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Level 1

Future rats could be the size of sheep

6th February, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-1.html>

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-1.html>

Rats the size of sheep are in horror movies. However, scientists say giant rats could be real in the future. They could weigh 80kg. Rats are now all over the Earth. They are the strongest animals in many places. They travel on ships and move to places that never had rats before. Larger animals are becoming extinct, so fewer animals can kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said rats might grow to become the world's largest rodent.

Dr Zalasiewicz said humans spread rats around the world. They adapted well to their new environments. He said the future would have thin rats, fat rats, slow ones, fast ones, and heavy ones. There might also be water rats. After the dinosaurs, many small animals grew bigger. The same thing could happen with rats if there were no animals left that kill them. They might make other species extinct. A big question is what humans would do about giant rats.

Sources: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/457757/Super-sized-rodents-Rats-could-grow-bigger-than-sheep-and-weigh-same-as-average-Briton>
<http://www.skynews.com.au/eco/article.aspx?id=947282>
<http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/5868/20140203/rats-will-adapt-replace-extinct-animals-become-enormous-expert.htm>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. giant rats could be | a. the Earth |
| 2. They could | b. rats before |
| 3. Rats are now all over | c. kill rats |
| 4. They travel | d. weigh 80kg |
| 5. places that never had | e. world's largest rodent |
| 6. Larger animals are | f. real in the future |
| 7. fewer animals can | g. becoming extinct |
| 8. grow to become the | h. on ships |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. humans spread | a. new environments |
| 2. They adapted well to their | b. kill them |
| 3. the future would | c. about giant rats |
| 4. There might also | d. have thin rats |
| 5. The same thing could | e. rats around the world |
| 6. no animals left that | f. be water rats |
| 7. A big | g. happen with rats |
| 8. what humans would do | h. question |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-1.html>

Rats the size of sheep (1) _____. However, scientists say giant rats (2) _____ the future. They could weigh 80kg. Rats are (3) _____ Earth. They are the strongest animals in many places. They travel on ships and (4) _____ that never had rats before. Larger animals (5) _____, so fewer animals can kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said rats might (6) _____ the world's largest rodent.

Dr Zalasiewicz said humans (7) _____ the world. They adapted well to their (8) _____. He said the future would (9) _____, fat rats, slow ones, fast ones, and heavy ones. There (10) _____ rats. After the dinosaurs, many small animals grew bigger. The same thing could happen with rats (11) _____ animals left that kill them. They might make (12) _____. A big question is what humans would do about giant rats.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-1.html>

Ratsthesizeofsheepareinhorrormovies.However,scientistssaygiantratscouldberealinthefuture.Theycouldweigh80kg.RatsarenowallovertheEarth.Theyarethestrongestanimalsinmanyplaces.Theytravelonshipsandmovetoplacesthatneverhadratsbefore.Largeranimalsarebecomingextinct,sofeweranimalscankillrats.ResearcherDrJanZalasiewiczsaidratsmightgrowtobecometheworld'slargestrodent.DrZalasiewiczsaidhumansspreadratsaroundtheworld.Theyadaptedwelltotheirnewenvironments.Hesaidthefuturewouldhavethinrats,fatrats,slowones,fastones,andheavyones.Theremightalsobewaterrats.Afterthedinosaurs,manysmallanimalsgrewbigger.Thesamethingcouldhappenwithratsiftherewerenomammalsleftthatkillthem.Theymightmakeotherspeciesextinct.Abigquestioniswhathumanswoulddoaboutgiantrats.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)
