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Level 1 – 15th December, 2022

World's oldest land animal celebrates 190th birthday

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-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/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-1.html>

We all like birthdays. Some of us have 120 of them. The world's oldest land animal just had his 190th birthday. It is a giant turtle called Jonathan, who was born in 1832. Some scientists think Jonathan might be ten years older. He could be 200 years old. Jonathan was born in the Seychelles. He was born before Britain's Queen Victoria became queen, and before the invention of the postage stamp and the gun*.

Jonathan had a good birthday. He had a three-day party, with a special tortoise birthday cake full of his favourite vegetables. Sadly, Jonathan did not get to see anything because he is blind. He also cannot smell. However, his ears are OK, so he could hear "Happy Birthday" being sung. Also, he still has plenty of energy. He also likes to relax in the sun. His vet said: "On mild days, he will sunbathe - his long neck and legs stretched fully out of his shell."

* revolver

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/03/world/seychelles-tortoise-st-helena-jonathan-190-birthday-intl-hnk/index.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/02/worlds-oldest-recorded-tortoise-prepares-for-190th-birthday-party>
<https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/54483/20221206/jonathan-the-tortoise-worlds-oldest-land-animal-turns-190.htm>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. We all like | a. animal |
| 2. Some of us | b. ten years older |
| 3. The world's oldest land | c. the invention |
| 4. It is a giant turtle | d. have 120 of them |
| 5. Jonathan might be | e. stamp |
| 6. Jonathan was born | f. birthdays |
| 7. before | g. in the Seychelles |
| 8. postage | h. called Jonathan |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. He had a three- | a. stretched fully out |
| 2. full of his favourite | b. of energy |
| 3. he is | c. days |
| 4. he still has plenty | d. vegetables |
| 5. He also likes to relax | e. sunbathe |
| 6. On mild | f. day party |
| 7. he will | g. in the sun |
| 8. his long neck and legs | h. blind |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-1.html>

(1) _____ birthdays. Some of us have 120 of them. The world's oldest land animal (2) _____ 190th birthday. It (3) _____ turtle called Jonathan, who was born in 1832. Some scientists think Jonathan might be (4) _____. He could be 200 years old. Jonathan was born in the Seychelles. He (5) _____ Britain's Queen Victoria became queen, and before the (6) _____ postage stamp and the gun*.

Jonathan (7) _____ birthday. He had a three-day party, (8) _____ tortoise birthday cake full of his favourite vegetables. Sadly, Jonathan did not get to see anything because (9) _____. He also cannot smell. However, his ears are OK, so (10) _____ "Happy Birthday" being sung. Also, he still has plenty of energy. He also likes (11) _____ the sun. His vet said: "On mild days, he will sunbathe - his long neck and (12) _____ out of his shell."

* revolver

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-1.html>

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TORTOISES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about tortoises 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) _____

