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Level 2 – 17th January, 2019

China grows plants on the moon

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190117-ecology-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/1901/190117-ecology-2.html>

For the first time, plants from Earth are growing on the moon. China's space agency showed photos of cotton seeds sprouting into life. It said they were among several plants that were growing. The other plants include potatoes, rock cress and rapeseed. It is part of a Chinese project to the far side of the moon. The project is called a "moon surface micro-ecological circle". Project leader Liu Hanlong says the cotton was the first to sprout. He said he chose the plants because they were small, strong and could grow in the difficult conditions on the moon's surface.

Professor Hanlong said the aim was to understand how plants grow in space and to develop plants that can grow on the moon or in space. The professor said the team is looking at the future survival in space. Learning about these plants growing could allow us to lay the foundation for starting a space base. The project also includes yeast and fruit flies in creating a mini-ecosystem. The plants will produce oxygen and food for the fruit flies; the yeast could change the flies' waste and the dead plants into another kind of food source.

Sources: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/2182111/chinese-lunar-landers-cotton-seeds-lead-way-plant-life-germinates>
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2190704-first-moon-plants-sprout-in-chinas-change-4-biosphere-experiment/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-46873526>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190117-ecology-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. plants from Earth are growing | a. into life |
| 2. China's space | b. they were small |
| 3. cotton seeds sprouting | c. surface |
| 4. The other plants | d. conditions |
| 5. the far side | e. on the moon |
| 6. he chose the plants because | f. of the moon |
| 7. grow in the difficult | g. include potatoes |
| 8. on the moon's | h. agency |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the aim was | a. base |
| 2. develop plants that can grow | b. plants |
| 3. the future survival in | c. on the moon |
| 4. allow us to | d. of food |
| 5. starting a space | e. space |
| 6. plants will produce oxygen | f. lay the foundation |
| 7. dead | g. to understand how |
| 8. another kind | h. and food |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190117-ecology-2.html>

For (1) _____, plants from Earth are growing on the moon. China's space agency showed photos of cotton seeds (2) _____. It said they were among several plants that were growing. The other plants include potatoes, rock cress and rapeseed. It (3) _____ a Chinese project to the far side of the moon. The project (4) _____ "moon surface micro-ecological circle". Project leader Liu Hanlong says the cotton (5) _____ to sprout. He said he chose the plants because they were small, strong and could grow in the difficult (6) _____ moon's surface.

Professor Hanlong said (7) _____ to understand how plants (8) _____ and to develop plants that can grow on the moon or in space. The professor said the team is looking at the (9) _____ space. Learning about these plants growing could allow us to lay the foundation for starting (10) _____. The project also includes yeast and fruit flies in creating a mini-ecosystem. The plants will produce (11) _____ for the fruit flies; the yeast could change the flies' waste and the dead plants (12) _____ of food source.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190117-ecology-2.html>

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ECOLOGY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1901/190117-ecology-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Ecology 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) _____

