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## **Level 3 – 25th August, 2020**

### **750 million genetically modified mosquitoes to be released**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

Scientists in Florida will release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild. The aim is to reduce the number of existing mosquitoes that have diseases like Zika virus, yellow fever and dengue fever. The plan is to release the mosquitoes next year in the Florida Keys. This is a long chain of tropical islands stretching 170km south of the southern tip of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all male. They carry a protein that will kill off any female offspring before they reach biting age. It is only female mosquitoes that feed on blood and bite humans. Males only feed on nectar from flowers. Over time, scientists hope the disease-carrying population of mosquitoes in the area will fall.

Environmental groups are not happy with the plan to release the genetically modified mosquitoes. One group called it a "Jurassic Park experiment". It said Florida was "a testing ground for mutant bugs". Many environmentalists warn that the project could cause damage to local ecosystems that could never be reversed. They say the experiment could even create a new super-species of mosquito that is resistant to insecticides. The environmental group Friends of the Earth said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will needlessly put Floridians, the environment and endangered species at risk in the midst of a pandemic." The company releasing the mosquitoes said there was no risk.

Sources: <https://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2020/08/21/florida-to-release-genetically-modified-mosquitoes-in-the-keys>  
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/genetically-modified-mosquitoes-florida-test-release>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53856776>

# WARM-UPS

**1. MOSQUITOES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about mosquitoes. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

scientist / genetically modified / the wild / yellow fever / Florida / blood / bite / nectar  
environmental / experiment / mutant / bugs / ecosystem / insecticide / species / risk

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. GENETICALLY MODIFIED:** Students A **strongly** believe genetically-modified animals should never be released into the wild; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. BITES AND STINGS:** What do you think of these creatures that bite or sting? How would you treat the bite (or sting)? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What You Think	How To Treat It
Mosquito		
Hornet		
Centipede		
Shark		
Jelly fish		
Snake		

**5. WILD:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "wild". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. GM:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most worrying things to genetically modify at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Mosquitoes
- Dinosaur DNA
- Tomatoes
- Humans
- Viruses
- Rice
- Plankton
- Cows

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. release   | a. About the region between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.        |
| 2. reduce    | b. Set free.  |
| 3. existing  | c. There now.   |
| 4. tropical  | d. Take food; eat something.  |
| 5. offspring | e. Use the teeth or the mouth to cut into something in order to eat it. |
| 6. feed      | f. Make smaller or lower.   |
| 7. bite      | g. An animal's babies.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8. experiment  | h. A biological area of plants, insects, animals, etc. and their physical environment. |
| 9. mutant      | i. A situation involving exposure to danger.   |
| 10. bug        | j. The ability not to be affected or changed by something.                             |
| 11. ecosystems | k. Insect.   |
| 12. reversed   | l. Make something the opposite of what it was.   |
| 13. resistant  | m. A test without being sure of what will happen.                                      |
| 14. risk       | n. Resulting from a change or cause to change in form or nature.                       |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The government will release millions of genetically-modified mosquitoes. **T / F**
- b. The mosquitoes will be released all over the state of Florida. **T / F**
- c. The genetically-modified mosquitoes are male. **T / F**
- d. Only female mosquitoes bite us. **T / F**
- e. An environmental group was happy with this project. **T / F**
- f. Hollywood will base the next Jurassic Park movie on this project. **T / F**
- g. Environmentalists say a new super-mosquito could be created. **T / F**
- h. The company releasing the mosquitoes said there was a little risk. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>1. release</b>          | a. halfway through |
| <b>2. aim</b>              | b. changed         |
| <b>3. modified</b>         | c. decrease        |
| <b>4. offspring</b>        | d. monster         |
| <b>5. fall</b>             | e. goal            |
| <b>6. experiment</b>       | f. bug spray       |
| <b>7. mutant</b>           | g. set free        |
| <b>8. damage</b>           | h. test            |
| <b>9. insecticide</b>      | i. harm            |
| <b>10. in the midst of</b> | j. young           |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. into the                      | a. and bite humans           |
| 2. The aim is to reduce          | b. fever                     |
| 3. yellow                        | c. of a pandemic             |
| 4. a long chain of tropical      | d. the number                |
| 5. mosquitoes that feed on blood | e. species of mosquito       |
| 6. One group called it a "       | f. islands                   |
| 7. a testing ground for mutant   | g. ecosystems                |
| 8. cause damage to local         | h. wild                      |
| 9. create a new super-           | i. Jurassic Park experiment" |
| 10. in the midst                 | j. bugs                      |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

