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Level 6 – 22nd January 2024

Deadly fire ants spreading across Australia

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

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

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Australia's unique ecosystems are under threat from an invasive and deadly species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant is native to South America, but has spread across the globe over the past century. It is one of the world's most invasive creatures. It causes extensive damage to crops and agricultural land. It also kills large numbers of indigenous insects and other animals, including livestock. The ant's painful and venomous sting can cause severe allergic reactions in humans. It can also cause fatal anaphylactic shock. A spokeswoman for the Minister for Agriculture called the fire ants "a terrible invasive super-pest, which cause serious social, economic and environmental harm".

Red fire ants were first detected in Australia in 2001. They have largely been contained within the state of Queensland since then. However, Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading across the country on flood waters. They are clinging to each other in their tens of thousands to form "rafts" on the storm water. An ISC statement 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 added: "Our teams are focused on limiting further spread." The ISC warned that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not kept in check.

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-scen-climate/index.html>
<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/floating-rafts-of-deadly-fire-ants-pose-growing-threat-to-nsw-20240116-p5exnf.html>

WARM-UPS

1. ANTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about ants. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

unique / ecosystems / under threat / invasive / deadly / species / venomous / shock / ants / floods / rafts / rainfall / water / active / footholds / spread / corner / outbreak

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. RELOCATION: Students A **strongly** believe governments should relocate invasive species to their countries of origin; Students B **strongly** believe qqqqqq. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. VENOMOUS CREATURES: What do you know about these venomous creatures? What should we do if we are bitten or stung by them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | What I Know | When Bitten or Stung |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Fire ant | | |
| Box jellyfish | | |
| Scorpion | | |
| Black widow spider | | |
| Cobra | | |
| Puffer fish (blow fish) | | |

5. FIRE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "fire". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. PESTS: Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest pests at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Cockroaches
- Aphids
- Ants
- Rats
- Bed bugs
- Mosquitos
- Flies
- Slugs

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. unique | a. Something done, felt, or thought in response to a situation or event. |
| 2. invasive | b. Tending to spread very quickly and undesirably or harmfully. |
| 3. indigenous | c. Farm animals regarded as an asset. |
| 4. livestock | d. Being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else. |
| 5. venomous | e. A destructive insect or other animal that attacks crops, food, livestock, etc. |
| 6. reaction | f. Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native. |
| 7. pest | g. Of an animal that can inject a poison by means of a bite or sting. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. detected | h. A flat structure of timber or other materials fastened together, used as a boat or floating platform. |
| 9. flood | i. Holding on tightly to someone or something. |
| 10. clinging | j. A sudden occurrence of something unwelcome, such as war or disease. |
| 11. raft | k. Discovered or identified the presence or existence of. |
| 12. foothold | l. An overflow of a large amount of water beyond its normal limits, especially over what is normally dry land. |
| 13. outbreak | m. Controlled and prevented from becoming too great or powerful. |
| 14. kept in check | n. A secure position from which further progress may be made. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Australia's ecosystems could kill a deadly invasive species. **T / F**
2. The red fire ant originally comes from South America. **T / F**
3. The red fire ants can kill farm animals. **T / F**
4. The red fire ants can kill humans. **T / F**
5. Red fire ants arrived in Australia earlier this century. **T / F**
6. The ants group make rafts out of grass to float in flood waters. **T / F**
7. Fire ants are more active before rainfall than after it. **T / F**
8. It's possible fire ants could get to every corner of Australia. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. unique | a. holding on to |
| 2. deadly | b. acute |
| 3. indigenous | c. create |
| 4. severe | d. lethal |
| 5. detected | e. curbed |
| 6. clinging | f. discovered |
| 7. establish | g. distinctive |
| 8. limiting | h. get to |
| 9. reach | i. restricting |
| 10. kept in check | j. native |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Australia's unique ecosystems are under | a. sting |
| 2. invasive and | b. pest |
| 3. The ant's painful and venomous | c. currents |
| 4. It can also cause fatal anaphylactic | d. deadly species |
| 5. a terrible invasive super- | e. tens of thousands |
| 6. spreading across the country on | f. in check |
| 7. clinging to each other in their | g. threat |
| 8. move with water | h. flood waters |
| 9. establish footholds | i. shock |
| 10. if the current outbreak is not kept | j. in new areas |

