动物。

Apparently what happened was that water collected on these tar pits and the bigger animals like the elephants ventured out on to the apparently firm surface to drink, and were promptly bogged in the tar.

显然，事情的经过是这样：沥青坑里积存了水，大象那样的大动物冒险到似乎坚固的水面上去饮水，立即掉进了沥青坑。

And then, when they were dead, the carnivores, like the sabretoothed cats and the giant wolves, came out to feed and suffered exactly the same fate.

大象死后，一些食肉动物，如剑齿虎和大灰狼就来吃大象，结果遭到了同样的命运。

There are also endless numbers of birds in the tar as well.

沥青坑里还有无数只鸟的尸体。

词汇讲解

### preservation

* **preservation** [7prezə'veɪʃn] n. 保护，保存

**preservation** n. [U] **英文解释：**when sth. is kept in its original state or in good condition 保护，保存

* building / environmental / food **preservation**

**preservation of …** …的保护

* the **preservation of** our cultural heritage

**【形近词辨析】**

**conservation** n. **含义**1. [U] the protection of natural things such as animals, plants, forests etc. 保护（动植物，自然环境等）

* wildlife **conservation**
* **conservation** of the countryside

**conservation** n. **含义**2. [U] when you prevent sth. from being lost or wasted 保存

* energy **conservation**

**reservation** n. **含义**1. [C] an arrangement for a seat on a plane or train, a room in a hotel, etc. to be kept for you 预定

* I'll call the restaurant and make a **reservation**.

**reservation** n. **含义**2. [C, U] a feeling of doubt about a plan or an idea 保留意见

* I **have serious reservations about** his ability to do the job.
* **6级真题：**
* The old building is in a good state of \_\_\_B\_\_\_ except for the wooden floors.*(CET6)*

(A) observation

(B) preservation

(C) conservation

(D) reservation

### scavenger

* **scavenger** ['skævɪndʒə(r)] n. 食腐动物scavenger

**【扩展】**表达“动物种类”：

**vertebrate**            n. 脊椎动物

**invertebrate**      n. 无脊椎动物

**mammal**      n.  哺乳动物

**primate**        n. 灵长类动物

**rodent**            n. 啮齿类动物

**scavenger**  n.  食腐动物

**marsupial** n. 有袋类动物

**crustacean**          n.  甲壳类动物

**biped**               n. 两足动物

**quadruped**           n.  四足动物

**prey**                  n. 被捕食者，猎物

**predator**      n. 捕食者

### decompose

* **decompose** [7di:kəm'pəʊz] v. 腐烂

**decompose** v. **英文解释：**to decay or make sth. decay 腐烂

* Fallen leaves gradually **decompose**.
* The fertilizer releases nutrients gradually as bacteria **decompose** it.

**【近义词】**表达“**腐烂**”

**rot** / **decay**

* Too much candy will **rot** your teeth / make your teeth **rot**.
* Too much candy will **decay** your teeth / make your teeth **decay**.
* civilization is born, it culminates, and it **decays**（衰落）.

**【词根】**

**“-pos”**= 放置

**impose**  vt. 强加；征税；以…欺骗；vi. 利用；欺骗；施加影响

**expose** vt. 揭露，揭发；使曝光；显示

**propose** v. 建议；打算，计划；求婚

**oppose**  v. 反对；对抗，抗争

**dispose**  v. 处理；安排

**interpose**      vt. 提出（异议等）；使插入；使干涉；vi. 干预；插入；调停

**depose**  v. 免职；作证；废黜

**compose**       v. 组成；作曲；排字

**decompose**  v. 分解；腐烂

**transpose**     v. 调换；移项；颠倒顺序

**juxtapose** v. 将……并列

### inaccessible

* **inaccessible** [7ɪnək'sesəbl] adj. 难以到达的，无法到达的

**inaccessible** adj. **英文解释：**difficult or impossible to reach 难以到达的，无法到达的

* The country consists mainly of dense jungles and **inaccessible** mountain ranges.
* The bathroom is situated at the top of a flight of stairs, making it **inaccessible *to***the disabled.
* In this much-travelled world, there are still thousands of places which are **inaccessible *to***tourists.

**【反义词】**

**accessible** adj.可到达的；可接近的；可进入的；可使用的；可见到的

* The village is isolated and **accessible** only by helicopter.
* All parts of the museum are **accessible** ***to***wheelchairs.