Scientists in Florida will release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes into the (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The aim is to reduce the number of existing mosquitoes that have (2) \_\_\_\_\_ like Zika virus, yellow fever and dengue fever. The plan is to release the mosquitoes next year in the Florida Keys. This is a long (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of tropical islands stretching 170km south of the southern (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all male. They carry a protein that will kill off any female (5) \_\_\_\_\_ before they reach biting age. It is only female mosquitoes that feed on (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and bite humans. Males only feed on nectar from flowers. Over (7) \_\_\_\_\_, scientists hope the disease-carrying (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of mosquitoes in the area will fall.

*chain*  
*blood*  
*wild*  
*tip*  
*population*  
*offspring*  
*diseases*  
*time*

Environmental (9) \_\_\_\_\_ are not happy with the plan to release the genetically modified mosquitoes. One group called it a "Jurassic Park experiment". It said Florida was "a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ ground for mutant bugs". Many environmentalists warn that the project could cause damage to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ecosystems that could never be reversed. They say the experiment could even create a new super- (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of mosquito that is (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to insecticides. The environmental group Friends of the Earth said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will (14) \_\_\_\_\_ put Floridians, the environment and endangered species at (15) \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of a pandemic." The company releasing the mosquitoes said there was (16) \_\_\_\_\_ risk.

*testing*  
*resistant*  
*no*  
*local*  
*species*  
*risk*  
*groups*  
*needlessly*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

- 1) Scientists in Florida will release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. into a wild
  - b. into the wilder
  - c. into the wield
  - d. into the wild
- 2) the number of existing mosquitoes that have diseases \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. like Zika virus
  - b. like Zika rivals
  - c. like Zika vials
  - d. like Zika vies
- 3) next year in the Florida Keys. This is a long chain \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of tropic islands
  - b. of tropic all islands
  - c. of tropic all islands
  - d. of tropical islands
- 4) modified mosquitoes are all male. They carry a protein that will kill off \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. any female on spring
  - b. any female of spring
  - c. any female offspring
  - d. any female loft spring
- 5) only female mosquitoes that feed on blood and bite humans. Males only \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. feeding nectar
  - b. feed don nectar
  - c. feed on nectar
  - d. fee don nectar
- 6) called it a Jurassic Park experiment. It said Florida was a testing ground \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. for mutant bug
  - b. form you tent bugs
  - c. four mute-ant bugs
  - d. for mutant bugs
- 7) environmentalists warn that the project could cause damage \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to local ecosystems
  - b. to locally ecosystems
  - c. to low call ecosystems
  - d. to locale ecosystems
- 8) They say the experiment could even create a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. new super-specials
  - b. new super-species
  - c. new super-specimens
  - d. new super-speech is
- 9) the environment and endangered species at risk in the midst \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of a pan dermics
  - b. of a panda mic
  - c. of a panned emit
  - d. of a pandemic
- 10) The company releasing the mosquitoes said there \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. was no risky
  - b. was no risk
  - c. was no risked
  - d. was no risker

Level 3

750 million genetically modified mosquitoes to be released – 25th August,

2020

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# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

Scientists in Florida will release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The aim is to reduce the number of existing mosquitoes that have diseases like Zika virus, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ dengue fever. The plan is to release the mosquitoes next year in the Florida Keys. This is a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ tropical islands stretching 170km south of the southern tip of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all male. They (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that will kill off any female offspring before they reach biting age. It is only female mosquitoes that (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and bite humans. Males only feed on nectar from flowers. Over time, scientists hope the disease-carrying population of mosquitoes in the (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Environmental groups are not happy with the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the genetically modified mosquitoes. One group called it a "Jurassic Park experiment". It said Florida was "a testing ground (8) \_\_\_\_\_". Many environmentalists warn that the project could cause damage to local ecosystems that could (9) \_\_\_\_\_. They say the experiment could even create a new super-species of mosquito that (10) \_\_\_\_\_ insecticides. The environmental group Friends of the Earth said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes (11) \_\_\_\_\_ Floridians, the environment and endangered species at risk in the midst of a pandemic." The company releasing the mosquitoes said there (12) \_\_\_\_\_.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

