

TED演讲者: Caroline Weaver | 卡洛琳·韦弗

演讲标题: Why the pencil is perfect | 为何铅笔是完美的

内容概要: Why are pencils shaped like hexagons, and how did they get their iconic yellow color? Pencil shop owner Caroline Weaver takes us inside the fascinating history of the pencil. 为什么铅笔的形状都是六边形的, 并带有标志性的黄色? 铅笔店的主人卡洛琳·韦弗将带我们进入铅笔迷人的发展史之中。

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The sound is a really big part, I think, of the experience of using a pencil, and it has this really **audible** scratchiness.

我认为 在铅笔的使用体验中 声音是非常重要的 它有着很明显的沙沙声[00:12]

(Scratching)

(铅笔刮擦声) [00:18]

[Small thing. Big idea.]

小东西 大创意[00:22]

[Caroline Weaver on the Pencil] The pencil is a very simple object.

(卡洛琳·韦弗与铅笔) 铅笔是一个很简单的物件 [00:25]

It's made of wood with some layers of paint an **eraser** and a core, which is made out of **graphite**, clay and water.

它是由涂着几层颜料的木头制成的 包括一个橡皮和一个笔芯 笔芯是由石墨 黏土和水制成的[00:30]

Yeah, it took hundreds of people over centuries to come to this design.

没错 数以百计的人经历了几个世纪 才完成了这个设计[00:37]

And it's that long history of **collaboration** that, to me, makes it a very perfect object.

对于我来说正是由于悠久的 合作历史 才使它 成为一个完美的物件[00:41]

The story of the pencil starts with graphite.

铅笔的历史起源于石墨[00:47]

People started finding really useful applications for this new substance.

人们在设法为这个新物质寻找[00:50]

They **cut it** into small **sticks** and **wrapped** it in string or **sheepskin** or paper and sold it on the streets of London to be used for writing or for drawing or, a lot of times, by farmers and **shepherds**, who used it to mark their animals.

他们把它切成小长条 包在线 羊皮或纸里 在伦敦街头出售 供人们在写字或画画的时候使用 很多时候 它还被农民和牧人 用来标记他们的动物[00:54]

audible: adj.听得见的/听得见地 **eraser**: n.橡皮;擦除器;[计]清除器 **graphite**: n.石墨;黑铅/vt.用石墨涂(或掺入等)

collaboration: n.合作;勾结;通敌 **cut it**: 停止;快走 **sticks**: n.棍;树枝;麻骨(stick复数形式)/v.用杆支撑;刺死;插入(stick的第三人称单数) **wrapped**: adj.有包装的/v.包裹;覆盖(wrap的过去分词) **sheepskin**: n.羊皮;羊皮纸;羊皮革;毕业证书 **shepherds**: n.牧羊人;牧人(shepherd的复数);牧师/v.带领(shepherd的三单形式);放牧;照看

Over in France, Nicolas-Jacques Conté figured out a method of **grinding** the graphite, **mixing** it with **powdered** clay and water to make a paste.

在法国 尼古拉斯·雅克·康迪 想出了研磨石墨的方法 把它与黏土粉和水 混合起来制成糊状物[01:07]

From there, this paste was filled into a **mold** and fired in a **kiln**, and the result was a really strong graphite core that wasn't **breakable**, that was smooth, usable --

再把这个糊状物塞到一个模具里 然后放到窑炉里 烤 拿出之后就成了非常坚硬的石墨芯 它坚固耐用 质地平滑并且便于使用[01:16]

it was so much better than anything else that existed at the time, and **to this day**, that's the method that's still used in making **pencils**.

它比那个时候已有的 其他任何东西都要好 至今为止 铅笔的制作 仍然沿用这一方法[01:25]

Meanwhile, over in America, in **Concord, Massachusetts**, it was Henry David Thoreau who came up with the **grading** scale for different hardnesses of pencil.

同时 在美国马萨诸塞州的康科德市 亨利·大卫·梭罗针对不同的铅笔 制定了硬度的等级表[01:33]

It was **graded** one through four, number two being the ideal **hardness** for general use.

从1级到4级 2级是一般用途最理想的硬度 [01:41]

grinding: adj.磨的;刺耳的;令人难以忍受的 **mixing**: n.混合;[电子]混频/v.混合(mix的ing形式) **powdered**: adj.变成粉末的;涂粉的/v.使成粉末(powder的过去分词);撒粉;搽粉 **mold**: vt.塑造;使发霉;用模子制作/vi.发霉/n.霉菌;模子 **kiln**: vt.烧窑;在干燥炉干燥/n.(砖,石灰等的)窑;炉;干燥炉 **breakable**: adj.易碎的/n.易碎的东西,易破的东西 **to this day**: 至今 **pencils**: n.[轻]铅笔 **Concord**: n.和谐;和睦;一致;协调 **Massachusetts**: n.马萨诸塞州(美国) **grading**: n.分阶段;定等级;坡度缓和/v.定等级;减缓坡度(grade的现在分词形式) **graded**: adj.分等级的;按年级分的 **hardness**: n.[物]硬度;坚硬;困难;冷酷

The softer the pencil, the more graphite it had in it, and the darker and **smoother** the line will be.

