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Level 5

Plastic-eating worm could remove the world's waste

30th April, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-5.html>

A natural solution to the plastic waste crisis may be near. Researchers discovered that a tiny caterpillar, known as a waxworm, likes to eat plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University say the waxworm eats plastic at "uniquely high speeds". It could be possible to use this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste on a large scale. Millions of waxworms could be bred to break down and eat plastic bags, bottles, household items and other waste. About a trillion plastic bags end up in the ground around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade.

A researcher said: "It's extremely, extremely exciting because breaking down plastic has proved so challenging." He said the waxworm breaks down very tough plastics more than 1,400 times faster than other organisms. The waxworm uses enzymes in its saliva to digest the plastic. It might be possible to recreate these enzymes and spray them on waste to make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this finding in a...way to get rid of plastic waste, working towards a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences of plastic accumulation."

Sources: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/04/24/plastic-eating-wax-worm-extremely-exciting-global-pollution/?WT.mc_id=tmgliveapp_iosshare_AntqGjhPTRbZ
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/04/170424141338.htm>
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/04/wax-worms-eat-plastic-polyethylene-trash-pollution-cleanup/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. A natural solution to | a. be bred |
| 2. a tiny | b. in the ground |
| 3. eats plastic at uniquely | c. the plastic waste crisis |
| 4. on a large | d. to biodegrade |
| 5. Millions of waxworms could | e. high speeds |
| 6. About a trillion | f. scale |
| 7. end up | g. caterpillar |
| 8. They take centuries | h. plastic bags |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. breaking down plastic has proved | a. our oceans |
| 2. the waxworm breaks down | b. solution |
| 3. It might be possible to recreate | c. make it decompose |
| 4. spray them on waste to | d. consequences |
| 5. finding in a way to get | e. very tough plastics |
| 6. working towards a | f. so challenging |
| 7. save | g. rid of plastic waste |
| 8. unavoidable | h. these enzymes |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-5.html>

A natural (1) _____ plastic waste crisis may be near. Researchers (2) _____ tiny caterpillar, known as a waxworm, likes to eat plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University say the waxworm (3) _____ "uniquely high speeds". It could be possible to use this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste (4) _____ scale. Millions of waxworms could be bred to break down and eat plastic bags, bottles, household (5) _____ waste. About a trillion plastic (6) _____ the ground around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade.

A researcher said: "It's (7) _____ exciting because breaking down plastic has (8) _____." He said the waxworm breaks down very tough plastics more than 1,400 times faster than other organisms. The waxworm uses enzymes (9) _____ digest the plastic. It might be possible (10) _____ enzymes and spray them on waste to make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this (11) _____ to get rid of plastic waste, working towards a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from (12) _____ consequences of plastic accumulation."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-5.html>

Anatural solution to the plastic waste crisis may be near. Researchers discovered that a tiny caterpillar, known as a wax worm, likes to eat plastic. Researchers from Cambridge University say the wax worm eats plastic at "uniquely high speeds". It could be possible to use this environmentally-friendly solution to global waste on a large scale. Millions of wax worms could be bred to break down and eat plastic bags, bottles, household items and other waste. About a trillion plastic bags end up in the ground around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade. A researcher said: "It's extremely, extremely exciting because breaking down plastic has proved so challenging." He said the wax worm breaks down very tough plastics more than 1,400 times faster than other organisms. The wax worm uses enzymes in its saliva to digest the plastic. It might be possible to recreate these enzymes and spray them on waste to make it decompose. Another researcher said: "We are planning to implement this finding in a... way to get rid of plastic waste, working towards a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences of plastic accumulation."

PLASTIC SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about plastic 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) _____