GAP FILL

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

Australia's unique ecosystems are under (1) _____ from an invasive and deadly species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant is (2) _____ to South America, but has spread across the globe over the past century. It is one of the world's most (3) _____ creatures. It causes extensive damage to crops and agricultural land. It also kills large numbers of indigenous insects and other animals, including (4) _____. The ant's painful and venomous sting can cause severe (5) _____ reactions in humans. It can also cause (6) _____ anaphylactic shock. A spokeswoman for the Minister for Agriculture called the fire ants "a terrible invasive super- (7) _____, which cause serious social, economic and environmental (8) _____".

pest
allergic
native
livestock
threat
harm
fatal
invasive

Red fire ants were first (9) _____ in Australia in 2001. They have largely been (10) _____ within the state of Queensland since then. However, Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading across the country on (11) _____ waters. They are clinging to each other in their tens of thousands to (12) _____ "rafts" on the storm water. An ISC statement said: "Fire ants are more active before or after (13) _____ and can form large floating rafts, which move with water (14) _____ to establish footholds in new areas." It added: "Our teams are focused on (15) _____ further spread." The ISC warned that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not kept in (16) _____.

flood
rainfall
detected
check
form
limiting
contained
currents

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Australia's unique ecosystems are under threat from an invasive _____
 - a. and deadly specials
 - b. and deadly spurious
 - c. and deadly spaces
 - d. and deadly species
- 2) The tiny ant is native to South America, but has spread _____
 - a. across the globule
 - b. across the global
 - c. across the globe
 - d. across the globes
- 3) It is one of the world's _____
 - a. most invasion creatures
 - b. most invaded creatures
 - c. most invasive creatures
 - d. most in massive creatures
- 4) It also kills large numbers of indigenous insects and other _____
 - a. animal, including livestock
 - b. animals, including life stock
 - c. animals, including livestock
 - d. animals, including live stack
- 5) A spokeswoman for the Minister for Agriculture called the fire ants "a terrible _____"
 - a. invasive super-best
 - b. invasive super-vest
 - c. invasive super-pest
 - d. invasive super-lest
- 6) Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading across the country _____
 - a. on blood waters
 - b. on flood waters
 - c. on cloud waters
 - d. on flood waters
- 7) They are clinging to each other in their tens of thousands _____
 - a. to form rafts
 - b. to firm rafts
 - c. to frame rafts
 - d. to farm rafts
- 8) and can form large floating rafts, which move with water currents _____
 - a. to establish footholds
 - b. to establish handrails
 - c. to establish headroom
 - d. to establish leg-ups
- 9) Our teams are focused on _____
 - a. limiting further spared
 - b. limiting further spread
 - c. limiting further speared
 - d. limiting further speed
- 10) reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not _____
 - a. kept on check
 - b. kept in check
 - c. kept up check
 - d. kept to check

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Australia's unique ecosystems are (1) _____ an invasive and deadly species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant (2) _____ South America, but has spread across the globe over the past century. It is one of the world's most invasive creatures. It causes extensive (3) _____ and agricultural land. It also kills large numbers of indigenous insects and other animals, including livestock. The ant's painful (4) _____ can cause severe allergic reactions in humans. It can also cause (5) _____. A spokeswoman for the Minister for Agriculture called the fire ants "a terrible (6) _____, which cause serious social, economic and environmental harm".

Red fire ants were (7) _____ Australia in 2001. They have largely been contained within the state of Queensland since then. However, Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading across the country (8) _____. They are clinging to each other in their (9) _____ to form "rafts" on the storm water. An ISC statement said: "Fire ants are more active before (10) _____ and can form large floating rafts, which move with water currents to (11) _____ new areas." It added: "Our teams are focused on limiting further spread." The ISC warned that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What does the article say are under threat?
2. For how long have red fire ants been spreading around the world?
3. What kinds of animals did the article say red fire ants could kill?
4. What can the sting of a red fire ant cause to kill a human?
5. What did a government spokeswoman call the red fire ant?
6. When were red fire ants first discovered in Australia?
7. What do the ants create when they cling to each other?
8. When are the red fire ants more active?
9. What is the ISC focused on?
10. Where could the ants get to if they are not kept in check?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What does the article say are under threat?
 - a) Australia's snakes
 - b) kangaroos
 - c) Australia's unique ecosystems
 - d) the whole world
- 2) For how long have red fire ants been spreading around the world?
 - a) a hundred years
 - b) fifty years
 - c) 25 years
 - d) a decade
- 3) What kinds of animals did the article say red fire ants could kill?
 - a) kangaroos
 - b) livestock
 - c) rodents
 - d) koalas
- 4) What can the sting of a red fire ant cause to kill a human?
 - a) suffocation
 - b) lethal allergens
 - c) a heart attack
 - d) anaphylactic shock
- 5) What did a government spokeswoman call the red fire ant?
 - a) scary
 - b) amazing
 - c) a super-pest
 - d) a real threat
- 6) When were red fire ants first discovered in Australia?
 - a) 2000
 - b) 2001
 - c) 1999
 - d) 1990
- 7) What do the ants create when they cling to each other?
 - a) warmth
 - b) love
 - c) a menace
 - d) a raft
- 8) When are the red fire ants more active?
 - a) at night
 - b) before and after rainfall
 - c) before and after lunch
 - d) at midday
- 9) What is the ISC focused on?
 - a) killing the ants
 - b) limiting the spread of the ants
 - c) sending the ants back to S. America
 - d) research
- 10) Where could the ants get to if they are not kept in check?
 - a) every corner of Australia
 - b) the Moon
 - c) Antarctica
 - d) Fiji

