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**Level 5 – 16th September, 2019**

## **Mining CEO quits after destruction of ancient caves**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200916-mining-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200916-mining-5.html>

The CEO of the mining giant Rio Tinto has resigned following the destruction of sacred Aboriginal sites. The CEO has until March to empty his desk and head for the door. He handed in his notice after the anger created by the demolition of 46,000-year-old caves in the Juukan Gorge in Australia. The ancient caves are sacred to indigenous people. Evidence shows they were dwellings as far back as the Stone Age, when humans were developing stone tools. The company was mining for high-grade iron ore. The CEO said that was no doubt the company could have made "better decisions".

The blasts caused international condemnation and tainted Rio Tinto's reputation. The mining took place against the wishes of the traditional owners of the site, indigenous Australians. They accused Rio Tinto of disregarding their culture and traditions to get greater profits. They said: "We cannot and will not allow this type of devastation to occur ever again." The Rio Tinto chair apologised. He said: "What happened at Juukan was wrong and we are determined to ensure that the destruction of a heritage site of such exceptional archaeological and cultural significance never occurs again."

Sources: <https://news.sky.com/story/rio-tinto-ceo-steps-down-over-destruction-of-46-000-year-old-aboriginal-caves-12068732>  
<https://www.mining-technology.com/news/rio-tinto-ceo/>  
<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/investors-want-rio-tinto-to-reconnect-with-its-australian-identity-20200911-p55us1.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200916-mining-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The CEO of the mining | a. desk           |
| 2. empty his             | b. stone tools    |
| 3. He handed in his      | c. decisions      |
| 4. The ancient caves are | d. giant          |
| 5. developing            | e. was no doubt   |
| 6. mining for high-      | f. sacred         |
| 7. The CEO said there    | g. notice         |
| 8. better                | h. grade iron ore |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The blasts caused international | a. profits            |
| 2. tainted Rio Tinto's             | b. significance       |
| 3. against the wishes of the       | c. of devastation     |
| 4. disregarding their              | d. reputation         |
| 5. get greater                     | e. site               |
| 6. this type                       | f. condemnation       |
| 7. heritage                        | g. culture            |
| 8. archaeological and cultural     | h. traditional owners |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200916-mining-5.html>

The CEO of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Rio Tinto has resigned following (2) \_\_\_\_\_ sacred Aboriginal sites. The CEO has until March to empty his desk and head for the door. He handed (3) \_\_\_\_\_ after the anger created by the demolition of 46,000-year-old caves in the Juukan Gorge in Australia. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ sacred to indigenous people. Evidence shows they were (5) \_\_\_\_\_ back as the Stone Age, when humans were developing stone tools. The company was mining for high-grade iron ore. The CEO said that was (6) \_\_\_\_\_ company could have made "better decisions".

The blasts caused international condemnation and tainted Rio Tinto's reputation. The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ against the wishes of the traditional (8) \_\_\_\_\_ site, indigenous Australians. They accused Rio Tinto of disregarding their culture and traditions to (9) \_\_\_\_\_. They said: "We cannot and will not allow this type of devastation to (10) \_\_\_\_\_." The Rio Tinto chair apologised. He said: "What happened at Juukan was wrong and we are determined to ensure that the destruction of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of such exceptional archaeological and cultural (12) \_\_\_\_\_ again."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200916-mining-5.html>

The CEO of the mining giant Rio Tinto has resigned following the destruction of sacred Aboriginal sites. The CEO has until March to empty his desk and head for the door. He handed in his notice after the anger created by the demolition of 46,000-year-old caves in the Juukan Gorge in Australia. The ancient caves are sacred to indigenous people. Evidence shows they were dwellings as far back as the Stone Age, when humans were developing stone tools. The company was mining for high-grade iron ore. The CEO said that was no doubt the company could have made "better decisions". The blasts caused international condemnation and tainted Rio Tinto's reputation. The mining took place against the wishes of the traditional owners of the site, indigenous Australians. They accused Rio Tinto of disregarding their culture and traditions to get greater profits. They said: "We cannot and will not allow this type of devastation to occur ever again." The Rio Tinto chair apologised. He said: "What happened at Juukan was wrong and we are determined to ensure that the destruction of a heritage site of such exceptional archaeological and cultural significance never occurs again."

# MINING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200916-mining-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about mining in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2009/200916-mining-5.html>

Write about **mining** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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