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Level 5 – 12th June, 2019

Drones used to battle tortoise-killing ravens

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-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/1906/190612-ravens-5.html>

Drones are flying to the defence of tortoises in the USA's Mojave Desert. Tortoises in the Mojave are under threat of being wiped out by ravens. The raven is a bigger version of the crow. The raven population in the Mojave has increased by 700 per cent in the past 25 years. This has had a catastrophic impact on the desert tortoises. A local conservationist said that in some places, "where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000". If nothing is done to help the tortoises, they could be completely wiped out. Their numbers have fallen by over 90 per cent since 1990.

Technology may rescue the tortoises. Biologists and drone operators have a strategy to reduce the raven population. They are using drones with a technique called "egg oiling". This involves flying drones up to ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, coating them with corn oil, and then replacing them. The oil blocks oxygen from entering the egg, thus ending the life of the embryo inside. A biologist said: "If ravens figure out that their eggs are rotten, they are likely to...nest someplace else." A conservationist said egg oiling was justified as "part of a comprehensive approach".

Sources: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/drones-ravens-baby-tortoises-california_n_5cfda2b5e4b0aab91c081d60
<https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-raven-killing-drone-protects-desert-tortoises-20190609-story.html>
<https://www.thedailybeast.com/california-biologists-deploy-drones-to-battle-raven-population-explosion-threatening-desert-tortoises>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Drones are flying to the defence | a. of the crow |
| 2. under threat of | b. be 10 ravens |
| 3. The raven is a bigger version | c. by over 90 per cent |
| 4. This has had a catastrophic impact on | d. conservationist |
| 5. A local | e. wiped out |
| 6. where there used to | f. the desert tortoises |
| 7. they could be completely | g. of tortoises |
| 8. Their numbers have fallen | h. being wiped out |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. have a strategy to reduce the | a. with corn oil |
| 2. This involves flying drones | b. was justified |
| 3. fertilized | c. oxygen |
| 4. coating them | d. approach |
| 5. The oil blocks | e. embryo inside |
| 6. ending the life of the | f. raven population |
| 7. A conservationist said egg oiling | g. eggs |
| 8. part of a comprehensive | h. up to ravens' nests |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-5.html>

Drones (1) _____ the defence of tortoises in the USA's Mojave Desert. Tortoises in the Mojave are (2) _____ being wiped out by ravens. The raven is (3) _____ of the crow. The raven population in the Mojave has increased by 700 per cent in the past 25 years. This has had (4) _____ on the desert tortoises. A local conservationist said that in some places, "where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000". If (5) _____ to help the tortoises, they could be (6) _____. Their numbers have fallen by over 90 per cent since 1990.

Technology (7) _____ tortoises. Biologists and drone operators have a (8) _____ the raven population. They are using drones with a technique called "egg oiling". This involves flying drones up to ravens' nests, removing fertilized eggs, (9) _____ corn oil, and then replacing them. The oil blocks oxygen from entering the egg, thus ending the life of (10) _____. A biologist said: "If ravens figure out that their (11) _____, they are likely to...nest someplace else." A conservationist said egg oiling (12) _____ "part of a comprehensive approach".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-5.html>

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TORTOISES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about tortoises 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) _____

