**8年级（上）英语第69课时（第18周）**

**《我眼中的北京城》学程拓展**

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. It is not only the nation's political center, but also its cultural, scientific and educational heart as well as a key transportation hub. Beijing has served as a capital of the country for more than 800 years.

**Beijing Facts**

Location: Beijing is located on the eastern coast of China on the Pacific Ocean. Beijing stands at the northern tip of the North China Plain. Beijing is surrounded by the Yanshan Mountains on the west, north and east while the small alluvial plain of the Yongding River lies to its southeast. Beijing faces the Bohai Sea, and the area is also called the Beijing Bay.

History: Peking Man appeared in the original place of Beijing about half a million years ago. It was built as a township more than three millenniums ago. Beijing was the ancient capital during 5 dynasties, and is currently the modern capital of China.

Area: Greater Beijing has an area of 16,808 square kilometres.

Population: 21.536 million (December 2019), half of the people live on the outskirt of the city (out of the 5th Ring Road).

**Top Things to Do in Beijing**

The city has many places of historic interest and scenic beauty, including the Forbidden City - the largest and best-preserved ancient architectural complex in the world; the Temple of Heaven--where Ming and Qing emperors performed solemn rituals for bountiful harvests; the Summer Palace - the emperors' magnificent garden retreat; the Ming tombs--the stately and majestic mausoleums of 13 Ming Dynasty emperors; and the world-renowned and genuinely inspiring Great Wall. Large-scale construction has brought great changes to Beijing since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 that adds more and more new attractions to the mysterious old city.

**Climate and Best time to Visit Beijing**

Climate: The climate in Beijing is of the continental type, with cold and dry winters, due to the Siberian air masses that move southward across the Mongolian Plateau. The summers are hot owing to warm and humid monsoon winds from the southeast bringing Beijing most of its annual precipitation. The autumn season from September to October is regarded the best time to travel to Beijing, with mild weather and beautiful nature. Nevertheless, if you visit Beijing in the off season, you may have better travel experience given that there are few crowds.