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Level 1

Zealandia – The eighth continent?

19th February, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-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/1702/170219-zealandia-1.html>

There used to be nine planets, but now there are eight. Pluto is not a planet. Now we may have to change the number of continents. We are taught there are seven - Asia, Africa, North America, etc. Geologists now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a largely underwater landmass in the Pacific. Six per cent of it is above water and is New Zealand. The rest is under the ocean. Scientists say it is big enough to be a continent.

Geologists explained why Zealandia is a continent in a research paper. They said the land does not have to be above water to be a continent. Zealandia is a continent because it is a lot higher than the area around it, it has a special geology, it is easy to see its shape, and it is thicker than the ocean floor. It would be easy to understand that Zealandia is a continent, "if you could pull the plug on the world's oceans" and let the water out.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-39000936>
<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/its-just-cool-isnt-scientists-excited-gigantic-new-global-continent-zealandia>
<http://www.nature.com/news/geologists-spy-an-eighth-continent-zealandia-1.21503>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. There used to | a. water |
| 2. Pluto is not | b. to be a continent |
| 3. we may have to change the number | c. ocean |
| 4. Geologists now say there | d. of continents |
| 5. This is a largely underwater | e. be nine planets |
| 6. Six per cent of it is above | f. is an eighth continent |
| 7. The rest is under the | g. a planet |
| 8. Scientists say it is big enough | h. landmass |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Geologists explained why Zealandia | a. see its shape |
| 2. the land does not have to be | b. the world's oceans |
| 3. a lot higher than the | c. out |
| 4. it is easy to | d. than the ocean floor |
| 5. thicker | e. is a continent |
| 6. It would be easy | f. above water |
| 7. pull the plug on | g. to understand |
| 8. let the water | h. area around it |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-1.html>

There (1) _____ planets, but now there are eight. Pluto is not a planet. Now (2) _____ change the number of continents. We (3) _____ are seven - Asia, Africa, North America, etc. Geologists now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. (4) _____ underwater landmass in the Pacific. Six per cent (5) _____ water and is New Zealand. The rest is under the ocean. Scientists say (6) _____ to be a continent.

Geologists explained why Zealandia (7) _____ in a research paper. They said the land does (8) _____ above water to be a continent. Zealandia is a continent because it is (9) _____ than the area around it, it has a special geology, (10) _____ its shape, and it is thicker than the ocean floor. It (11) _____ to understand that Zealandia is a continent, "if you could pull (12) _____ world's oceans" and let the water out.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-1.html>

There used to be nine planets, but now there are eight. Pluto is not a planet.
. Now we may have to change the number of continents. We are taught there are seven - Asia, Africa, North America, etc. Geologists now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a largely underwater landmass in the Pacific. Six percent of it is above water and is New Zealand. The rest is under the ocean. Scientists say it is big enough to be a continent. Geologists explained why Zealandia is a continent in a research paper. They said that land does not have to be above water to be a continent. Zealandia is a continent because it is a lot higher than the area around it, it has a special geology, it is easy to see its shape, and it is thicker than the ocean floor. It would be easy to understand that Zealandia is a continent, "if you could pull the plates on the world's oceans" and let the water out.

CONTINENTS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about continents 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) _____

