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**Level 4 – 5th August 2024**

**18-km wide diamond layer on Mercury, says study**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-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/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-4.html>

Marilyn Monroe once sang, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend". Scientists believe they have found an 18-km wide layer of these precious stones, on Mercury. Earth's closest neighbour could be a huge jewel. Researchers tested how Mercury formed from spinning clouds of dust. Over 4.5 billion years ago, the dust became graphite. Mercury's diamonds may never be mined. This is because they are 500 km below Mercury's surface.

Researchers used a machine to simulate the conditions under which Mercury formed. They mixed silicon, magnesium and aluminium inside a graphite capsule. This was exposed to pressure 70,000 times greater than Earth's. It was heated to temperatures of 2,000°C. A researcher said the diamonds on Mercury would resemble pure diamonds. Scientists believe there are a quadrillion tons of diamonds beneath the Earth.

Sources: <https://boingboing.net/2024/08/01/mercury-may-have-11-mile-deep-layer-of-diamonds.html>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/07/31/science/mercury-diamond-underground-layer/index.html>  
<https://news.sky.com/story/mercury-has-a-layer-of-diamond-up-to-10-miles-thick-scientists-suggest-13184660>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Diamonds are a girl's           | a. be mined          |
| 2. they have found an              | b. be a huge jewel   |
| 3. precious                        | c. graphite          |
| 4. Earth's closest neighbour could | d. 18-km wide layer  |
| 5. spinning clouds                 | e. Mercury's surface |
| 6. the dust became                 | f. stones            |
| 7. Mercury's diamonds may never    | g. best friend       |
| 8. they are 500 km below           | h. of dust           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Researchers used a machine to    | a. diamonds                |
| 2. They mixed silicon, magnesium    | b. greater than Earth's    |
| 3. inside a graphite                | c. the Earth               |
| 4. exposed to pressure 70,000 times | d. tons of diamonds        |
| 5. It was heated to temperatures    | e. and aluminium           |
| 6. resemble pure                    | f. of 2,000°C              |
| 7. a quadrillion                    | g. simulate the conditions |
| 8. beneath                          | h. capsule                 |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-4.html>

Marilyn Monroe once sang, "Diamonds are a (1) \_\_\_\_\_".

Scientists believe they have found an 18-km wide layer of

(2) \_\_\_\_\_, on Mercury. Earth's closest neighbour could

be (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Researchers tested how Mercury formed

from spinning (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Over 4.5 billion years ago, the

(5) \_\_\_\_\_. Mercury's diamonds may never be mined.

This is because they are 500 km (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Researchers used a machine to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ under which

Mercury formed. (8) \_\_\_\_\_, magnesium and aluminium

inside a graphite capsule. This was (9) \_\_\_\_\_ 70,000

times greater than Earth's. It was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of

2,000°C. A researcher said the diamonds on Mercury would

(11) \_\_\_\_\_. Scientists believe there are a

(12) \_\_\_\_\_ diamonds beneath the Earth.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-4.html>

Marilyn Monroe once sang, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend". Scientists believe they have found an 18-km wide layer of these precious stones, on Mercury. Earth's closest neighbour could be a huge jewel. Researchers tested how Mercury formed from spinning clouds of dust. Over 4.5 billion years ago, the dust became graphite. Mercury's diamonds may never be mined. This is because they are 500 km below Mercury's surface. Researchers used a machine to simulate the conditions under which Mercury formed. They mixed silicon, magnesium and aluminium inside a graphite capsule. This was exposed to pressure 70,000 times greater than Earth's. It was heated to temperatures of 2,000°C. As researchers said the diamonds on Mercury would resemble pure diamonds. Scientists believe there are a quadrillion tons of diamonds beneath the Earth.

# DIAMONDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about diamonds 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Mercury has 18-km wide layer of diamonds, say scientists – 5th August 2024*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-4.html>

Write about **diamonds** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.

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