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Level 2

Desert beetles used to get water from air

1st March, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160301-collecting-water-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160301-collecting-water-2.html>

Scientists have found one answer to water shortages. It is a new material that collects water from the air. They got the idea from a beetle that lives in an African desert. The deserts in Namibia are very dry, but the Namib beetle is an expert at surviving in dry conditions. Its shell is covered in small bumps that collect drops of water from the air. It is enough to keep the beetle alive. Scientists studied the shape and material of the bumps. They now want to make their own materials that can collect water from the air. This will help people who live in very dry areas.

The scientists say this technology could help in many areas of our life. They said it could help power plants. It could also help with heating and air conditioning. One scientist, Philseok Kim, said: "Thermal power plants, for example, rely on [things] to quickly convert steam to liquid water. [Our] design could help speed up that process and even allow for operation at a higher temperature." Another scientist, Joanna Aizenberg, said she was looking forward to getting more new technologies from nature. She said: "Everybody is excited about bio-inspired materials research."

Sources: <http://www.pulseheadlines.com/scientists-developed-material-water-air/18647/>
<http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/20230/20160326/desert-beetles-cacti-inspire-new-water-harvesting-techniques.htm>
<http://www.mnn.com/green-tech/research-innovations/blogs/scientists-steal-designs-nature-new-water-collecting-material>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160301-collecting-water-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have found one answer | a. at surviving |
| 2. a new material that | b. from a beetle |
| 3. They got the idea | c. in very dry areas |
| 4. the Namib beetle is an expert | d. the beetle alive |
| 5. Its shell is covered in | e. to water shortages |
| 6. It is enough to keep | f. their own materials |
| 7. They now want to make | g. collects water |
| 8. help people who live | h. small bumps |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. help in many areas | a. up that process |
| 2. air | b. to getting more |
| 3. quickly convert steam | c. of our life |
| 4. help speed | d. temperature |
| 5. at a higher | e. materials research |
| 6. she was looking forward | f. conditioning |
| 7. new technologies from | g. nature |
| 8. Everybody is excited about bio-inspired | h. to liquid water |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160301-collecting-water-2.html>

Scientists have found (1) _____ water shortages. It is a new material that collects water (2) _____. They got the idea from a beetle that lives in an African desert. The deserts in Namibia (3) _____, but the Namib beetle is an expert at surviving in dry conditions. Its shell is covered in small bumps that (4) _____ water from the air. It is enough to keep (5) _____. Scientists studied the shape and material of the bumps. They now want to make their own materials that can collect water from the air. This will help people who live in (6) _____.

The scientists say this technology could help (7) _____ of our life. They said it could help power plants. It could also help with heating and (8) _____. One scientist, Philseok Kim, said: "Thermal power plants, for example, rely on [things] (9) _____ steam to liquid water. [Our] design could help speed up that process (10) _____ for operation at a higher temperature." Another scientist, Joanna Aizenberg, said she was (11) _____ getting more new technologies from nature. She said: "Everybody (12) _____ bio-inspired materials research."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160301-collecting-water-2.html>

Scientists have found one answer to water shortages. It is a new material that collects water from the air. They got the idea from a beetle that lives in an African desert. The deserts in Namibia are very dry, but the Namib beetle is an expert at surviving in dry conditions. Its shell is covered in small bumps that collect drops of water from the air. It is enough to keep the beetle alive. Scientists studied the shape and material of the bumps. They now want to make their own material that can collect water from the air. This will help people who live in very dry areas. The scientists say this technology could help in many areas of our life. They said it could help power plants. It could also help with heating and air conditioning. One scientist, Phil Seok Kim, said: "Thermal power plants, for example, rely on [things] to quickly convert steam to liquid water. [Our] design could help speed up that process and even allow for operation at a higher temperature." Another scientist, Joanna Aizenberg, said she was looking forward to getting more new technologies from nature. She said: "Everybody is excited about bio-inspired materials research."

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)
