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Level 2

Galapagos tortoises out of danger

1st November, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141101-galapagos-tortoises-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141101-galapagos-tortoises-2.html>

Giant Galapagos tortoises were a symbol for endangered animals. In the 1960s, there were just 15 of them. They were dying out. Wild goats were eating their food and damaging their habitat, so conservationists took action to help them. Now, the tortoises are doing well. There are over 1,000 of them living and breeding in the wild. It is a conservation success story. Conservationist James Gibb said that about half of the tortoises that were released have survived. Mr Gibbs added: "That's actually pretty amazing." He added that the tortoises could now survive without human help.

Giant tortoises used to live all over the world. People hunted them so they almost became extinct. There were over 250,000 in the 16th century and just a few thousand in the 1970s. Giant tortoises can weigh up to 250 kg and can live for over 100 years. One tortoise lived in captivity for more than 170 years. Wikipedia says: "Tortoises also live very uncomplicated lives, and can nap up to 16 hours a day." The conservation story in the Galapagos Islands will continue. Next year, a small island that lost all of its tortoises a few years ago will get 200 more.

Sources: <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/near-extinct-galapagos-island-tortoises-make-comeback#ixzz3HbOxXYbU>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gal%C3%A1pagos_tortoise
http://time.com/3544926/giant-tortoises-galapagos/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+time%2Ftopstories+%28TIME%3A+Top+Stories%29

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141101-galapagos-tortoises-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. a symbol for endangered | a. amazing |
| 2. eating their food and damaging | b. in the wild |
| 3. conservationists took | c. human help |
| 4. living and breeding | d. action to help them |
| 5. a conservation success | e. animals |
| 6. half | f. their habitat |
| 7. pretty | g. of the tortoises |
| 8. tortoises could now survive without | h. story |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Giant tortoises used to live | a. the 16th century |
| 2. they almost became | b. to 16 hours a day |
| 3. There were over 250,000 in | c. in captivity |
| 4. Giant tortoises can weigh | d. uncomplicated lives |
| 5. One tortoise lived | e. all over the world |
| 6. Tortoises also live very | f. all of its tortoises |
| 7. nap up | g. extinct |
| 8. a small island that lost | h. up to 250 kg |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141101-galapagos-tortoises-2.html>

Giant Galapagos tortoises (1) _____ endangered animals. In the 1960s, there were just 15 of them. They were dying out. Wild goats were eating their food and (2) _____, so conservationists took action to help them. Now, the tortoises (3) _____. There are over 1,000 of them living and (4) _____. It is a conservation success story. Conservationist James Gibb said that (5) _____ tortoises that were released have survived. Mr Gibbs added: "That's actually pretty amazing." He added that the tortoises could (6) _____ human help.

Giant tortoises (7) _____ the world. People hunted them so they (8) _____. There were over 250,000 in the 16th century and just a few thousand in the 1970s. Giant tortoises (9) _____ 250 kg and can live for over 100 years. One tortoise (10) _____ for more than 170 years. Wikipedia says: "Tortoises also live very uncomplicated lives, (11) _____ 16 hours a day." The conservation story in the Galapagos Islands will continue. Next year, a small island (12) _____ tortoises a few years ago will get 200 more.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1411/141101-galapagos-tortoises-2.html>

Giant Galapagos tortoises were a symbol for endangered animals. In the 1960s, there were just 15 of them. They were dying out. Wild goats were eating their food and damaging their habitat, so conservationists took action to help them. Now, the tortoises are doing well. There are over 1,000 of them living and breeding in the wild. It is a conservation success story. Conservationist James Gibbs said that about half of the tortoises that were released have survived. Mr Gibbs added: "That's actually pretty amazing." He added that the tortoises could now survive without human help. Giant tortoises used to live all over the world. People hunted them so they almost became extinct. There were over 250,000 in the 16th century and just a few thousand in the 1970s. Giant tortoises can weigh up to 250 kg and can live for over 100 years. One tortoise lived in captivity for more than 170 years. Wikipedia says: "Tortoises also live very uncomplicated lives, and can nap up to 16 hours a day." The conservation story in the Galapagos Islands will continue. Next year, a small island that lost all of its tortoises a few years ago will get 200 more.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)
