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Level 6 – 11th November 2024

Scientists say the egg came before the chicken

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

One of life's greatest mysteries may finally have been solved. Scientists believe they have unlocked the conundrum of the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has baffled great minds for centuries. However, researchers from the University of Geneva believe they have cracked this philosophical mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a tiny marine organism called *Chromosphaera perkinsii*. This single-celled species dates back over a billion years. The researchers found it can form multicellular structures which are similar to animal embryos. This means there was no need for a prehistoric chicken to lay an egg.

Researcher Marine Olivetta told "Nature Journal" that *Chromosphaera perkinsii* was first discovered in 2017 off the coast of Hawaii. She said it has offered many insights into ancient life forms. She said: "It's fascinating that a species discovered so recently allows us to go back in time a billion years." The researcher suggested that the genetics behind egg fertilization and embryonic development were present before animal life existed. This means nature could have created eggs long before evolution "invented chickens". A more straightforward answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens came into existence 10,000 years ago, whereas eggs have existed for millions of years.

Sources: <https://www.ladbible.com/news/science/which-came-first-chicken-or-egg-answer-824479-20241109>
<https://metro.co.uk/2024/11/08/scientists-crack-whether-chicken-egg-came-first-21953962/>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14059591/Which-came-chicken-egg-cracked-debate.html>

WARM-UPS

1. CHICKENS AND EGGS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about chickens and eggs. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

life / mystery / conundrum / age-old questions / chicken / egg / philosophical /species
coast / insights / ancient life / genetics / embryonic development / animal / evolution

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. THE CHICKEN CAME FIRST: Students A **strongly** believe the chicken came before the egg; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. LIFE'S MYSTERIES: How important are these mysteries? What are your answers? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How Important Is This?	What's Your Answer?
Why do we sleep?		
How did the universe start?		
Is there alien life?		
Why do we lose our keys?		
What is love?		
Where do we go when we die?		

5. EVOLUTION: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "evolution". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. EGG DISHES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Boiled egg
- Scrambled egg
- Fried egg
- Omelette
- Quiche
- Souffle
- Poached egg
- Pickled eggs

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. solved | a. Very, very old; something that has existed for a long time. |
| 2. conundrum | b. Found the answer to a problem or question. |
| 3. age-old | c. Very confused and unable to understand something. |
| 4. baffled | d. Figured out or solved something difficult. |
| 5. cracked | e. A difficult question or puzzle to figure out. |
| 6. marine | f. A tiny, early stage of an animal or human before it is born. |
| 7. embryo | g. Related to the sea or ocean. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. insight | h. Very old; from a long, long time ago. |
| 9. ancient | i. The process when a sperm joins with an egg to start forming a baby. |
| 10. species | j. A new and deep understanding of something. |
| 11. genetics | k. A group of animals or plants that are similar and can have babies together. |
| 12. fertilization | l. The slow change of living things over a long time. |
| 13. evolution | m. The study of how things like looks and traits are passed from parents to children. |
| 14. riddle | n. A tricky question or puzzle that is fun to solve. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says one of life's mysteries has been solved. **T / F**
2. The chicken and egg riddle has puzzled people for hundreds of years. **T / F**
3. A clue to the chicken and egg riddle was found in a marine organism. **T / F**
4. The marine organism was around over a billion years ago. **T / F**
5. The marine organism was discovered last year. **T / F**
6. Nature was creating eggs before it created chickens. **T / F**
7. Chickens have been around for one hundred thousand years. **T / F**
8. Eggs have been around for one hundred million years. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1. mysteries | a. unearthed |
| 2. baffled | b. life form |
| 3. cracked | c. created |
| 4. organism | d. puzzled |
| 5. prehistoric | e. elementary |
| 6. discovered | f. growth |
| 7. development | g. puzzles |
| 8. invented | h. being |
| 9. straightforward | i. solved |
| 10. existence | j. primitive |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. One of life's greatest | a. great minds for centuries |
| 2. the age- | b. forms |
| 3. This problem has baffled | c. old question |
| 4. a tiny marine | d. structures |
| 5. it can form multicellular | e. coast of Hawaii |
| 6. discovered in 2017 off the | f. straightforward answer |
| 7. insights into ancient life | g. mysteries |
| 8. the genetics behind egg | h. existence 10,000 years ago |
| 9. A more | i. organism |
| 10. chickens came into | j. fertilization |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

