

## Zombies would wipe out humans in 100 days

10th January, 2017



Everyone knows that zombies only exist in horror movies. Or do they? A new article in the University of Leicester's 'Journal of Physics Special Topics' predicts that zombies would kill almost everyone on Earth in just 100 days.

Students predicted there would only be 273 survivors after three months of a zombie apocalypse. The students were not, of course, using real zombies found in fiction. Instead, they pretended that a deadly virus had infected someone and then spread around the world. They decided that one person with the virus would have a 90 per cent chance of infecting another person every day. They calculated that at that rate, the human population would fall to just 273 people by day 100.

A professor at the university, Mervin Roy, explained why students did research into a zombie apocalypse, even though zombies do not exist. He said: "Every year we ask students to write short papers for the Journal of Physics Special Topics. It lets the students show off their creative side and apply some of physics they know to the weird, the wonderful, or the everyday." He also said it gives students valuable practice in writing and reviewing academic papers. He added that the annual research tested the ability of students to apply their understanding of physics to hypothetical scenarios (imaginary situations). This could help in the future to prepare us for real-life disasters.

Sources: [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com) / [sciencealert.com](http://sciencealert.com)

## Writing

Viruses are the biggest danger to humans. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

zombies / article / predict / survivors / apocalypse / fiction / deadly / virus / infected / professor / university / physics / weird / wonderful / writing / ability / imaginary

## True / False

- a) This news is about research in a new book about zombies. T / F
- b) Students say there would be 273 survivors after a 3-month zombie attack. T / F
- c) The students pretended zombies were really aliens. T / F
- d) Students decided that 100 people would get a virus. T / F
- e) Mervin Roy is the name of a university professor. T / F
- f) Students write papers for a special physics journal to be creative. T / F
- g) A professor said the creative writing takes place every year. T / F
- h) The zombie paper will not help anyone to prepare for disasters. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>exist</b>      | a. described  |
| 2. <b>predicts</b>   | b. extended   |
| 3. <b>fiction</b>    | c. actual     |
| 4. <b>stretched</b>  | d. forecasts  |
| 5. <b>calculated</b> | e. strange    |
| 6. <b>explained</b>  | f. worked out |
| 7. <b>show off</b>   | g. live       |
| 8. <b>weird</b>      | h. useful     |
| 9. <b>valuable</b>   | i. novels     |
| 10. <b>real-life</b> | j. display    |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) Do you think this was a good research project?
- b) What do you think of physics?
- c) Could topics like zombies help make physics more popular?
- d) What do you like writing about, and why?
- e) How good are you at writing essays?
- f) What imaginary situations would you like to write about?
- g) How well prepared are you for natural disasters?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a zombie?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. zombies only exist                    | a. rate                   |
| 2. there would only be 273               | b. to prepare us          |
| 3. a zombie                              | c. just 273 people        |
| 4. at that                               | d. practice in writing    |
| 5. the human population would fall to    | e. life disasters         |
| 6. it gives students valuable            | f. (imaginary situations) |
| 7. students to apply their understanding | g. in horror movies       |
| 8. hypothetical scenarios                | h. of physics             |
| 9. This could help in the future         | i. apocalypse             |
| 10. real-                                | j. survivors              |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How interesting do you think the article might be?
- How worried are you about deadly viruses?
- What do you think of zombies?
- What zombie movies or TV shows do you like?
- Why are we so interested in zombies?
- What kind of horror movies are best?
- How would you escape from thousands of zombies?

## Spelling

- zombies only ixtes in horror movies
- there would only be 273 rsiorsvuu
- zombies found in ionictf
- a deadly isvru had infected someone
- They dcucltlae that
- the human oiplnotpau would fall
- A ofeprossr at the university
- show off their reivctae side
- tested the tliyiab of students
- hypothetical scenarios (nmgirayai situations)
- help in the future to prarpee us
- real-life sdsrseiat

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Zombies

You think zombies are the scariest things in horror movies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): killer spiders, haunted houses or aliens.

### Role B – Killer Spiders

You think killer spiders are the scariest things in horror movies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): zombies, haunted houses or aliens.

### Role C – Haunted Houses

You think haunted houses are the scariest things in horror movies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): killer spiders, zombies or aliens.

### Role D – Aliens

You think aliens are the scariest things in horror movies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): killer spiders, haunted houses or zombies.

## Speaking – Movies

Rank these movie genres with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- zombie movies
- ghost movies
- vampire movies
- crazy killer movies
- haunted house movies
- possessed child movies
- killer spider movies
- alien invasion movies

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.