铅笔越软 其中石墨的含量越多 画出的线也越黑 越平滑[01:47]

The **firmer** the pencil, the more clay it had in it and the lighter and **finer** it will be.

铅笔越坚硬 泥土含量越多 线条更明亮 更精细 [01:53]

Originally, when pencils were **handmade**, they were made round.

最初 在手工制造阶段 铅笔是被制成圆形的[01:58]

There was no easy way to make them, and it was the Americans who really **mechanized** the craft.

制作方法很复杂 是美国人真正实现了生产机械化 [02:01]

A lot of people credit **Joseph** Dixon for being one of the first people to start developing actual machines to do things like cut wood **slats**, cut **grooves** into the wood, apply glue to them ...

许多人将其归功于杰瑟夫·迪克森 因为他是最早研发 真正意义上的机器的人之一 使机器可以做类似于切木板 在木板上切凹槽 涂胶水这样的事[02:06]

And they figured out it was easier and less wasteful to do a hexagonal pencil, and so that became the standard.	并且他们发现制作六边形铅笔 更简单 浪费也更少 因此就把六边形铅笔作为 标准铅笔[02:17]
Since the early days of pencils, people have loved that they can be erased .	在铅笔诞生的初期 人们就喜欢 它们能够被橡皮擦除这一点[02:24]
smoother : n.[公路]路面平整机;弄平的人;[机]修光工具;滤波器 firmer : adj.坚固的;圆凿或凿子的/n.圆凿;凿子 finer : adj.出色的,好的 handmade : adj.手工的;手制的 mechanized : adj.机械化的;呆板的/v.使机械化;用机械操作(mechanize的过去式和过去分词) Joseph : n.连帽大氅 slats : n.[木]板条(slat的复数);缝翼;肋骨/v.用板条打(slat的第三人称单数形式) grooves : n.细槽,[建]凹槽(groove的复数) wasteful : adj.浪费的,不经济的;奢侈的 hexagonal : adj.六边的,六角形的 erased : adj.被清除的;断掉并留有不均匀边的/v.抹去(erase的过去分词);消除	
Originally, it was bread crumbs that were used to scratch away pencil marks and later, rubber and pumice .	最初 人们用面包屑来 擦除铅笔笔迹 后来改用橡皮和浮石[02:29]
The attached eraser happened in 1858, when American stationer Hymen Lipman patented the first pencil with an attached eraser, which really changed the pencil game.	1858年开始 橡皮被加在铅笔上 那时候美国的文具商海门·力普曼 为第一个附带橡皮的铅笔 申请了专利 这确实带来了铅笔的发展变革[02:35]
The world's first yellow pencil was the KOH-I-NOOR 1500.	世界上第一个黄色的铅笔是 KOH-I-NOOR 1500[02:46]
KOH-I-NOOR did this crazy thing where they painted this pencil with 14 coats of yellow paint and dipped the end in 14-carat gold.	KOH-I-NOOR做了个疯狂的举动 他们在铅笔表面涂了14层的黄色颜料 并且把铅笔末端浸泡在14k金里[02:50]
There is a pencil for everyone, and every pencil has a story.	每个人都有一支铅笔 每支铅笔都有一段故事[02:57]
The Blackwing 602 is famous for being used by a lot of writers, especially John Steinbeck and Vladimir Nabokov.	Blackwing 602 因被很多作家使用而出名 尤其是约翰·斯坦贝克 和弗拉基米尔·纳博科夫[03:01]
And then, you have the Dixon pencil company.	然后就是迪克逊铅笔公司[03:09]
They're responsible for the Dixon Ticonderoga.	他们制作了迪克逊·泰康德儒格 这款经典的铅笔[03:11]
It's an icon, it's what people think of when they think of a pencil and what they think of when they think of school.	它是一个标杆 当人们想到铅笔时就会想到它 当他们想到学校的时候也会想到它[03:14]
crumbs : int.哎呀;天哪/n.粒状生胶;废胶末(crumb的复数) scratch : n.擦伤;抓痕;刮擦声;乱写/adj.打草稿用的;凑合的;碰巧的/vt.抓;刮;挖出;乱涂/vi.抓;搔;发刮擦声;勉强糊口;退出比赛 pumice : vt.用轻石磨;用浮石去污;磨光/n.浮石;轻石 stationer : n.文具店;文具商 Hymen : n.[解剖]处女膜 patented : adj.专利的	
And the pencil's really a thing that, I think, the average user has never thought twice about, how it's made or why it's made the way it is, because it's just always been that way.	我认为 事实上 铅笔是这么一种产品 普通用户都不会过多去思考 它是如何被制造的 或者为什么用这种方法制造 因为它一直是以这种方式 呈现在大家的面前[03:21]
In my opinion, there's nothing that can be done to make the pencil better than it is.	在我看来 没有任何方式 可以让铅笔比现在更好[03:30]
It's perfect.	它非常完美[03:36]

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