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Level 2

Future rats could be the size of sheep

6th February, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-2.html>

We might see rats the size of sheep in a horror movie. However, scientists in England say that in the future, they could be real. Giant rats could be as big as sheep and weigh 80kg. Rats are now all over the Earth. They are the strongest animals on many small islands. One reason for this is that they travel on ships and move to places that never had rats before. Another reason is that larger animals are becoming extinct. There are fewer animals that might kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said rats could probably grow to become the world's largest rodent.

Dr Zalasiewicz said rats are an example of a species that humans spread around the world. They have adapted well to many of their new environments. He said: "There will be future thin rats, future fat rats, slow and heavy rats, fast and [fierce] rats, probably future aquatic rats." After the dinosaurs died, many small animals grew bigger. The same thing could happen with rats if there were no animals left that hunt and kill them. Dr Zalasiewicz said "super-rats" would kill other species to make them extinct. This will damage food chains. He did not say 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>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. We might see rats the size of sheep | a. never had rats before |
| 2. in the future, | b. might kill rats |
| 3. weigh | c. over the Earth |
| 4. Rats are now all | d. largest rodent |
| 5. move to places that | e. 80kg |
| 6. larger animals are | f. in a horror movie |
| 7. There are fewer animals that | g. becoming extinct |
| 8. grow to become the world's | h. they could be real |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a species that humans spread | a. rats |
| 2. They have adapted | b. chains |
| 3. their new | c. happen with rats |
| 4. fierce | d. do about giant rats |
| 5. many small animals | e. around the world |
| 6. The same thing could | f. well |
| 7. This will damage food | g. environments |
| 8. He did not say what humans would | h. grew bigger |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-2.html>

We might see rats the size of sheep (1) _____.
However, scientists in England say that in the future, they could
real. Giant rats could be as big as sheep
(2) _____. Rats are now
(3) _____. They are the strongest animals on
many small islands. (4) _____ is that they travel
on ships and move to (5) _____ had rats before.
Another reason is that larger animals are becoming extinct. There
(6) _____ that might kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan
Zalasiewicz said rats could probably grow to become the world's
largest rodent.

Dr Zalasiewicz said rats (7) _____ a species that
humans spread around the world. They have adapted well to many
of their (8) _____. He said: "There will be future
thin rats, future fat rats, slow and heavy rats,
(9) _____ rats, probably future aquatic rats." After
the dinosaurs died, (10) _____ grew bigger. The
same thing could happen with rats if there were no animals left that
hunt and kill them. Dr Zalasiewicz said "super-rats" would kill other
species to (11) _____. This will damage food
chains. He did not say what humans (12) _____
giant rats.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1402/140206-rats-2.html>

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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)
