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Level 2 – 25th August, 2020

750 million genetically modified mosquitoes to be released

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes-2.html>

Scientists will release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild. This is to reduce the number of insects that have diseases like Zika virus and yellow fever. It will start next year in the Florida Keys - a long chain of tropical islands stretching south of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all male. They carry a protein that will kill young females before they reach biting age. Only female mosquitoes feed on our blood and bite us. Males only feed on nectar from flowers. Scientists hope the number of disease-carrying mosquitoes in the area will fall.

Environmental groups are not happy with the plan. One group called it a "Jurassic Park experiment". It called Florida "a testing ground for mutant bugs". It warned the project could damage local ecosystems and this could never be reversed. The experiment could create a new super-species of mosquito that is resistant to insect spray. One environmental group said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will needlessly put Floridians, the environment and endangered species at risk." The company releasing the mosquitoes said there was no risk.

Sources: <https://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2020/08/21/florida-to-release-genetically-modified-mosquitoes-in-the-keys>
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/genetically-modified-mosquitoes-florida-test-release>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53856776>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. into the | a. all male |
| 2. yellow | b. nectar from flowers |
| 3. a long chain of tropical | c. biting age |
| 4. The modified mosquitoes are | d. will fall |
| 5. before they reach | e. islands |
| 6. mosquitoes feed on our blood | f. fever |
| 7. Males only feed on | g. and bite us |
| 8. mosquitoes in the area | h. wild |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Environmental groups are | a. ecosystems |
| 2. a testing ground for | b. spray |
| 3. damage local | c. no risk |
| 4. this could never | d. not happy |
| 5. resistant to insect | e. the mosquitoes |
| 6. endangered | f. be reversed |
| 7. The company releasing | g. species |
| 8. there was | h. mutant bugs |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes-2.html>

Scientists (1) _____ million genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild. This is to reduce (2) _____ insects that have diseases like Zika virus and yellow fever. It will start next year in the Florida Keys - a long chain (3) _____ stretching south of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all male. They (4) _____ that will kill young females before they (5) _____. Only female mosquitoes feed on our blood and bite us. Males only feed on nectar from flowers. Scientists hope the number of disease-carrying mosquitoes in (6) _____ fall.

Environmental groups are (7) _____ the plan. One group called it a "Jurassic Park experiment". It called Florida "a (8) _____ mutant bugs". It warned the project could damage local ecosystems and this could (9) _____. The experiment could create a new super-species of mosquito that is (10) _____ spray. One environmental group said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will needlessly put Floridians, the environment and endangered (11) _____." The company releasing the mosquitoes said there (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes-2.html>

Scientists will release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild. This is to reduce the number of insects that have diseases like Zika virus and yellow fever. It will start next year in the Florida Keys - along a chain of tropical islands stretching south of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all male. They carry a protein that will kill young females before they reach biting age. Only female mosquitoes feed on our blood and bite us. Males only feed on nectar from flowers. Scientists hope the number of disease-carrying mosquitoes in the area will fall. Environmental groups are not happy with the plan. One group called it a "Jurassic Park experiment". It called Florida "a testing ground for mutant bugs". It warned the project could damage local ecosystems and this could never be reversed. The experiment could create a new super-species of mosquito that is resistant to insect spray. One environmental group said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will needlessly put Floridians, the environment and endangered species at risk." The company releasing the mosquitoes said there was no risk.

MOSQUITOES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about mosquitoes 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.

Level • 2 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes to be released – 25th August, 2020

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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) _____