**【同根词】**

**access** n. **含义**1. （接近或进入某地的）方法，通道access to …

* The only **access** to the farmhouse is across the fields.

**access** n. **含义**2. （使用某物或接近某人的）机会或权利

**have access to …** 有机会或权利…

* Students must **have access to** a good library.
* Only high officials **have access to** the president.

### paleontological

* **palaeontological /** **paleontological** [pælɪɒntə'lɒdʒɪkəl] adj. 古生物学的
* **Paleontological** Museum
* International **Paleontological** Association

**【同根词】**

**palaeontology** / **paleontology** n. **英文解释：**the study of fossils as a way of getting information about the history of life on Earth and the structure of rocks 古生物学

**palaeontologist** / **paleontologist** n. 古生物学家

**【词根】**

**palaeontology** "**paleo**"=(ancient)+ "**onto**"=(being)+ "**logy**" = (= study)

**paleobotany** n. 古植物学

**paleoanthropology** n. 古人类学

**paleolithic** / **Paleolithic** adj. 旧石器时代的

"**paleo**"=(ancient)+ "**lith**"=( stone) + "**lith**" +"**ic**"=(形容词后缀)

* the **Paleolithic** Age
* a **Paleolithic** axe

**neolithic** / **Neolithic** adj. 新石器时代的

"**neo**"=(new)+ "**lith**"=( stone) + "**lith**" +"**ic**"=(形容词后缀)

* the **Neolithic** Age
* **Neolithic** tools

### venture

* **venture** ['ventʃə(r)] v. 冒险去某地

**venture** v. **英文解释：**to go somewhere that could be dangerous 冒险去某地

* When darkness fell, he would **venture** out.
* She paused before **venturing** up the steps to the door.

**【词根】**

**vent** / **ven** = **come**

("**ad**"=to)

**advent** n. 基督降临节；（重要人物、事件等的）来临，到来

**adventure** n. 冒险，奇遇

**invent**  v. 发明

**inventor** n. 发明家

**invention** n. 发明

("**pre**"= before)

**prevent** v. 预 防

**prevention** n. 预防

("**inter**" = between)

**intervene** v. 干涉，干预，调解，斡旋

**intervention** n. 干涉，干预，调解，斡旋

("**con**"=together)

**convene** v. 召集，集会

**convention** n. 大会；习俗，惯例；协议

("**contra**" = against)

**contravene** v. 违犯（法律等）

**contravention** n. 违犯（法律等）

("**re**"= back)

**revenue** n. 收入，岁入，税收

# （第一段）

# It is animals and plants which lived in or near water whose remains are most likely to be preserved, for one of the necessary conditions of preservation is quick burial, and it is only in the seas and rivers, and sometimes lakes, where mud and silt have been continuously deposited, that bodies and the like can be rapidly covered over and preserved.

**语法分析：**

*It is（强调句）* animals and plants which lived in or near water（which...定语从句） *whose（强调句，强调属格）* remains are most likely to be preserved, *for one of the necessary conditions of preservation is quick burial**（for... 原因状语从句）*, and（大并列）*it is（强调句）* only in the seas and rivers, *and sometimes lakes,* where mud and silt have been continuously deposited（where... 非限定性定语从句）, *that（强调句，强调状语）* bodies and the like can be rapidly covered over and preserved.

知识点（1）

**语法：强调句；强调属格（特殊句型）**

**it is / was … whose …**

* **不强调：**
* The remains *of* animals and plants which lived in or near water are most likely to be preserved.
* **强调：**animals and plants
* *It is* animals and plants which lived in or near water *whose* remains are most likely to be preserved
* I lost uncle Bill’s address
* *It was* uncle Bill *whose* address I lost.

知识点（2）

**remains** n. **含义**1. [pl.] 残余物，遗址，废墟

* The body of one statue was found among **remains** dating from the fifteenth century B.C.
* In his mouth were the **remains** of fir trees ― the last meal that he had before he fell into the crevasse and broke his back.

**remains** n. **含义**2. [pl.] [fml.] 尸体，遗骸

* His mortal **remains** are buried in the churchyard.

