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Level 4 – 26th December 2022

Australia's Christmas beetles are disappearing

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle-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/2212/221226-christmas-beetle-4.html>

Christmas is associated with donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins. Beetles do not spring to mind when we think of the holiday season. However, there is a Christmas beetle in Australia. It has gone missing. It used to be a sign that Christmas was on its way. An insect expert said: "Everybody over the age of 35 remembers there being huge numbers of Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that just doesn't seem to happen any more."

The shiny, harmless Christmas beetle is as unique to Australia as koalas. The expert said Australia has a "really unique biological event where Christmas is associated with the arrival of these...beetles". She said it was "absolutely critical" to find out why there are so few around. It could be because of habitat loss. In 2020, bushfires wiped out many forests. Scientists are worried that the Christmas beetle may also be dying out.

Sources: <https://phys.org/news/2022-11-christmas-beetles.html>
<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/the-curious-case-around-christmas-beetles-20161212-gt94rx.html>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-08/christmas-beetle-mystery-citizen-science/101744318>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Beetles do not | a. missing |
| 2. when we think | b. of 35 remembers |
| 3. It has gone | c. expert |
| 4. a sign that Christmas | d. to happen any more |
| 5. An insect | e. of the holiday season |
| 6. Everybody over the age | f. was on its way |
| 7. huge numbers | g. spring to mind |
| 8. that just doesn't seem | h. of Christmas beetles |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The shiny, harmless | a. Australia as koalas |
| 2. as unique to | b. few around |
| 3. a really unique biological | c. arrival of these beetles |
| 4. Christmas is associated with the | d. loss |
| 5. She said it was absolutely | e. out |
| 6. find out why there are so | f. critical |
| 7. habitat | g. Christmas beetle |
| 8. be dying | h. event |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle-4.html>

Christmas (1) _____ donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins. Beetles do not (2) _____ when we think of the holiday season. However, there is a Christmas beetle in Australia. It has gone missing. It used to be (3) _____ Christmas was on its way. An (4) _____: "Everybody over the age of 35 remembers (5) _____ numbers of Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that just doesn't seem (6) _____ more."

The shiny, harmless Christmas beetle (7) _____ to Australia as koalas. (8) _____ Australia has a "really unique biological event where Christmas is associated with (9) _____ these...beetles". She said it was "absolutely critical" to find out why there are (10) _____. It could be because (11) _____. In 2020, bushfires wiped out many forests. Scientists are worried that the Christmas beetle (12) _____ dying out.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle-4.html>

Christmas is associated with donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins. Beetles do not spring to mind when we think of the holiday season. However, there is a Christmas beetle in Australia. It has gone missing. It used to be a sign that Christmas was on its way. An insect expert said: "Everybody over the age of 35 remembers there being huge numbers of Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that just doesn't seem to happen anymore." The shiny, harmless Christmas beetle is as unique to Australia as koalas. The expert said Australia has a "really unique biological event where Christmas is associated with the arrival of these... beetles". She said it was "absolutely critical" to find out why there are so few around. It could be because of habitat loss. In 2020, bushfires wiped out many forests. Scientists are worried that the Christmas beetle may also be dying out.

CHRISTMAS ANIMALS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Christmas animals 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) _____

