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Level 1 – 9th August, 2019

Child-sized parrot once lived in New Zealand

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-1.html>

Scientists found fossilised bones from the biggest parrot that ever lived. It was a metre tall and weighed around eight kilograms. The fossils were in New Zealand. Researchers called the parrot Hercules. They studied the leg bones and said Hercules was twice the size of all other parrots. The largest parrot scientists know about is the kakapo. This is a flightless bird that also lives in New Zealand. The kakapo is very endangered.

New Zealand is famous for its birds. The kiwi is its national symbol. Kiwis could become endangered if their environment does not change. The 3.6-metre-tall moa also came from New Zealand. These flightless birds were the biggest birds that ever lived. They became extinct 600 years ago. Hercules lived 19 million years ago. It ate nuts, fruit and seeds, and other parrots. A researcher said: "There are many more unexpected species yet to be discovered."

Sources: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/giant-parrot-1.5238617>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/08/07/scientists-just-discovered-prehistoric-parrot-nearly-size-kindergartner/>
<https://www.cnet.com/news/giant-dog-sized-parrot-was-more-cannibal-than-copycat/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Scientists found fossilised | a. around eight kilograms |
| 2. the biggest parrot | b. is very endangered |
| 3. weighed | c. of all other parrots |
| 4. Researchers called the | d. that ever lived |
| 5. Hercules was twice the size | e. bird |
| 6. The largest parrot scientists | f. bones |
| 7. This is a flightless | g. parrot Hercules |
| 8. The kakapo | h. know about |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The kiwi is its national | a. and seeds |
| 2. Kiwis could | b. extinct |
| 3. the biggest birds that | c. unexpected species |
| 4. They became | d. symbol |
| 5. Hercules lived | e. be discovered |
| 6. It ate nuts, fruit | f. ever lived |
| 7. There are many more | g. become endangered |
| 8. yet to | h. 19 million years ago |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-1.html>

Scientists found fossilised (1) _____ biggest parrot (2) _____. It was a metre tall and weighed around eight kilograms. The fossils were in New Zealand. Researchers (3) _____ Hercules. They studied the leg bones and said Hercules was twice the (4) _____ other parrots. The largest parrot scientists know about is the kakapo. This is (5) _____ that also lives in New Zealand. The kakapo (6) _____.

New Zealand (7) _____ its birds. The kiwi is its national symbol. Kiwis (8) _____ if their environment does not change. The 3.6-metre-tall moa also came from New Zealand. These (9) _____ the biggest birds that ever lived. (10) _____ 600 years ago. Hercules lived 19 million years ago. It ate nuts, (11) _____, and other parrots. A researcher said: "There are many more unexpected (12) _____ be discovered."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-1.html>

Scientists found fossilised bones from the biggest parrot that ever lived. It was a metre tall and weighed around eight kilograms. The fossils were in New Zealand. Researchers called the parrot Hercules. They studied the leg bones and said Hercules was twice the size of all other parrots. The largest parrot scientists know about is the kakapo. This is a flightless bird that also lives in New Zealand. The kakapo is very endangered. New Zealand is famous for its birds. The kiwi is its national symbol. Kiwi could become endangered if their environment does not change. The 3.6-metre-tall moa also came from New Zealand. These flightless birds were the biggest birds that ever lived. They became extinct 600 years ago. Hercules lived 19 million years ago. It ate nuts, fruit and seeds, and other parrots. A researcher said: "There are many more unexpected species yet to be discovered."

BIRDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about birds 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) _____