1. What fever do mosquitoes carry besides dengue fever?
2. Where will the mosquitoes be released?
3. When will the mosquitoes be released?
4. What will the mosquitoes carry that will kill off other mosquitoes?
5. What do male mosquitoes feed on?
6. Who is not happy with the release of the mosquitoes?
7. What did someone say an area was being used as a testing ground for?
8. What might a new super-species of mosquito be resistant to?
9. Who did the article say was needlessly being put at risk?
10. What did a company say about the risk from the mosquitoes?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

- 1) What fever do mosquitoes carry besides dengue fever?
  - a) hay fever
  - b) blue fever
  - c) yellow fever
  - d) cabin fever
- 2) Where will the mosquitoes be released?
  - a) the Florida Keys
  - b) the Texas Panhandle
  - c) the Rockies
  - d) California's Death Valley
- 3) When will the mosquitoes be released?
  - a) next month
  - b) next year
  - c) next week
  - d) 2025
- 4) What will the mosquitoes carry that will kill off other mosquitoes?
  - a) a vaccine
  - b) poison
  - c) a virus
  - d) a protein
- 5) What do male mosquitoes feed on?
  - a) dead animals
  - b) blood
  - c) nectar from flowers
  - d) grass
- 6) Who is not happy with the release of the mosquitoes?
  - a) beekeepers
  - b) environmental groups
  - c) mosquito-haters
  - d) local people
- 7) What did someone say an area was being used as a testing ground for?
  - a) mosquito bites
  - b) a mosquito repellent
  - c) an insecticide
  - d) mutant bugs
- 8) What might a new super-species of mosquito be resistant to?
  - a) blood
  - b) insecticide
  - c) tropical weather
  - d) people
- 9) Who did the article say was needlessly being put at risk?
  - a) Texans
  - b) Floridians
  - c) New Yorkers
  - d) Georgians
- 10) What did a company say about the risk from the mosquitoes?
  - a) there was no risk
  - b) there was a slight risk
  - c) there was risk
  - d) it was a big risk

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

## **Role A – Mosquitoes**

You think mosquitoes are the scariest things to genetically modify. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these to modify (and why): humans, plankton or rice.

## **Role B – Humans**

You think humans are the scariest things to genetically modify. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these to modify (and why): mosquitoes, plankton or rice.

## **Role C – Plankton**

You think plankton is the scariest thing to genetically modify. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these to modify (and why): humans, mosquitoes or rice.

## **Role D – Rice**

You think rice is the scariest thing to genetically modify. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these to modify (and why): humans, plankton or mosquitoes.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'wild' and 'mosquito'.

<b>wild</b>	<b>mosquito</b>
-------------	-----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• wild</li><li>• aim</li><li>• plan</li><li>• age</li><li>• blood</li><li>• area</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• happy</li><li>• ground</li><li>• warn</li><li>• new</li><li>• put</li><li>• midst</li></ul>
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# MOSQUITOES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

Write five GOOD questions about mosquitoes 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.

# MOSQUITOES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'mosquito'?
3. What do you know about mosquitoes?
4. What do you do to avoid mosquitoes?
5. What do you know about Zika virus and yellow fever?
6. How dangerous are mosquitoes?
7. What use are mosquitoes?
8. What do you think of releasing genetically-modified insects?
9. What could go wrong with this experiment?
10. What's best for a mosquito bite?

*750 million genetically modified mosquitoes to be released – 25th August, 2020*  
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# MOSQUITOES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'experiment'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of mosquitoes?
15. Why aren't environmental groups happy?
16. What might mutant mosquitoes look like?
17. How important are environmental groups?
18. How would you feel if the mosquitoes were released in your town?
19. How risky do you think this experiment is?
20. What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

Scientists in Florida will (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild. The aim is to reduce the number (2) \_\_\_\_\_ existing mosquitoes that have diseases like Zika virus, yellow fever and dengue fever. The plan (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to release the mosquitoes next year in the Florida Keys. This is a long (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of tropical islands stretching 170km south of the southern tip of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all male. They carry a protein that will kill off any female offspring before they reach biting (5) \_\_\_\_\_. It is only female mosquitoes that feed on blood and bite humans. Males only (6) \_\_\_\_\_ on nectar from flowers. Over time, scientists hope the disease-carrying population of mosquitoes in the area will fall.

