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Level 4 – 22nd January 2024

Deadly fire ants spreading across Australia

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-4.html>

Australia's nature is under threat from one of the world's most invasive species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant comes from South America, but has spread worldwide. It causes huge damage to plants and kills native insects and animals, including livestock. The ant's venomous sting can cause allergic reactions in humans. It can be deadly. The government called the ants a "super-pest" which causes serious environmental harm.

Red fire ants have been in Australia since 2001. Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading because of recent floods. The ISC said: "Fire ants are more active before or after rainfall and can form large floating rafts, which move with water currents to establish footholds in new areas." It warned that the ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not controlled.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-68002401>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/17/australia/fire-ants-forming-rafts-to-cross-australia-flood-waters-intl-scli-scnc-climate/index.html>
<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/floating-rafts-of-deadly-fire-ants-pose-growing-threat-to-nsw-20240116-p5exnf.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Australia's nature is under | a. sting |
| 2. one of the world's most | b. damage to plants |
| 3. The tiny ant comes | c. threat |
| 4. It causes huge | d. a "super-pest" |
| 5. native insects and | e. reactions in humans |
| 6. The ant's venomous | f. invasive species |
| 7. cause allergic | g. animals |
| 8. The government called the ants | h. from South America |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. fire ants have been in Australia | a. corner of Australia |
| 2. the ants are | b. rafts |
| 3. recent | c. is not controlled |
| 4. Fire ants are more active before | d. floods |
| 5. form large floating | e. currents |
| 6. move with water | f. since 2001 |
| 7. the ants will reach every | g. spreading |
| 8. if the current outbreak | h. or after rainfall |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-4.html>

Australia's nature (1) _____ from one of the world's
(2) _____ - the red fire ant. The tiny ant comes from
South America, but has spread worldwide. It (3) _____
to plants and kills (4) _____ animals, including
livestock. The ant's venomous sting can cause
(5) _____ humans. It can be deadly. The government
called the ants (6) _____ which causes serious
environmental harm.

Red fire ants have been in Australia since 2001. Australia's Invasive Species
Council (ISC) says the (7) _____ because of recent
floods. The ISC said: "Fire ants are (8) _____ or after
rainfall and can form (9) _____, which move with water
(10) _____ footholds in new areas." It warned that the
ants will (11) _____ of Australia" if the
(12) _____ not controlled.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-4.html>

Australia's nature is under threat from one of the world's most invasive species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant comes from South America, but has spread worldwide. It causes huge damage to plants and kills native insects and animals, including livestock. The ant's venomous sting can cause allergic reactions in humans. It can be deadly. The government called the ants a "super-pest" which causes serious environmental harm. Red fire ants have been in Australia since 2001. Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading because of recent floods. The ISC said: "Fire ants are more reactive before or after rain fall and can form large floating rafts, which move with water currents to establish footholds in new areas." It warned that the ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not controlled.

ANTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about ants 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/2401/240122-fire-ants-4.html>

Write about **ants** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
