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Level 1

Scientists change plants' sunblock to grow more crops

19th November, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-1.html>

Biologists have a new way to increase the size of crops by 20 per cent. They changed the thing in plants that is used in photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is when plants use sunlight to change carbon dioxide into oxygen. This lets us breathe. The scientists found a way for plants to use the energy they get from sunlight better. Professor Stephen Long said his team is changing the genes in crops such as rice, wheat, maize and soybean.

The scientists changed the thing plants use to protect themselves from the Sun. Plants turn energy into heat when they get too hot. However, they do this even when it is cloudy. The scientists put copies of the heat-loss gene into plants. These help plants to quickly return to using energy to grow. Professor Long said if crops can produce 20 per cent more food, it will help the food supply in the future.

Sources: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/11/how-turning-plants-sunshield-can-grow-bigger-crops>
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161117141231.htm>
<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/47544/title/Genetic-Modification-Improves-Photosynthetic-Efficiency/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Biologists have a new | a. in photosynthesis |
| 2. increase the size of crops | b. use the energy they get |
| 3. the thing in plants that is used | c. sunlight |
| 4. plants use | d. way |
| 5. change carbon dioxide | e. changing the genes |
| 6. a way for plants to | f. as rice |
| 7. his team is | g. by 20 per cent |
| 8. crops such | h. into oxygen |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. the thing plants | a. heat |
| 2. protect themselves | b. more food |
| 3. Plants turn energy into | c. is cloudy |
| 4. when they get too | d. from the Sun |
| 5. they do this even when it | e. gene into plants |
| 6. scientists put copies of the heat-loss | f. use |
| 7. crops can produce 20 per cent | g. supply |
| 8. food | h. hot |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-1.html>

Biologists have (1) _____ increase the size of crops by 20 per cent. They changed (2) _____ plants that is used in photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is when plants use (3) _____ carbon dioxide into oxygen. This lets us breathe. The scientists (4) _____ plants to use the energy (5) _____ sunlight better. Professor Stephen Long said his team is changing the (6) _____ as rice, wheat, maize and soybean.

The scientists changed the thing (7) _____ protect themselves from the Sun. Plants (8) _____ heat when they get too hot. However, they do this (9) _____ cloudy. The scientists put copies of the heat-(10) _____ plants. These help plants to quickly (11) _____ energy to grow. Professor Long said if crops can produce 20 per cent more food, it will help the food supply (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-1.html>

Biologists have a new way to increase the size of crops by 20 percent. They changed the thing in plants that is used in photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is when plants use sunlight to change carbon dioxide into oxygen. This lets us breathe. The scientists found a way for plants to use the energy they get from sunlight better. Professor Stephen Long said his team is changing the genes in crops such as rice, wheat, maize and soybean. The scientists changed the thing plants use to protect themselves from the Sun. Plants turn energy into heat when they get too hot. However, they do this even when it is cloudy. The scientists put copies of the heat-loss gene into plants. These help plants to quickly return to using energy to grow. Professor Long said if crops can produce 20 percent more food, it will help the food supply in the future.

PLANTS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1611/161119-photosynthesis-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about plants 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) _____