知识点（3）

**be likely / unlikely to do sth.** 可能…

* This is a pity, because noise abatement really is a good cause, and it **is likely to** be discredited if it gets to be associated with bad science.
* As it happens, a razor that is safe in Europe **is unlikely to** electrocute Americans.
* It later became apparent that rabbits were developing a degree of resistance to this disease, so that the rabbit population **was unlikely to** be completely exterminated.

知识点（4）【课文仿写】 **前半段**

* 造句：住在叙利亚 (Syria) 及附近的难民的申请最有可能获得批准。
* It is refugees who live in or near Syria whose applications are most likely to be approved.

知识点（5）

写作：书面语正式表达；**使用名词**

… for one of the necessary conditions of preservation is **quick burial**, …

* 不地道表达：
* for one of the necessary conditions of preservation is **that they are quickly buried**, …（1. 比较啰嗦；2.不符合书面语的语言特征）
* 警察及时到来阻止了局面进一步恶化。
* **The timely arrival of the police** prevented the situation from becoming worse.
* 他在他妻子不知道的情况下卖掉了房子。
* He sold the house **without his wife's knowledge**.

知识点（6）

**silt** n. **英文解释：**sand, mud, etc carried by flowing water and left at the mouth of a river, in a harbour, etc. 淤泥

知识点（7）Lesson03-18、42、49、54、57

**【辨析】**

**continually**               adv. 不断地；频繁地；（含贬义，不希望发生的事总是发生）

**continuously**           adv. 连续不断地 （强调一刻不停，一直持续下去的）

* He is **continually** being late.
* He is **continually** asking me for money.
* They're **continually** arguing.
* Everything around him was full of her presence, **continually** reopening the wound.
* He has lived and worked in France almost **continuously** since 1961.
* These lights flickered **continuously** like traffic lights which have gone mad.
* Almost immediately he began to complain about the weather, for even though it was still summer, it rained **continually** and it was often bitterly cold.

**be continually / always doing** 老做某事（03-Lesson2）

知识点（8）

**deposit** v. **英文解释：**to leave a layer of a substance on the surface of something, especially gradually 沉积

* layers of sediment that **were deposited** on the ocean floor

知识点（9）

**and the like** / **and such like**: and similar things 等等 ， 诸如此类

* Soldiers, policemen, **and the like** were all called in to help with the emergency.

= **and what not** [infml.]

* tools, machines **and what not**

= **and so on**

= **and so forth**

= **etc. (et cetera)**

# （第二段）

# But even in the most favourable circumstances only a small fraction of the creatures that die are preserved in this way before decay sets in or, even more likely, before scavengers eat them.

**语法分析：**

But even in the most favourable circumstances（方面状语） only a small fraction of the creatures that die（定语从句） are preserved in this way *before decay sets in*（时间状语从句）or, *even more likely**（插入语）*, *before scavengers eat them*（时间状语从句）.

知识点（1）

**circumstances** n. 条件；环境；状况

* favourable **circumstances** 有利的条件
* *adverse* / *unfavorable* **circumstances** 不利的条件
* *exceptional* / *special* / *unusual* **circumstances** 例外的条件
* *unavoidable* / *unforeseen* **circumstances** 无法避免的情况
* *economic* / *financial* / *political* / *social* **circumstances** …状况

***in / under* … circumstances** 在…的情况下

***due to* … circumstances** 由于…情况

* It is almost always **due to**some very *special* **circumstances** that traces of and anima s survive, …
* A man without an education, many of us believe, is an unfortunate victim of ***adverse*****circumstances**, deprived of one of the greatest twentieth-century opportunities.
* ***Under***no **circumstances** should you leave the door unlocked.

知识点（2）

**fraction**: a small amount of sth. …的一小部分

**a fraction of …** ……的一小部分

**a *small* / *tiny* / *mere* fraction of …**

* His shares are now worth **a fraction of** their former value.
* We owe a lot to the birds and beasts who eat insects but all of them put together kill only **a fraction of** the number destroyed by spiders.
* **A mere fraction of** available wind energy is currently utilized.
* Only **a small fraction of** a bank's total deposits will be withdrawn at any one time.
* Although sexual and violent crimes have increased by 10%, they remain only **a tiny fraction of** the total number of crimes committed each year.