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Cockroaches

You think cockroaches are the biggest pests. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their pests aren't as much of a nuisance. Also, tell the others which is the least troublesome of these (and why): bed bugs, rats or mosquitos.

Role B – Bed Bugs

You think bed bugs are the biggest pests. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their pests aren't as much of a nuisance. Also, tell the others which is the least troublesome of these (and why): cockroaches, rats or mosquitos.

Role C – Rats

You think rats are the biggest pests. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their pests aren't as much of a nuisance. Also, tell the others which is the least troublesome of these (and why): bed bugs, cockroaches or mosquitos.

Role D – Mosquitos

You think mosquitos are the biggest pests. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their pests aren't as much of a nuisance. Also, tell the others which is the least troublesome of these (and why): bed bugs, rats or cockroaches.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'fire' and 'ant'.

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| fire | ant |
|-------------|------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• unique• most• tiny• kills• painful• terrible | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• first• across• tens• areas• limiting• check |
|---|--|

ANTS SURVEY

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

ANTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'ants'?
3. What do you think of fire ants?
4. What invasive species are there in your country?
5. What damage do invasive species do?
6. What can we learn from ants?
7. How can we stop invasive species from spreading?
8. What do you know about anaphylactic shock?
9. What experiences do you have with pests?
10. What economic harm do pests do?

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ANTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'invasive'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How useful are ants?
15. What do you think of the name 'fire ant'?
16. What would you do if there were fire ants in your house?
17. How will the spread of invasive species change the world?
18. What do you know about Australian animals?
19. What is the world's biggest pest?
20. What questions would you like to ask a fire ant expert?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Australia's unique ecosystems are (1) _____ threat from an invasive and deadly species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant is (2) _____ to South America, but has spread across the globe over the past century. It is one of the world's most invasive (3) _____. It causes extensive damage to crops and agricultural land. It also kills large numbers of indigenous insects and other animals, including livestock. The ant's painful and venomous (4) _____ can cause severe allergic reactions in humans. It can also cause fatal anaphylactic (5) _____. A spokeswoman for the Minister for Agriculture called the fire ants "a terrible invasive super (6) _____, which cause serious social, economic and environmental harm".

Red fire ants were first (7) _____ in Australia in 2001. They have largely been contained within the state of Queensland since then. However, Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading across the country on flood waters. They are clinging (8) _____ each other in their tens of thousands to (9) _____ "rafts" on the storm water. An ISC statement said: "Fire ants are more active before or after (10) _____ and can form large floating rafts, which move with water currents to establish (11) _____ in new areas." It added: "Our teams are focused on limiting further spread." The ISC warned that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not kept (12) _____ check.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) above | (b) under | (c) below | (d) over |
| 2. | (a) nativism | (b) nature | (c) nativity | (d) native |
| 3. | (a) creatives | (b) creatures | (c) cretins | (d) creators |
| 4. | (a) stink | (b) thing | (c) sting | (d) trinket |
| 5. | (a) shock | (b) aghast | (c) surprise | (d) blow |
| 6. | (a) pest | (b) pesticide | (c) pestilence | (d) pestle |
| 7. | (a) delectable | (b) defected | (c) dejected | (d) detected |
| 8. | (a) to | (b) of | (c) at | (d) as |
| 9. | (a) foam | (b) form | (c) fork | (d) fort |
| 10. | (a) rainproof | (b) raindrop | (c) rainfall | (d) rainbow |
| 11. | (a) handholding | (b) footlights | (c) footholds | (d) footprints |
| 12. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) up | (d) of |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. Australia's uneiuq ecosystems are under threat
2. one of the world's most nsaievvi creatures
3. large numbers of duinnesgio insects
4. other animals, including ovletskic
5. The ant's painful and unovsoem sting
6. fatal patyhccalnia shock

