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## Level 5

# Earth's Magnetic Poles Are About To Flip

7th February, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles-5.html>

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

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles-5.html>

When scientists warn us about threats to our existence, we usually hear about climate change, asteroids or nuclear war. Now scientists have warned of the threat of Earth's magnetic poles flipping upside down. The poles are responsible for the magnetic shield around Earth. This protects us from deadly radiation. Life on Earth depends on this shield. Radiation and solar rays cause a lot of damage. The poles could flip in the next thousand years. This is because the molten iron revolving around Earth's center is changing direction. The molten iron acts as a gigantic electromagnet.

Earth's magnetic poles have flipped every 250,000 years. The last time was 780,000 years ago. The next flip is long overdue. The flip could destroy communications and power grids; deadly solar rays could greatly increase rates of cancer; and climate change could kill many life forms. Some scientists say a polar flip could blow Earth's atmosphere away. One scientist dismissed any danger from the poles flipping. He believes any increased radiation would be as harmful as lying on a beach for a day. He said a "floppy hat" would be enough to protect us.

Sources: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5351589/Earths-magnetic-field-flip-upside-down.html>  
<https://sciexaminer.com/news/science/beware-magnetic-poles-earth-can-switch-positions-future-warn-esa-scientists-3874.html>  
<https://www.inquisitr.com/4771682/magnetic-field-reversal-doomsday-predictions-blown-out-of-proportion-experts-say/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. scientists warn us about threats   | a. iron             |
| 2. scientists have warned             | b. rays             |
| 3. This protects us from deadly       | c. of the threat    |
| 4. solar                              | d. electromagnet    |
| 5. molten                             | e. to our existence |
| 6. revolving around                   | f. direction        |
| 7. changing                           | g. radiation        |
| 8. The molten iron acts as a gigantic | h. Earth's center   |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Earth's magnetic poles have  | a. of cancer      |
| 2. The next flip is long        | b. grids          |
| 3. The flip could destroy       | c. as harmful     |
| 4. power                        | d. overdue        |
| 5. greatly increase rates       | e. danger         |
| 6. blow Earth's atmosphere      | f. communications |
| 7. One scientist dismissed any  | g. away           |
| 8. increased radiation would be | h. flipped        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles-5.html>

When scientists warn (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to our existence, we usually hear about climate change, asteroids (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Now scientists have warned of the threat of Earth's magnetic poles flipping upside down. The poles are responsible for (3) \_\_\_\_\_ around Earth. This protects us from deadly radiation. Life on Earth (4) \_\_\_\_\_ shield. Radiation and solar rays cause a lot of damage. The poles could flip in the (5) \_\_\_\_\_. This is because the molten iron revolving around Earth's center is changing direction. The (6) \_\_\_\_\_ as a gigantic electromagnet.

Earth's magnetic poles (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 250,000 years. The last time was 780,000 years ago. The next flip (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The flip could destroy communications and power grids; (9) \_\_\_\_\_ could greatly increase rates of cancer; and climate change could kill (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Some scientists say a polar flip could blow Earth's atmosphere away. One scientist (11) \_\_\_\_\_ from the poles flipping. He believes any increased radiation would be as (12) \_\_\_\_\_ on a beach for a day. He said a "floppy hat" would be enough to protect us.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles-5.html>

When scientists warn us about threats to our existence, we usually hear about climate change, asteroids or nuclear war. Now scientists have warned of the threat of Earth's magnetic poles flipping upside down. The poles are responsible for the magnetic shield around Earth. This protects us from deadly radiation. Life on Earth depends on this shield. Radiation and solar arrays cause a lot of damage. The poles could flip in the next thousand years. This is because the molten iron revolving around Earth's center is changing direction. The molten iron acts as a giant electromagnet. Earth's magnetic poles have flipped every 250,000 years. The last time was 780,000 years ago. The next flip is long overdue. The flip could destroy communications and power grids; deadly solar arrays could greatly increase rates of cancer; and climate change could kill many life forms. Some scientists say a polar flip could blow Earth's atmosphere away. One scientist dismissed any danger from the poles flipping. He believes any increased radiation would be as harmful as lying on a beach for a day. He said a "floppy hat" would be enough to protect us.

# MAGNETIC POLES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about magnetic poles 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Earth's Magnetic Poles Are About To Flip – 7th February, 2018*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