**【近义词】【辨析】**

**proportion** / **percentage** 一部分

**a high / large proportion / percentage of …** 一大部分

**a small / tiny proportion / percentage of …** 一小部分

* Lesson03-56
* We are lucky in that only the lower fields, which make up **a very small proportion of** our farm, are effected by flooding, …

知识点（3）

**set in** **英文解释：**if sth. sets in, especially sth. unpleasant, it begins and seems likely to continue for a long time （不愉快的事物）开始并可能继续下去

* Further economic decline **set in** during the 1930s.
* Despair seems to have **set in** among the England team.

# After all, all living creatures live by feeding on something else, whether it be plant or animal, dead or alive, and it is only by chance that such a fate is avoided.

**语法分析：**

*After all（毕竟）*, all living creatures live by feeding on something else, whether it be plant or animal, dead or alive（whether... 引导让步状语从句）, and（大并列）*it is（强调句）* only by chance *that（强调句，强调状语）* such a fate is avoided.

知识点（1）Lesson03-27

**live by doing** live by means of doing sth.靠某种职业为生

* He**lives by**writing.
* He **lives by**sewing.
* The nomads who made these markings **lived by** hunting and fishing during the last Ice Age which began about 35,000 B.C. and ended about 10,000 B.C.

**【辨析】**

**live sth.** live according to … 按照……生活

* I have always tried to **live by** my faith.
* We still do; living in a world in which undeclared aggression, war, hypocrisy, chicanery, anarchy and impending immolation are part of our daily lives, we all want a code to **live by**.

**【近义词组】**

**live on sth.**靠某种食物或生活来源为生（指人）

* He **lives on** meat and milk.
* He**lives on** salary.
* He**lives on** his parents. 啃老

**feed on sth.**动物以……为主食

* Cows **feed on** hay.
* It has been found that certain bats emit squeaks and by receiving the echoes, they can locate and steer clear of obstacles—or locate flying insects **on** which they **feed**.

**prey on sth.** 肉食性动物以别的动物为食

* Owls **prey on** mice.

知识点（2）Lesson04-18

**语法**：让步状语从句中，be型虚拟

* Whether it **be** bird, fish or beast, the porpoise is intrigued with anything that is alive.
* Though he **be** the President himself, he shall listen to us.

**【复习】**Lesson03-26

**语法：**强调句；让步状语从句中，把被强调的词放到句首；书面语

* After all, all living creatures live by feeding on something else, **be it** plant or animal, dead or alive, and it is only by chance that such a fate is avoided.
* **Be it bird**, fish or beast, the porpoise is intrigued with anything that is alive.
* **Be** **he** the President himself, he shall listen to us.
* **Gre写作范文：**
* Once the educators, **be they administrators or teachers**, are under the control of students, even a democratic situation would be like holding royalty accountable to the mob.

知识点（3）

**【近义词组】**表达“**随便地、意外地、偶然地**”：做状语

**by chance**

**on purpose**

**be accident**

**intentionally**

**accidentally**

**deliberately**

# The remains of plants and animals that lived on land are much more rarely preserved, for there is seldom anything to cover them over.

**语法分析：**

The remains of plants and animals that lived on land are much more rarely preserved, *for there is seldom anything to cover them over（for... 原因状语从句）*.

知识点（1）

**cover sth. ⇔ over** **英文解释：**to put sth. on top of sth. else so that it is completely hidden

* The female lays a single egg and **covers it over**.

# When you think of the innumerable birds that one sees flying about, not to mention the equally numerous small animals like field mice and voles which you do not see, it is very rarely that one comes across a dead body, except, of course, on the roads.

**语法分析：**

When you think of the innumerable birds that one sees flying about（that ...定语从句）, not to mention the equally numerous small animals *like field mice and voles which you do not see（which...定语从句）*（when... 时间状语从句）, it（形式主语）is very rarely that one comes across a dead body, except, of course, on the roads. （that...主语从句）