Paragraph 2

7. first dedteetc in Australia
8. ldoof waters
9. form large floating srfat
10. water rnetcsru
11. establish otldoofsh in new areas
12. the current eboarukt

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () within the state of Queensland since then. However, Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants
- () the red fire ant. The tiny ant is native to South America, but has spread across the globe over
- () livestock. The ant's painful and venomous sting can cause severe allergic reactions
- () in humans. It can also cause fatal anaphylactic shock. A spokeswoman for the Minister for Agriculture
- () called the fire ants "a terrible invasive super-pest, which cause serious social, economic and environmental harm".
- () that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not kept in check.
- () areas." It added: "Our teams are focused on limiting further spread." The ISC warned
- () Red fire ants were first detected in Australia in 2001. They have largely been contained
- (**1**) Australia's unique ecosystems are under threat from an invasive and deadly species –
- () rainfall and can form large floating rafts, which move with water currents to establish footholds in new
- () the past century. It is one of the world's most invasive creatures. It causes extensive damage to crops
- () and agricultural land. It also kills large numbers of indigenous insects and other animals, including
- () are spreading across the country on flood waters. They are clinging to each other in their tens of
- () thousands to form "rafts" on the storm water. An ISC statement said: "Fire ants are more active before or after

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. threat are under from ecosystems ants . unique Australia's
2. South ant is to native America . The tiny
3. world's creatures . one of invasive It's the most
4. sting The severe cause venomous reactions . allergic can
5. are terrible super The invasive ants pest . a
6. fire first Red were in Australia . detected ants
7. spreading country flood across They're waters . the on
8. cling They their other each to in thousands .
9. are limiting further Our focused teams spread . on
10. outbreak not in check . current kept is The

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Australia's unique ecosystems are *under / over* threat from an invasive and deadly species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant is *nature / native* to South America, but has spread across the *globe / global* over the past century. It is one of the world's most invasive creatures. It causes extensive *damage / damaging* to crops and agricultural land. It also kills large *number / numbers* of indigenous insects and other animals, *inclusive / including* livestock. The ant's painful and venomous sting can cause severe allergic reactions *on / in* humans. It can also cause *vital / fatal* anaphylactic shock. A spokeswoman for the Minister for Agriculture *said / called* the fire ants "a terrible invasive super-pest, which cause serious social, *economic / economics* and environmental harm".

Red fire ants were first *detected / defected* in Australia in 2001. They have largely been contained *wither / within* the state of Queensland since *that / then*. However, Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading across the country *up / on* flood waters. They are clinging *to / for* each other in their tens of thousands to form "rafts" on the storm water. An ISC statement said: "Fire ants are more *actively / active* before or after rainfall and can *reform / form* large floating rafts, which move with water currents to establish *footholds / footprints* in new areas." It added: "Our teams are focused on limiting *farther / further* spread." The ISC warned that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not kept *in / out* check.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

__str_l__'s _n_q__ _c_syst_ms _r_ _nd_r thr__t fr_m
_n _nv_s_v_ _nd d__dly sp_c__s - th_ r_d fr_ _nt.
Th_ t_ny _nt _s n_t_v_ t_ S__th _m_r_c_, b_t h_s
spr__d _cr_ss th_ gl_b_ _v_r th_ p_st c_nt_ry. _t _s
n _f th_ w_rld's m_st _nv_s_v_ cr__t_r_s. _t c__s_s
_xt_ns_v_ d_m_g_ t_ cr_ps _nd _gr_c_lt_r_l l_nd. _t
ls k_lls l_rg_ n_mb_rs _f _nd_g_n__s _ns_cts _nd
_th_r _n_m_ls, _ncl_d_ng l_v_st_ck. Th_ _nt's p__nf_l
_nd v_n_m__s st_ng c_n c__s_ s_v_r_ _ll_rg_c
r__ct_ns _n h_m_ns. _t c_n _ls_ c__s_ f_t_l
_n_phyl_ct_c sh_ck. _ sp_k_sw_m_n f_r th_ M_n_st_r
f_r _gr_c_lt_r_ c_ll_d th_ f_r_ _nts "_ t_rr_bl_
_nv_s_v_ s_p_r p_st, wh_ch c__s_ s_r__s s_c_l,
_c_n_m_c _nd _nv_r_nm_nt_l h_rm".