Environmental groups are not happy with the plan to release the genetically modified mosquitoes. One group (7) \_\_\_\_\_ it a "Jurassic Park experiment". It said Florida was "a testing ground for mutant bugs". Many environmentalists (8) \_\_\_\_\_ that the project could cause damage to local ecosystems that could never (9) \_\_\_\_\_ reversed. They say the experiment could even create a new super-species of mosquito that is resistant to insecticides. The environmental group Friends of the Earth said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will (10) \_\_\_\_\_ put Floridians, the environment and endangered species (11) \_\_\_\_\_ risk in the midst of a pandemic." The company (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the mosquitoes said there was no risk.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |              |               |             |
|-----|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) freedom    | (b) release  | (c) go        | (d) fly     |
| 2.  | (a) at         | (b) of       | (c) on        | (d) to      |
| 3.  | (a) try        | (b) do       | (c) be        | (d) is      |
| 4.  | (a) rope       | (b) chain    | (c) thread    | (d) cord    |
| 5.  | (a) day        | (b) old      | (c) years     | (d) age     |
| 6.  | (a) food       | (b) fodder   | (c) feed      | (d) foodie  |
| 7.  | (a) called     | (b) name     | (c) asked     | (d) saw     |
| 8.  | (a) call       | (b) alert    | (c) warn      | (d) careful |
| 9.  | (a) take       | (b) can      | (c) do        | (d) be      |
| 10. | (a) needlessly | (b) needy    | (c) necessary | (d) needed  |
| 11. | (a) at         | (b) to       | (c) of        | (d) on      |
| 12. | (a) releasing  | (b) released | (c) releases  | (d) release |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. The aim is to cdeeru the number
2. yellow evefr
3. a long chain of oicptlra islands
4. The idoiedfm mosquitoes are all male
5. kill off any female rpsifnfgo
6. the issdaee-carrying population

## Paragraph 2

7. a testing ground for antutm bugs
8. damage to local osesytmsec
9. They say the xerenpietm could
10. The mtniaoenlnrv group
11. endangered ecseips
12. in the midst of a dceipman

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) islands stretching 170km south of the southern tip of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all
- ( ) age. It is only female mosquitoes that feed on blood and bite humans. Males only feed on nectar
- ( ) it a "Jurassic Park experiment". It said Florida was "a testing ground for mutant bugs". Many environmentalists
- ( ) dengue fever. The plan is to release the mosquitoes next year in the Florida Keys. This is a long chain of tropical
- ( ) experiment could even create a new super-species of mosquito that is resistant to
- ( ) reduce the number of existing mosquitoes that have diseases like Zika virus, yellow fever and
- ( ) of a pandemic." The company releasing the mosquitoes said there was no risk.
- ( ) warn that the project could cause damage to local ecosystems that could never be reversed. They say the
- ( ) Environmental groups are not happy with the plan to release the genetically modified mosquitoes. One group called
- ( ) from flowers. Over time, scientists hope the disease-carrying population of mosquitoes in the area will fall.
- ( ) insecticides. The environmental group Friends of the Earth said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will
- ( ) needlessly put Floridians, the environment and endangered species at risk in the midst
- ( ) male. They carry a protein that will kill off any female offspring before they reach biting
- ( **1** ) Scientists in Florida will release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild. The aim is to

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

1. wild . 750 million mosquitoes genetically modified Release the into
2. tropical of is This a chain long islands .
3. offspring . kill female any that off will Protein
4. that feed females It on only is blood .
5. flowers . nectar Males only on feed from
6. the groups happy Environmental plan . are with not
7. was testing ground Florida a for bugs . mutant
8. experiment The even could new super-species . create a
9. put the environment The will risk . mosquitoes at
10. a At the of pandemic . risk in midst

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

Scientists in Florida will release 750 million *genetically* / *genetic* modified mosquitoes into the wild. The aim *be* / *is* to reduce the number of *existing* / *existed* mosquitoes that have diseases like Zika *virus* / *viral*, yellow fever and dengue fever. The plan is to release the mosquitoes next year *of* / *in* the Florida Keys. This is a long *chair* / *chain* of tropical islands stretching 170km south of the southern *tip* / *top* of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all male. They carry a protein that will kill *on* / *off* any female offspring before they reach biting age. It is only female mosquitoes that *feed* / *food* on blood and bite humans. Males only feed on nectar from flowers. Over time, scientists hope the disease-carrying population of mosquitoes in the area will *fall* / *down*.

