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**Level 5 – 21st November, 2022**

**Cooking began 600,000 years earlier than we thought**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221121-cooking-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/2211/221121-cooking-5.html>

Researchers say people started using fire to cook food 600,000 years before previously thought. Archeologists from a university in Israel claim that our early ancestors used fire to cook fish 770,000 years ago. These prehistoric humans lived alongside the banks of the Jordan River in present-day Israel. 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. The researchers will now look for more signs of prehistoric cooking.

Lead researcher Irit Zohar spent 16 years analyzing ancient fish bones and teeth. Her analysis showed that the baked fish had been eaten 770 millennia ago. She told a news agency that: "It was like facing a puzzle...until we could make a story about human evolution." She added that her biggest problem was to ascertain whether or not the fish had been eaten raw and then their bones thrown into the fire, or whether it had been cooked first. She said: "The whole question about exposure to fire is whether it is about getting rid of remains or a desire to cook." She said the fish were two-metre-long carp.

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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Archeologists from a     | a. look for more        |
| 2. our early ancestors used | b. of the Jordan River  |
| 3. alongside the banks      | c. cooking              |
| 4. caught in a nearby       | d. evidence             |
| 5. definitive               | e. university in Israel |
| 6. Neanderthals and         | f. fire to cook fish    |
| 7. researchers will now     | g. early Homo sapiens   |
| 8. signs of prehistoric     | h. lake                 |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. spent 16 years analyzing ancient | a. exposure to fire  |
| 2. 770 millennia                    | b. evolution         |
| 3. human                            | c. to cook           |
| 4. eaten                            | d. fish bones        |
| 5. whether it had                   | e. of remains        |
| 6. The whole question about         | f. ago               |
| 7. getting rid                      | g. been cooked first |
| 8. a desire                         | h. raw               |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221121-cooking-5.html>

Researchers say people started (1) \_\_\_\_\_ cook food 600,000 years before previously thought. Archeologists from a university in Israel claim that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ used fire to cook fish 770,000 years ago. These prehistoric humans lived (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jordan River in present-day Israel. They used fire to cook "huge fish" they caught (4) \_\_\_\_\_ lake. Until this new discovery, scientists believed that the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of cooking was by Neanderthals and early Homo sapiens, around 170,000 years ago. The researchers will now look for more (6) \_\_\_\_\_ cooking.

Lead researcher Irit Zohar spent 16 years (7) \_\_\_\_\_ bones and teeth. Her analysis showed that the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ been eaten 770 millennia ago. She told a news agency that: "It was like (9) \_\_\_\_\_ ...until we could make a story (10) \_\_\_\_\_." She added that her biggest problem was to ascertain whether or not the fish had (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and then their bones thrown into the fire, or whether it had been cooked first. She said: "The whole question about exposure to fire is whether it is about getting (12) \_\_\_\_\_ or a desire to cook." She said the fish were two-metre-long carp.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221121-cooking-5.html>

Researchers say people started using fire to cook food 600,000 years before previously thought. Archeologists from a university in Israel claim that about 770,000 years ago, these prehistoric humans lived along the banks of the Jordan River in present-day Israel. 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. The researchers will now look for more signs of prehistoric cooking. Lead researcher Irit Zohar spent 16 years analyzing ancient fish bones and teeth. Her analysis showed that the baked fish had been eaten 770 millennia ago. She told a news agency that: "It was like facing a puzzle... until we could make a story about human evolution." She added that the biggest problem was to ascertain whether or not the fish had been eaten raw and then their bones thrown into the fire, or whether it had been cooked first. She said: "The whole question about exposure to fire is whether it is about getting rid of remains or a desire to cook." She said the fish were two-metre-long carp.

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Cooking began 600,000 years earlier than we thought – 21st November, 2022*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

