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Level 2 – 27th December, 2020

Early humans may have hibernated in winter

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201227-early-humans-2.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201227-early-humans-2.html>

Animals stock up on food and hibernate for the winter. They escape the snow and cold in a cave or hole. Scientists think early humans may also have hibernated. The scientists looked at the bones from our ancestors who lived 430,000 years ago. The bones were found in Spain. The scientists are experts in studying ancient bones. They say that cuts and other signs of damage on the bones are similar to those on bones of animals who hibernate. They also say that early humans may have hibernated to escape the extreme cold. Winters were much colder hundreds of thousands of years ago.

A scientist said there is evidence to show early humans slowed down their metabolism. This was so they could survive longer in winter without food. However, humans could not do this like a bear. Bears can wake up after months of sleeping and their body will be the same as before they went into hibernation. The bones showed hibernation caused early humans health problems. Many of these were because of a lack of vitamin D, which we get from sunlight. This makes our bones weaker. The scientist said: "We have to emphasise that hibernations are not always healthy."

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/dec/20/early-humans-may-have-survived-the-harsh-winters-by-hibernating>
<https://www.sciencealert.com/early-humans-may-have-hibernated-through-long-winters>
<https://sputniknews.com/science/202012201081521644-early-humans-may-have-slept-through-harsh-winters-new-study-finds/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201227-early-humans-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Animals stock | a. the extreme cold |
| 2. in a cave or | b. ancient bones |
| 3. the bones from | c. of years ago |
| 4. experts in studying | d. on the bones |
| 5. other signs of damage | e. colder |
| 6. hibernated to escape | f. hole |
| 7. Winters were much | g. up on food |
| 8. hundreds of thousands | h. our ancestors |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. early humans slowed down | a. of vitamin D |
| 2. they could survive longer | b. into hibernation |
| 3. Bears can wake up after months | c. bones weaker |
| 4. before they went | d. their metabolism |
| 5. because of a lack | e. healthy |
| 6. vitamin D, which we get | f. of sleeping |
| 7. This makes our | g. from sunlight |
| 8. hibernations are not always | h. in winter |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201227-early-humans-2.html>

Animals (1) _____ food and hibernate for the winter. They escape the snow and cold in a (2) _____. Scientists think early humans may also have hibernated. The scientists looked at the bones from our (3) _____ 430,000 years ago. The bones were found in Spain. The scientists (4) _____ studying ancient bones. They say that cuts and other signs of damage on the bones are (5) _____ on bones of animals who hibernate. They also say that early humans may have hibernated to escape the extreme cold. Winters were much colder (6) _____ of years ago.

A scientist said there (7) _____ show early humans slowed down their metabolism. This was so they (8) _____ in winter without food. However, humans could not do this like a bear. Bears can (9) _____ months of sleeping and their body will be the same as before they (10) _____. The bones showed hibernation caused early humans health problems. Many of these were because of a lack of vitamin D, which we (11) _____. This makes our bones weaker. The scientist said: "We have to emphasise that hibernations are (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201227-early-humans-2.html>

Animals stock up on food and hibernate for the winter. They escape the snow and cold in a cave or hole. Scientists think early humans may also have hibernated. The scientists looked at the bones from our ancestors who lived 430,000 years ago. The bones were found in Spain. The scientists are experts in studying ancient bones. They say that cuts and other signs of damage on the bones are similar to those on bones of animals who hibernate. They also say that early humans may have hibernated to escape the extreme cold. Winters were much colder hundredsof thousandsof years ago. A scientist said there is evidence to show early humans slowed down their metabolism. This was so they could survive longer in winter without food. However, humans could not do this like a bear. Bears can wake up after months of sleeping and their body will be the same as before they went into hibernation. The bones showed hibernation caused early human health problems. Many of these were because of a lack of vitamin D, which we get from sunlight. This makes our bones weaker. The scientist said: "We have to emphasise that hibernations are not always healthy."

HIBERNATION SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201227-early-humans-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about hibernation 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) _____

