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Level 4 – 21st November, 2022

Cooking began 600,000 years earlier than we thought

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221121-cooking-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221121-cooking-4.html>

People may have started using fire to cook food 600,000 years before previously thought. Archeologists in Israel say that our early ancestors used fire to cook fish 770,000 years ago. These prehistoric humans lived on the banks of the Jordan River. They used fire to cook "huge fish" they caught in a nearby lake. Until this new discovery, scientists believed that the first "definitive evidence" of cooking was by Neanderthals and early Homo sapiens, around 170,000 years ago.

Researchers spent 16 years analyzing ancient fish bones and teeth. They told reporters that: "It was like facing a puzzle...until we could make a story about human evolution." Their biggest problem was to find out whether or not the fish had been eaten raw and then their bones thrown into the fire, or whether it had been cooked first. They said: "The whole question about exposure to fire is whether it is about getting rid of remains or a desire to cook."

Sources: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-022-01910-z>
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/fish-teeth-found-near-jordan-river-yield-worlds-earliest-evidence-of-cooking/>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/11/14/world/earliest-evidence-of-cooking-with-fire-science>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221121-cooking-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. People may have | a. evidence |
| 2. our early | b. cook fish |
| 3. used fire to | c. the Jordan River |
| 4. prehistoric | d. in a nearby lake |
| 5. on the banks of | e. started using fire |
| 6. caught | f. and early Homo sapiens |
| 7. definitive | g. ancestors |
| 8. Neanderthals | h. humans |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Researchers spent 16 years | a. a puzzle |
| 2. It was like facing | b. problem |
| 3. make a story about human | c. to cook |
| 4. Their biggest | d. raw |
| 5. eaten | e. rid of remains |
| 6. whether it had been | f. analyzing ancient fish |
| 7. getting | g. evolution |
| 8. a desire | h. cooked first |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221121-cooking-4.html>

People may have started (1) _____ cook food 600,000 years before previously thought. Archeologists in Israel say that our (2) _____ fire to cook fish 770,000 years ago. These prehistoric humans lived (3) _____ of the Jordan River. They used (4) _____ "huge fish" they caught (5) _____. Until this new discovery, scientists believed that the first "definitive evidence" (6) _____ by Neanderthals and early Homo sapiens, around 170,000 years ago.

Researchers spent 16 years analyzing (7) _____ and teeth. They told reporters that: "It was like (8) _____ until we could make a story (9) _____." Their biggest problem was to find out whether or not the fish had been eaten raw and then their (10) _____ the fire, or whether it had been cooked first. They said: "The whole (11) _____ to fire is whether it is about getting (12) _____ or a desire to cook."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221121-cooking-4.html>

Peoplemayhavestartedusingfiretocookfood600,000yearsbeforepreviouslythought.ArcheologistsinIsraelsaythatoarearlyancestorsusedfiretocookfish770,000yearsago.TheseprehistorichumanslivedonthebanksoftheJordanRiver.Theyusedfiretocook"hugefish"theycaughtinanearbylake.Untilthisnewdiscovery,scientistsbelievedthatthefirst"definitiveevidence"ofcookingwasbyNeanderthalsandearlyHomo sapiens,around170,000yearsago.Researchersspent16yearsanalyzingancientfishbonesandteeth.Theytoldreportersthat:"Itwaslikefacingapuzzle...untilwecouldmakeastoryaboutthumanevolution."Theirbiggestproblemwastofindoutwhetheroornotthefishhadbeeneatenrawandwhethertheirbonesthrownintothefire,orwhetherithadbeencookedfirst.They said:"Thewholequestionaboutexposuretofireiswhetheritisaboutgettingridofremainsoradesiretocook."

COOKING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221121-cooking-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cooking 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) _____