One of life's greatest (1) _____ may finally have been solved. Scientists believe they have unlocked the (2) _____ of the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has (3) _____ great minds for centuries. However, researchers from the University of Geneva believe they have cracked this (4) _____ mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a tiny marine (5) _____ called *Chromosphaera perkinsii*. This single-celled species (6) _____ back over a billion years. The researchers found it can form multicellular structures which are (7) _____ to animal embryos. This means there was no need for a (8) _____ chicken to lay an egg.

philosophical
mysteries
organism
prehistoric
baffled
similar
conundrum
dates

Researcher Marine Olivetta told "Nature Journal" that *Chromosphaera perkinsii* was first (9) _____ in 2017 off the coast of Hawaii. She said it has offered many (10) _____ into ancient life forms. She said: "It's fascinating that a species discovered so (11) _____ allows us to go back in time a billion years." The researcher suggested that the (12) _____ behind egg fertilization and embryonic development were present before animal life (13) _____. This means nature could have created eggs long before (14) _____ "invented chickens". A more straightforward answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens came into (15) _____ 10,000 years ago, (16) _____ eggs have existed for millions of years.

evolution
genetics
insights
existence
discovered
whereas
existed
recently

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

- 1) One of life's greatest mysteries may finally _____
 - a. have been absolved
 - b. have been unsolved
 - c. have been solved
 - d. have been resolved
- 2) Scientists believe they have _____
 - a. unlocked the contraption
 - b. unlocked the conundrum
 - c. unlocked the cunning drum
 - d. unlocked the conned drum
- 3) This problem has baffled great _____
 - a. minds afore centuries
 - b. minds fore centuries
 - c. minds four centuries
 - d. minds for centuries
- 4) researchers found it can form multicellular structures which are similar _____
 - a. to animal embryo
 - b. to animal embryos
 - c. to animal embryonies
 - d. to animal imbroglios
- 5) This means there was no need for a prehistoric chicken to _____
 - a. lie an egg
 - b. lay an egg
 - c. ray an egg
 - d. wry an egg
- 6) Chromosphaera perkinskii was first discovered in 2017 off the _____
 - a. coast of Hawaii
 - b. cost of Hawaii
 - c. caste of Hawaii
 - d. cast of Hawaii
- 7) She said it has offered many insights into _____
 - a. ancient rife forms
 - b. ancient alive forms
 - c. ancient live forms
 - d. ancient life forms
- 8) It's fascinating that a species discovered so recently allows us to go _____
 - a. back on time
 - b. backing time
 - c. back in time
 - d. back in timed
- 9) This means nature could have created eggs long before _____
 - a. evolution invent it chickens
 - b. evolution invented chickens
 - c. evolution reinvented chickens
 - d. evolution inverted chickens
- 10) straightforward answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens _____
 - a. came in two existence
 - b. came onto existence
 - c. came unto existence
 - d. came into existence

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

One of (1) _____ may finally have been solved. Scientists believe they have unlocked (2) _____ the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has (3) _____ for centuries. However, researchers from the University of Geneva believe they have cracked this philosophical mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a (4) _____ called *Chromosphaera perkinsii*. This single-celled species dates back over a billion years. The researchers found it can form multicellular structures which are similar (5) _____. This means there was no need for (6) _____ to lay an egg.

Researcher Marine Olivetta told "Nature Journal" that *Chromosphaera perkinsii* was first discovered in 2017 (7) _____ of Hawaii. She said it has (8) _____ into ancient life forms. She said: "It's fascinating that a species discovered so recently allows us to go (9) _____ a billion years." The researcher suggested that the (10) _____ fertilization and embryonic development were present before animal life existed. This means nature could have created eggs long before evolution "invented chickens". (11) _____ answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens came into existence 10,000 years ago, whereas eggs have (12) _____ of years.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

1. What do scientists think they unlocked?
2. Where are the researchers from?
3. How long ago was the organism *Chromosphaera perkinsii* in existence?
4. What could the organism create that were like animal embryos?
5. What did the article say did not need to lay an egg?
6. When was *Chromosphaera perkinsii* discovered?
7. What could *Chromosphaera perkinsii* provide insights into?
8. What did the researcher think about *Chromosphaera perkinsii*?
9. What aspect of genetics was mentioned besides egg fertilization?
10. For how long have chickens been around?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