知识点（1）

**【近义词组】**表达“**无数的，数不清的**”：

**innumerable**

**numerous**

**countless**

**a host of …**

**a mass of …**

**a great man …**

**a large number of …**

知识点（2）

**let alone …** 更不用说…（可接各种词性）（用于否定句）

**not to mention …**（只能接名词或宾语从句）（用于肯定句）

* The baby can’t talk, **let alone** run.
* He can’t run a hundred yards, **let alone** a mile.
* I don’t suspect him of theft, **let alone** of robbery.
* They own two houses, **not to mention** a yacht.
* The dampness is unpleasant, **not to mention** the cold.
* Similarly, our own present primitive chemical rockets, though good enough to orbit men, have no chance of transporting us to the nearest other star, four light years away, **let alone** distances of tens or hundreds of light years.
* **Gre写作范文：**
* In short, without better evidence that the survey is statistically reliable the chairperson cannot rely on it to draw any firm conclusion *about the overall recycling commitment of West Egg residents（介词短语）*—**let alone** *about how quickly the landfill will reach capacity（介词短语）*.
* Moreover, the author has not shown *any correlation（名词）*, **let alone** *a cause-and-effect relationship（名词）*, between the number of hours a person spends watching television and that industry's profits.
* Without ruling out all other possible explanations for the grade-average increase, the dean cannot convince me that by terminating the evaluation procedure Omega would *curb its perceived grade inflation（动词）*, **let alone** *help its graduates get jobs（动词）*.
* In short, without ruling out other possible reasons for the strong sales the vice president cannot convince me *that Plainsville residents are exercising regularly（宾语从句）*, **let alone** *that they would be interested in buying the sorts of food and other products that NW sells（宾语从句）*.

**【扩展】**

**much less / still less = let alone** 更不用说…（可接各种词性）（用于否定句）

* Tony can barely boil an egg, **much less** cook dinner.
* I've never seen the man, **much less** spoken to him.
* No living person seemed to notice him, **still less** to like him.

**to say nothing of = not to mention** （只能接名词或宾语从句）（用于肯定句）

* It would be an enormous amount of work, **to say nothing** of the cost.
* We will need more time, **to say nothing** of money.

知识点（3）

**come across** = **encounter** v. **英文解释：**If you come across sth. or sb., you find them or meet them by chance. 偶遇，邂逅

* I **came across** a group of children playing.

知识点（4）Lesson03-10、Lesson03-11 **语法：副词和介词短语都可以作介词的宾语**

* Staff are not permitted to make personal phone calls **except** *in* an emergency.
* The weather has been fine **except** *in* the north.
* The store is open every day from 9:00 to 5:00, **except** on Sundays.

# They decompose and are quickly destroyed by the weather or eaten by some other creature.

**语法分析：**

They decompose（并列谓语1） and are（并列谓语2） quickly destroyed *by the weather（方式状语）* or eaten（并列谓语3） *by some other creature（方式状语）*.

# （第三段）

# It is almost always due to some very special circumstances that traces of land animals survive, as by falling into inaccessible caves, or into an ice crevasse, like the Siberian mammoths, when the whole animal is sometimes preserved, as in a refrigerator.

**语法分析：**

It is（强调句，被强调部分看作原因状语） almost always due to some very special circumstances that traces of land animals survive, as by falling into inaccessible caves, or into an ice crevasse, *like the Siberian mammoths, when the whole animal is*

*sometimes preserved, (as in a refrigerator 方式状语从句)* *（when... 时间状语从句）* *（like… 介词短语做状语）*. （as... 方式状语从句）

知识点（1）

**课文补全：状语从句的省略**

* It is almost always due to some very special circumstances that traces of land animals survive, as (~~traces of land animals survive)~~ by falling into inaccessible caves, or into an ice crevasse, like the Siberian mammoths, when the whole animal is sometimes preserved, as (~~the whole animal is preserved~~) in a refrigerator.

Lesson04-18

* On the occasions when they have pushed to shore an unconscious human being they have much more likely done it out of curiosity or for sport, as (~~they have done it out of curiosity or for sport~~) in riding the bow waves of a ship.

知识点（2）

**crevasse** n. **英文解释：**deep open crack in the ice of a glacier （冰川的）裂缝

**mammoth** n. **英文解释：**an animal similar to an elephant with long hair that lived a very long time ago 猛犸象

# This is what happened to the famous Beresovka mammoth which was found preserved and in good condition.

**语法分析：**

This is what happened to the famous Beresovka mammoth *which was found preserved（主语补足语） and in good condition（主语补足语）（which...定语从句）*. （what… 表语从句）

# In his mouth were the remains of fir trees -- the last meal that he had before he fell into the crevasse and broke his back.

