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Level 5

Japan finds enough rare-earth metals to last 700 years

14th April, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180414-rare-earth-metals-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/1804/180414-rare-earth-metals-5.html>

Researchers have found enough reserves of rare-earth metals (REMs) to satisfy global demand for up to 700 years. Scientists surveyed the deep-sea mud on the Pacific Ocean floor about 2,000 kilometers southeast of Tokyo. They say their find, "has the potential to supply these metals on a semi-infinite basis to the world". Researchers from two universities in Tokyo estimate the area contains more than 16 million tons of rare-earth metals. They added there is "great potential...for some of the most critically important elements in modern society".

There are 17 rare-earth metals in the periodic table. These chemical elements have relatively unknown names, like europium and terbium. Their uses, applications, and demand have greatly increased with our need for high-tech products. REMs are widely used in electric motors for hybrid vehicles, wind turbines, hard disc drives, portable electronics, microphones, speakers and many other products. Around 90 per cent of REMs used to manufacture advanced electronics currently come from China. The new discovery near Japan could bring down prices.

Sources: <https://japantoday.com/category/tech/japan-team-maps-%27semi-infinite%27-rare-earth-reserves>
<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180411/p2a/00m/0na/014000c>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rare-earth_element

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180414-rare-earth-metals-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Researchers have found enough | a. potential |
| 2. satisfy global | b. deep-sea mud |
| 3. Scientists surveyed the | c. society |
| 4. on a semi-infinite | d. reserves |
| 5. more than 16 million tons | e. basis |
| 6. there is great | f. important elements |
| 7. some of the most critically | g. demand |
| 8. in modern | h. of rare-earth metals |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 17 rare-earth metals in the | a. discovery |
| 2. relatively unknown | b. and demand |
| 3. Their uses, applications | c. vehicles |
| 4. widely | d. prices |
| 5. hybrid | e. names |
| 6. used to manufacture | f. periodic table |
| 7. The new | g. used |
| 8. bring down | h. advanced electronics |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180414-rare-earth-metals-5.html>

Researchers have found (1) _____ rare-earth metals (REMs) to (2) _____ for up to 700 years. Scientists surveyed the deep-(3) _____ the Pacific Ocean floor about 2,000 kilometers southeast of Tokyo. They say their find, "has the potential to supply these metals on a (4) _____ to the world". Researchers from two universities in Tokyo estimate the area contains more than 16 (5) _____ rare-earth metals. They added there is "great potential...for some of (6) _____ important elements in modern society".

There are 17 rare-earth metals in (7) _____. These chemical elements have relatively (8) _____ europium and terbium. Their uses, applications, and demand have (9) _____ our need for high-tech products. REMs are widely used in electric motors for hybrid (10) _____, hard disc drives, portable electronics, microphones, speakers and (11) _____. Around 90 per cent of REMs used to manufacture advanced electronics currently come from China. The new discovery near Japan could (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180414-rare-earth-metals-5.html>

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METALS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1804/180414-rare-earth-metals-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about metals 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) _____