- 1) What do scientists think they unlocked?
 - a) a door
 - b) a conundrum
 - c) the mind
 - d) the secrets to eternal life
- 2) Where are the researchers from?
 - a) the University of Genoa
 - b) the University of Grenade
 - c) the University of Germany
 - d) the University of Geneva
- 3) How long ago was the organism Chromosphaera perkinsii in existence?
 - a) around a billion years ago
 - b) just under a billion years ago
 - c) over a billion years ago
 - d) exactly a billion years ago
- 4) What could the organism create that were like animal embryos?
 - a) multicellular structures
 - b) skin
 - c) hair follicles
 - d) sweat glands
- 5) What did the article say did not need to lay an egg?
 - a) a modern-day chicken
 - b) a prehistoric chicken
 - c) any kind of bird
 - d) a reptile
- 6) When was Chromosphaera perkinsii discovered?
 - a) in 2017
 - b) in 2018
 - c) in 2019
 - d) in 2020
- 7) What could Chromosphaera perkinsii provide insights into?
 - a) our soul
 - b) the depths of our mind
 - c) ancient life forms
 - d) the ocean floor
- 8) What did the researcher think about Chromosphaera perkinsii?
 - a) She thought it was fascinating.
 - b) She thought it was fascination
 - c) She thought it was fascinate tin
 - d) She thought it was fascinate in
- 9) What aspect of genetics was mentioned besides egg fertilization?
 - a) behaviour
 - b) DNA
 - c) molecular theory
 - d) embryonic development
- 10) For how long have chickens been around?
 - a) 30,000 years
 - b) 40,000 years
 - c) 10,000 years
 - d) 20,000 years

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

Role A – Omelettes

You think omelettes are the best ways to cook eggs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): fried eggs, boiled eggs or scrambled eggs.

Role B – Fried Eggs

You think fried eggs are the best ways to cook eggs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): omelettes, boiled eggs or scrambled eggs.

Role C – Boiled Eggs

You think boiled eggs are the best ways to cook eggs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): fried eggs, omelettes or scrambled eggs.

Role D – Scrambled Eggs

You think scrambled eggs are the best ways to cook eggs. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): fried eggs, boiled eggs or omelettes.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'chicken' and 'egg'.

chicken	egg
----------------	------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• greatest• minds• cracked• tiny• form• need	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2017• offered• time• present• long• whereas
---	--

CHICKENS AND EGGS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

Write five GOOD questions about chickens and eggs 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.

CHICKEN AND EGG DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'chicken'?
3. What are the arguments for the chicken coming first?
4. What other great mysteries are there in life?
5. What do you think of chickens?
6. Does it matter if the chicken or egg came first?
7. What things are you baffled by?
8. What was animal life like in prehistory?
9. Why do we never see baby pigeons?
10. Would you like to see a prehistoric chicken?

Scientists say the egg came before the chicken – 11th November 2024
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CHICKEN AND EGG DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'egg'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'egg'?
15. What do you think of eggs?
16. Do you think the chicken or the egg came first?
17. How will evolution change animals in the future?
18. How will the world change if we know the egg came first?
19. Why do cows always face north or south when grazing?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

One of life's greatest mysteries may (1) _____ have been solved. Scientists believe they have unlocked the (2) _____ of the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has (3) _____ great minds for centuries. However, researchers from the University of Geneva believe they have (4) _____ this philosophical mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a tiny marine organism called *Chromosphaera perkinsii*. This single-celled species dates (5) _____ over a billion years. The researchers found it can form multicellular structures which are similar to animal embryos. This means there was no (6) _____ for a prehistoric chicken to lay an egg.

Researcher Marine Olivetta told "Nature Journal" that *Chromosphaera perkinsii* was first discovered in 2017 off the coast (7) _____ Hawaii. She said it has offered many insights into ancient life forms. She said: "It's fascinating that a species discovered so recently allows us to go back (8) _____ time a billion years." The researcher suggested that the genetics (9) _____ egg fertilization and embryonic development were present before animal life existed. This means nature could have created eggs (10) _____ before evolution "invented chickens". A more straightforward answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens came (11) _____ existence 10,000 years ago, (12) _____ eggs have existed for millions of years.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) final | (b) finality | (c) finally | (d) finals |
| 2. | (a) conundrum | (b) compendium | (c) companion | (d) conurbation |
| 3. | (a) baffled | (b) biffed | (c) waffled | (d) whiffed |
| 4. | (a) cracked | (b) crooked | (c) clocked | (d) creaked |
| 5. | (a) aback | (b) backed | (c) backer | (d) back |
| 6. | (a) in need | (b) needy | (c) necessary | (d) need |
| 7. | (a) off | (b) at | (c) to | (d) by |
| 8. | (a) of | (b) at | (c) on | (d) in |
| 9. | (a) behind | (b) ahead | (c) fronted | (d) whereby |
| 10. | (a) yonder | (b) long | (c) afore | (d) past |
| 11. | (a) onto | (b) into | (c) hitherto | (d) unto |
| 12. | (a) whereas | (b) moreover | (c) notwithstanding | (d) so |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