Environmental groups are not happy *to* / *with* the plan to release the genetically modified mosquitoes. One group called *them* / *it* a "Jurassic Park experiment". It said Florida was "a testing ground *to* / *for* mutant bugs". Many environmentalists warn that the project could *because* / *cause* damage to local ecosystems that could never be *reversed* / *reserved*. They say the experiment could even create a new super-species *off* / *of* mosquito that is resistant to insecticides. The environmental *grouped* / *group* Friends of the Earth said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will *need* / *needlessly* put Floridians, the environment and endangered species *on* / *at* risk in the midst of a pandemic." The company releasing the mosquitoes said there was no *risk* / *risky*.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

S c\_\_ n t\_s t s \_n F l\_r\_d\_ w\_l l r\_l\_\_ s\_ 7 5 0 m\_l  
l\_\_ n g\_n\_t\_c\_l l y m\_d\_f\_\_ d m\_s q\_\_ t\_\_ s \_n t\_ t  
h\_ w\_l d . Th\_ \_\_ m \_s t\_ r\_d\_c\_ th\_ n\_m b\_r \_f  
\_x\_s t\_n g m\_s q\_\_ t\_\_ s th\_t h\_v\_ d\_s\_\_ s\_s l\_k\_  
Z\_k\_ v\_r\_s , y\_l l\_w f\_v\_r \_n d d\_n g\_\_ f\_v\_r . T  
h\_ p\_l\_n \_s t\_ r\_l\_\_ s\_ th\_ m\_s q\_\_ t\_\_ s n\_x t y\_\_  
r \_n th\_ F l\_r\_d\_ K\_y s . Th\_s \_s \_ l\_n g c h\_\_ n  
\_f t\_r\_p\_c\_l \_s l\_n d s s t\_r\_t\_c h\_n g 1 7 0 k m s\_\_ t  
h \_f th\_ s\_\_ th\_r n t\_p \_f F l\_r\_d\_ . Th\_ m\_d\_f\_\_  
d m\_s q\_\_ t\_\_ s \_r\_ l\_l m\_l\_ . Th\_y c\_r r y \_ p  
r\_t\_\_ n th\_t w\_l l k\_l l \_f f \_n y f\_m\_l\_ \_f f s p\_r\_n  
g b\_f\_r\_ th\_y r\_\_ c h b\_t\_n g \_g\_ . It \_s \_n l y  
f\_m\_l\_ m\_s q\_\_ t\_\_ s th\_t f\_\_ d \_n b\_l\_\_ d \_n d  
b\_t\_ h\_m\_n s . M\_l\_s \_n l y f\_\_ d \_n n\_c\_t\_r f\_r\_m  
f\_l\_w\_r s . O v\_r t\_m\_ , s c\_\_ n t\_s t s h\_p\_ th\_  
d\_s\_\_ s\_ - c\_r r y\_n g p\_p\_l\_t\_\_ n \_f m\_s q\_\_ t\_\_ s \_n  
t h\_ \_r\_\_ w\_l l f\_l l .

E n v\_r\_n m\_n t\_l g r\_\_ p s \_r\_ n\_t h\_p p y w\_t h t  
h\_ p\_l\_n t\_ r\_l\_\_ s\_ th\_ g\_n\_t\_c\_l l y m\_d\_f\_\_ d  
m\_s q\_\_ t\_\_ s . O n\_ g r\_\_ p c\_l l\_d \_t \_ " J\_r\_s s\_c  
P\_r\_k \_x\_p\_r\_m\_n t " . It s\_\_ d F l\_r\_d\_ w\_s "\_ t\_s  
t\_n g g\_r\_\_ n d f\_r m\_t\_n t b\_g s " . M\_n y \_n v\_r\_n  
m\_n t\_l\_s t s w\_r n th\_t th\_ p\_r\_j\_c t c\_\_ l d c\_\_  
s\_ d\_m\_g\_ t\_ l\_c\_l \_c\_s y s t\_m s th\_t c\_\_ l d n\_v\_r  
b\_ r\_v\_r s\_d . Th\_y s\_y th\_ \_x\_p\_r\_m\_n t c\_\_ l d  
\_v\_n c\_r\_\_ t\_ \_n\_w s\_p\_r - s\_p\_c\_\_ s \_f m\_s q\_\_ t\_ t  
h\_t \_s r\_s\_s t\_n t t\_ \_n s\_c t\_c\_d\_s . Th\_ \_n v\_r\_n  
m\_n t\_l g r\_\_ p F r\_\_ n d s \_f th\_ E\_r t h s\_\_ d : "  
Th\_ r\_l\_\_ s\_ \_f g\_n\_t\_c\_l l \_n g\_n\_\_ r\_d m\_s q\_\_ t\_\_  
s w\_l l n\_\_ d l\_s s l y p\_t F l\_r\_d\_\_ n s , th\_ \_n  
v\_r\_n m\_n t \_n d \_n d\_n g\_r\_d s\_p\_c\_\_ s \_t r\_s k \_n  
t h\_ m\_d s t \_f \_ p\_n d\_m\_c . " Th\_ c\_m p\_n y r\_l\_\_  
s\_n g th\_ m\_s q\_\_ t\_\_ s s\_\_ d th\_r\_ w\_s n\_ r\_s k .