R_d fr_ _nts w_r_ f_rst d_t_ct_d _n __str_l__ _n
2001. Th_y h_v_ l_rg_ly b__n c_nt__n_d w_th_n th_
st_t_ _f Q__nsl_nd s_nc_ th_n. H_w_v_r, __str_l__'s
_nv_s_v_ Sp_c__s C__nc_l (_SC) s_ys th_ _nts _r_
spr__d_ng _cr_ss th_ c__ntry _n fl__d w_t_rs. Th_y
r cl_ng_ng t_ __ch _th_r _n th__r t_ns _f th__s_nds
t_ f_rm "r_fts" _n th_ st_rm w_t_r. _n _SC st_t_m_nt
s__d: "F_r_ _nts _r_ m_r_ _ct_v_ b_f_r_ _r _ft_r
r__nf_ll _nd c_n f_rm l_rg_ fl__t_ng r_fts, wh_ch m_v_
w_th w_t_r c_rr_nts t_ _st_bl_sh f__th_lds _n n_w
_r__s." _t _dd_d: "__r t__ms _r_ f_c_s_d _n l_m_t_ng
f_rth_r spr__d." Th_ _SC w_rn_d th_t th_ f_r_ _nts
w_ll r__ch "_v_ry c_rn_r _f __str_l__" _f th_ c_rr_nt
__tbr__k _s n_t k_pt _n ch_ck.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

australias unique ecosystems are under threat from an invasive and deadly species the red fire ant the tiny ant is native to south america but has spread across the globe over the past century it is one of the worlds most invasive creatures it causes extensive damage to crops and agricultural land it also kills large numbers of indigenous insects and other animals including livestock the ants painful and venomous sting can cause severe allergic reactions in humans it can also cause fatal anaphylactic shock a spokeswoman for the minister for agriculture called the fire ants a terrible invasive super-pest which cause serious social economic and environmental harm

red fire ants were first detected in australia in 2001 they have largely been contained within the state of queensland since then however australias invasive species council isc says the ants are spreading across the country on flood waters they are clinging to each other in their tens of thousands to form rafts on the storm water an isc statement 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 added our teams are focused on limiting further spread the isc warned that the fire ants will reach every corner of australia if the current outbreak is not kept in check

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Australia's unique ecosystems are under threat from an invasive and deadly species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant is native to South America, but has spread across the globe over the past century. It is one of the world's most invasive creatures. It causes extensive damage to crops and agricultural land. It also kills large numbers of indigenous insects and other animals, including livestock. The ant's painful and venomous sting can cause severe allergic reactions in humans. It can also cause fatal anaphylactic shock. A spokeswoman for the Minister for Agriculture recalled the fire ants "at an terrible invasive super-pest, which causes serious social, economic and environmental harm". Red fire ants were first detected in Australia in 2001. They have largely been contained within the state of Queensland since then. However, Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading across the country on floodwaters. They are clinging to each other in their tens of thousands to form "rafts" on the stormwater. An ISC statement said: "Fire ants are more active before or after rain fall and can form large floating rafts, which move with water currents to establish footholds in new areas." It added: "Our teams are focused on limiting further spread." The ISC warned that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not kept in check.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. FIRE ANTS: Make a poster about fire ants. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. INVASIVE SPECIES: Write a magazine article about all governments returning invasive species to their countries of origin. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on ants. Ask him/her three questions about ants. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. b 3. f 4. c 5. g 6. a 7. e
8. k 9. l 10. i 11. h 12. n 13. j 14. m

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 T 4 T 5 T 6 F 7 F 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. g | 2. d | 3. j | 4. b | 5. f |
| 6. a | 7. c | 8. i | 9. h | 10. e |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Australia's unique ecosystems
2. A hundred years
3. Livestock
4. Anaphylactic shock
5. A super-pest
6. 2001
7. A raft
8. Before and after rainfall
9. Limiting the spread of the ants
10. Every corner of Australia

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Australia's unique ecosystems are under threat from ants.
2. The tiny ant is native to South America.
3. It's one of the world's most invasive creatures.
4. The venomous sting can cause severe allergic reactions.
5. The ants are a terrible invasive super-pest.
6. Red fire ants were first detected in Australia.
7. They're spreading across the country on flood waters.
8. They cling to each other in their thousands.
9. Our teams are focused on limiting further spread.
10. The current outbreak is not kept in check.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)