Paragraph 1

1. Scientists believe they have unlocked the onuruncmd
2. This problem has lffbade great minds
3. cracked this looslahcpiiph mystery
4. it can form ulmcatilurlel structures
5. similar to animal mobeysr
6. no need for a presitoichr chicken to lay an egg

Paragraph 2

7. it has offered many sntgisih
8. entcna life forms
9. It's ginniafasct
10. the ncsigeet behind egg fertilization
11. bnoremciy development
12. chickens came into eexeticn 10,000 years ago

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () in time a billion years." The researcher suggested that the genetics behind egg fertilization and embryonic
- (**1**) One of life's greatest mysteries may finally have been solved. Scientists believe they have unlocked
- () great minds for centuries. However, researchers from the University of Geneva believe
- () similar to animal embryos. This means there was no need for a prehistoric chicken to lay an egg.
- () they have cracked this philosophical mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a
- () life forms. She said: "It's fascinating that a species discovered so recently allows us to go back
- () the conundrum of the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has baffled
- () discovered in 2017 off the coast of Hawaii. She said it has offered many insights into ancient
- () tiny marine organism called *Chromosphaera perkinsii*. This single-celled species dates
- () Researcher Marine Olivetta told "Nature Journal" that *Chromosphaera perkinsii* was first
- () back over a billion years. The researchers found it can form multicellular structures which are
- () into existence 10,000 years ago, whereas eggs have existed for millions of years.
- () before evolution "invented chickens". A more straightforward answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens came
- () development were present before animal life existed. This means nature could have created eggs long

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

1. have finally Life's mysteries solved . greatest may been
2. the conundrum unlocked the They've question . of age-old
3. minds baffled for great This has centuries . problem
4. are similar . which multicellular It structures form can
5. lay eggs . need prehistoric chickens No for to
6. many into forms . ancient life insights offered It
7. time It years . goes a billion back in
8. nature could have This means eggs . created
9. straightforward answer more the problem . egg A to
10. eggs have Whereas of for existed millions years .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

One of life's greatest *mysteries / mysterious* may finally have been *solved / soluble*. Scientists believe they have unlocked the *compendium / conundrum* of the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has *baffled / boffin* great minds for centuries. However, researchers from the University of Geneva believe they have *crackled / cracked* this philosophical mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a *tiny / tinny* marine organism called *Chromosphaera perkinsii*. This single-celled species *rates / dates* back over a billion years. The researchers found it can *form / farm* multicellular structures which are similar to animal *embryonic / embryos*. This means there was no need for a prehistoric chicken to *lie / lay* an egg.

Researcher Marine Olivetta told "Nature Journal" that *Chromosphaera perkinsii* was first discovered in 2017 off the *cast / coast* of Hawaii. She said it has offered many *insights / sightseers* into ancient life forms. She said: "It's *fascination / fascinating* that a species discovered so *recent / recently* allows us to go back in time *the / a* billion years." The researcher suggested that the *genetics / genesis* behind egg fertilization and embryonic development were present before animal life *existed / resisted*. This means nature could have created eggs long before *evolution / revolution* "invented chickens". A more straightforward answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens came *onto / into* existence 10,000 years ago, *alias / whereas* eggs have existed for millions of years.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

n _f l_f_'s gr__t_st myst_r__s m_y f_n_lly h_v_
b__n s_lv_d. Sc__nt_sts b_l__v_ th_y h_v_ _n_l_ck_d
th_ c_n_n_d_r_m _f th_ _g_-_ld q__st__n _f wh_th_r th_
ch_ck_n _r th_ _gg c_m_ f_rst. Th_s pr_bl_m h_s
b_ffl_d gr__t m_nds f_r c_nt_r__s. H_w_v_r,
r_s__rch_rs fr_m th_ _n_v_rs_ty _f G_n_v_ b_l__v_
th_y h_v_ cr_ck_d th_s ph_l_s_ph_c_l myst_ry. Th_y
s_gg_st th_ _gg c_m_ f_rst. Th_ sc__nt_sts st_d__d _
t_ny m_r_n_ _rg_n_sm c_ll_d Chr_m_sph__r_ p_rk_ns__.
Th_s s_ngl_-c_ll_d sp_c__s d_t_s b_ck _v_r _ b_ll__n
y__rs. Th_ r_s__rch_rs f__nd _t c_n f_rm m_lt_c_ll_l_r
str_ct_r_s wh_ch _r_ s_m_l_r t_ _n_m_l _mbry_s. Th_s
m__ns th_r_ w_s n_ n__d f_r _ pr_h_st_r_c ch_ck_n
t_ l_y _n _gg.