Level 3

750 million genetically modified mosquitoes to be released – 25th August,

2020

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# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

scientists in florida will release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild the aim is to reduce the number of existing mosquitoes that have diseases like zika virus yellow fever and dengue fever the plan is to release the mosquitoes next year in the florida keys this is a long chain of tropical islands stretching 170km south of the southern tip of florida the modified mosquitoes are all male they carry a protein that will kill off any female offspring before they reach biting age it is only female mosquitoes that feed on blood and bite humans males only feed on nectar from flowers over time scientists hope the diseasecarrying population of mosquitoes in the area will fall

environmental groups are not happy with the plan to release the genetically modified mosquitoes one group called it a jurassic park experiment it said florida was a testing ground for mutant bugs many environmentalists warn that the project could cause damage to local ecosystems that could never be reversed they say the experiment could even create a new superspecies of mosquito that is resistant to insecticides the environmental group friends of the earth said the release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will needlessly put floridians the environment and endangered species at risk in the midst of a pandemic the company releasing the mosquitoes said there was no risk

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2008/200825-mosquitoes.html>

Scientists in Florida will release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild. The aim is to reduce the number of existing mosquitoes that have diseases like Zika virus, yellow fever and dengue fever. The plan is to release the mosquitoes next year in the Florida Keys. This is a long chain of tropical islands stretching 170 kms south of the southern tip of Florida. The modified mosquitoes are all male. They carry a protein that will kill off any female offspring before they reach biting age. It is only female mosquitoes that feed on blood and bite humans. Males only feed on nectar from flowers. Over time, scientists hope the disease-carrying population of mosquitoes in the area will fall. Environmental groups are not happy with the plan to release the genetically modified mosquitoes. One group called it a "Jurassic Park experiment". It said Florida was "a testing ground for mutant bugs". Many environmentalists warn that the project could cause a major local ecosystem that could never be reversed. They say the experiment could even create a new super-species of mosquito that is resistant to insecticides. The environmental group Friends of the Earth said: "The release of genetically engineered mosquitoes will needlessly put Floridians, the environment and endangered species at risk in the midst of a pandemic." The company releasing the mosquitoes said there was no risk.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MOSQUITOES:** Make a poster about mosquitoes. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. GM:** Write a magazine article about banning the creation of any genetically modified creatures. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on mosquitoes. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to avoid them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b    2. f    3. c    4. a    5. g    6. d    7. e  
8. m    9. n    10. k    11. h    12. l    13. j    14. i

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F    b F    c T    d T    e F    f F    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. e	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. h	7. d	8. i	9. f	10. a

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Yellow fever
2. The Florida Keys
3. Next year
4. A protein
5. Nectar from flowers
6. Environmental groups
7. Mutant bugs
8. Insecticide
9. Floridians
10. There was no risk

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Release 750 million genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild.
2. This is a long chain of tropical islands.
3. Protein that will kill off any female offspring.
4. It is only females that feed on blood.
5. Males only feed on nectar from flowers.
6. Environmental groups are not happy with the plan.
7. Florida was a testing ground for mutant bugs.
8. The experiment could even create a new super-species.
9. The mosquitoes will put the environment at risk.
10. At risk in the midst of a pandemic.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)