**语法分析：**

In his mouth were the remains of fir trees （全部倒装）― **the last meal （同位语）*that*** *he had before he fell into the crevasse and broke his back（时间状语从句）*. （**that** ...定语从句）

**正常语序：**

*The remains of fir trees ― the last meal that he had before he fell into the crevasse and broke his back ―* were in his mouth.

知识点（1）Lesson03-10、03-17、03-56 **全部倒装**

在主语较长时，常使用 表语 + 系动词 + 主语 的倒装结构。

* On the floor were *piles of books, magazines and newspapers*.
* Happy is *he who has a sound mind in a sound body*.
* Gone are *the days when my heart was young and gay*.

# The mammoth has now been restored in the Palaeontological Museum in St. Petersburg.

**语法分析：**

The mammoth has now been restored *in the Paleontological（地点状语） Museum in St. Petersburg（地点状语）*.

# Other animals were trapped in tar pits, like the elephants, sabre-toothed cats, and numerous other creatures that are found at Rancho la Brea, which is now just a suburb of Los Angeles.

**语法分析：**

Other animals were trapped in tar pits, *like the elephants, sabre-toothed cats, and numerous other creatures（like… 介词短语做状语） that are found at Rancho la Brea, which is now just a suburb of Los Angeles（which...* *非限定性定语从句）*. （that ...定语从句）

知识点（1）

**trap** v. **英文解释：** to prevent sb. from leaving a place, especially a dangerous place使困在某处

* Twenty miners **were trapped** underground.
* Dozens of people **were trapped** in the rubble when the building collapsed.
* There's no way out! We'r**e trapped**!
* After chipping through a wall which was eighteen inches thick, they found that a man had been **trapped** in the chimney.

知识点（2）

**tar** n. **英文解释：** thick black sticky liquid, hard when cold, obtained from coal, etc. and used in making roads, to preserve timber, etc 焦油，沥青

**pit** n. **英文解释：** a large deep hole in the ground 地表的大坑

**tar pit** n. **英文解释：**an accumulation of natura tar at the earth’s surface, especial one that acts as a trap for animals and preserves their bones 沥青坑：地表中天然沥青的集聚场所，尤指使动物不慎陷入其中并保存了它们的骨骼的天然沥青聚集点

知识点（3）知识扩展：剑齿虎

**saber-toothed cat** / **sabre-toothed cat** (42 million years ago ~ 11,000 years ago)

A saber-toothed cat, also called saber-toothed tiger, is any member of various extinct groups of predatory mammals that were characterized by long, curved saber-shaped canine teeth. The large maxillary canine teeth extended from the mouth even when it was closed.

# Apparently what happened was that water collected on these tar pits and the bigger animals like the elephants ventured out on to the apparently firm surface to drink, and were promptly bogged in the tar.

**语法分析：**

Apparently what happened（主语从句） was that water collected on these tar pits, and the bigger animals *like the elephants（后置定语）* ventured out on to the apparently firm surface to drink, and were promptly bogged in the tar. （that… 表语从句）

知识点（1）

**collect** v. **英文解释：**if a substance collects somewhere, it gradually goes there（ 物

体）聚集

* Rain **collected** in pools on the road.
* Dust had **collected** on the window-sill.

知识点（2）

**bog** n. **英文解释：**(area of) wet spongy ground formed of decaying vegetation 沼泽

**bog** v. **英文解释：**to make sth. sink into mud or wet ground（使某物）陷入泥沼

* The tank **got bogged down** in mud.

# And then, when they were dead, the carnivores, like the sabretoothed cats and the giant wolves, came out to feed and suffered exactly the same fate.

**语法分析：**

And then, when they were dead（时间状语从句）, the carnivores, *like the sabre-toothed cats and the giant wolves（插入语）*, came out to feed and suffered exactly the same fate.

知识点（1）知识扩展：恐狼

**giant wolf** / **dire wolf** n. a large wolf-like mammal that inhabited North America during the Pleistocene epoch (2,000,000 years ago ~10,000 years ago) 恐狼

知识点（2）

**suffer a … fate** 遭遇了……命运

* The refugees have **suffered an** appalling **fate**.
* The Casino, where she had often danced, had **suffered a** similar **fate**.
* The disciples were terrified that they would **suffer** the same **fate** as Jesus.

# There are also endless numbers of birds in the tar as well.

**语法分析：**

There are also endless numbers of birds *in the tar（后置定语）* as well.