R_s__rch_r M_r_n_ _l_v_tt_ t_ld "N_t_r_ J__rn_l" th_t
Chr_m_sph__r_ p_rk_nsk__ w_s f_rst d_sc_v_r_d _n
2017 _ff th_ c__st _f H_w___. Sh_ s__d _t h_s
_ff_r_d m_ny _ns_ghts _nt_ _nc__nt l_f_ f_rms. Sh_
s__d: "_t's f_sc_n_t_ng th_t _ sp_c__s d_sc_v_r_d s_
r_c_ntly _ll_ws _s t_ g_ b_ck _n t_m_ _ b_ll__n
y__rs." Th_ r_s__rch_r s_gg_st_d th_t th_ g_n_t_cs
b_h_nd _gg f_rt_l_z_t__n _nd _mbry_n_c d_v_l_pm_nt
w_r_ pr_s_nt b_f_r_ _n_m_l l_f_ _x_st_d. Th_s m__ns
n_t_r_ c__ld h_v_ cr__t_d _ggs l_ng b_f_r_ _v_l_t__n
"_nv_nt_d ch_ck_ns". _ m_r_ str__ghtf_rw_rd _nsw_r t_
th_ ch_ck_n _nd _gg pr_bl_m _s th_t ch_ck_ns c_m_
nt _x_st_nc_ 10,000 y__rs _g_, wh_r__s _ggs h_v_
_x_st_d f_r m_ll__ns _f y__rs.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

one of life's greatest mysteries may finally have been solved. Scientists believe they have unlocked the conundrum of the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has baffled great minds for centuries. However, researchers from the University of Geneva believe they have cracked this philosophical mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a tiny marine organism called *Chromosphaera perkinsii*. This single-celled species dates back over a billion years. The researchers found it can form multicellular structures which are similar to animal embryos. This means there was no need for a prehistoric chicken to lay an egg.

Researcher Marine Olivetta told *Nature* journal that *Chromosphaera perkinsii* was first discovered in 2017 off the coast of Hawaii. She said it has offered many insights into ancient life forms. She said it's fascinating that a species discovered so recently allows us to go back in time a billion years. The researcher suggested that the genetics behind egg fertilization and embryonic development were present before animal life existed. This means nature could have created eggs long before evolution invented chickens. A more straightforward answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens came into existence 10,000 years ago, whereas eggs have existed for millions of years.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg.html>

One of life's greatest mysteries may finally have been solved. Scientists believe they have unlocked the conundrum of the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has baffled great minds for centuries. However, researchers from the University of Geneva believe they have cracked this philosophical mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a tiny marine organism called *Chromosphaera perkinsii*. This single-celled species dates back over a billion years. The researchers found it can form multicellular structures which are similar to animal embryos. This means there was no need for a prehistoric hickentolayan egg. Researcher Marine Olivetta told "Nature Journal" that *Chromosphaera perkinsii* was first discovered in 2017 off the coast of Hawaii. She said it has offered many insights into ancient life forms. She said: "It's fascinating that a species discovered so recently allows us to go back in time a billion years." The researchers suggested that the genetics behind egg fertilization and embryonic development were present before a single-celled life existed. This means nature could have created eggs long before evolution "invented chickens". A more straightforward answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens came into existence 10,000 years ago, whereas eggs have existed for millions of years.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CHICKENS AND EGGS: Make a poster about chickens and eggs. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CHICKEN FIRST: Write a magazine article about chickens coming before eggs. Include imaginary interviews with people who believe this and with those who don't.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on chickens and eggs. Ask him/her three questions about chickens and eggs. Give him/her three of your ideas on which came first. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b 2. e 3. a 4. c 5. d 6. g 7. f
8. j 9. h 10. k 11. m 12. i 13. l 14. n

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 T 3 T 4 T 5 F 6 T 7 F 8 F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. a	7. f	8. c	9. e	10. h

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A conundrum
2. The University of Geneva
3. Over a billion years ago
4. Multicellular structures
5. A prehistoric chicken
6. In 2017
7. Ancient life forms
8. She thought it was fascinating
9. Embryonic development
10. For 10,000 years

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Life's greatest mysteries may finally have been solved.
2. They've unlocked the conundrum of the age-old question.
3. This problem has baffled great minds for centuries.
4. It can form multicellular structures which are similar.
5. No need for prehistoric chickens to lay eggs.
6. It offered many insights into ancient life forms.
7. It goes back in time a billion years.
8. This means nature could have created eggs.
9. A more straightforward answer to the egg problem.
10. Whereas eggs have existed for millions of years.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)