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Level 3

Future rats could be the size of sheep

6th February, 2014

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Rats that are the size of sheep might be a good horror movie story. However, scientists from the University of Leicester in England say that in the future, there could really be giant rats on the Earth. They could be as big as sheep and weigh up to 80kg. Rats are spreading all over the Earth. They are now the strongest animals on many small islands. One of the reasons for this is that they travel on ships and relocate to areas that never had rats before. Another reason is that many larger animals are becoming extinct, so there are fewer animals that might kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said: "Given enough time, rats could probably grow to be...the world's largest rodent."

Dr Zalasiewicz said rats are one of the best examples of a species that we have spread around the world, and have successfully adapted to many of the new environments. He said: "There will be future thin rats, future fat rats, slow and heavy rats, fast and ferocious rats, probably future aquatic rats - the list goes on." After the dinosaurs died out, many small animals slowly grew bigger and bigger. The same thing could happen with rats if there are no animals left that hunt and kill them. Dr Zalasiewicz also believes that "super-rats" will start killing other species to make them extinct. This will have a big impact on food chains. He did not say what humans would do about giant rats running around everywhere.

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>

WARM-UPS

1. RATS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about rats. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

sheep / horror movie / giant rats / strongest animals / small islands / relocate / extinct / examples / species / adapted / environments / dinosaurs / hunt / food chains

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

3. GIANT: What would life be like with these giant things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Sheep-sized...	Good things	Bad things
elephants		
ice cream		
mobile phones		
footballs		
flowers		
cars		

4. EXTINCT: Students A **strongly** believe humans will be extinct one day; Students B **strongly** believe we will never be extinct. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. HORROR MOVIES: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best stories at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- giant rats
- killer worms
- deadly mobile phones
- zombie children
- Facebook shares your secrets
- revenge of your enemies
- insects attack
- invasion of monster puppies

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

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. The article is about a future horror movie. | T / F |
| b. Scientists say rats in the future could weigh as much as 80kg. | T / F |
| c. Rats become stronger as larger animals become extinct. | T / F |
| d. Rats are already the world's largest rodents. | T / F |
| e. Humans have helped spread rats around the world. | T / F |
| f. A researcher said there could be slow rats in the future. | T / F |
| g. After the death of the dinosaurs, most animals became smaller. | T / F |
| h. The researcher said humans would invent special guns to kill giant rats. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. movie | a. as much as |
| 2. up to | b. effect |
| 3. strongest | c. all over |
| 4. relocate | d. adjusted |
| 5. reason | e. most powerful |
| 6. around | f. mention |
| 7. adapted | g. cause |
| 8. goes on | h. film |
| 9. impact | i. continues |
| 10. say | j. move |

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

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Rats that are the size of sheep might be | a. the new environments |
| 2. weigh up to | b. largest rodent |
| 3. relocate to areas that | c. becoming extinct |
| 4. many larger animals are | d. hunt and kill them |
| 5. grow to be the world's | e. 80kg |
| 6. a species that we have spread | f. goes on |
| 7. adapted to many of | g. around the world |
| 8. the list | h. a good horror movie |
| 9. no animals left that | i. chains |
| 10. This will have a big impact on food | j. never had rats before |

GAP FILL

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

Rats that are the size of sheep might be a good (1) _____ movie story. However, (2) _____ from the University of Leicester in England say that in the future, there could really be giant rats on the Earth. They could be as big as sheep and (3) _____ up to 80kg. Rats are (4) _____ all over the Earth. They are now the strongest animals on many small islands. One of the reasons for this is that they travel on ships and (5) _____ to areas that never had rats before. Another reason is that many larger animals are becoming (6) _____, so there are fewer animals that might kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said: "Given (7) _____ time, rats could probably grow to be...the world's largest (8) _____."

extinct
weigh
enough
horror
relocate
scientists
rodent
spreading

Dr Zalasiewicz said rats are one of the best (9) _____ of a species that we have spread around the world, and have successfully (10) _____ to many of the new environments. He said: "There will be future thin rats, future fat rats, slow and heavy rats, fast and (11) _____ rats, probably future aquatic rats - the list goes on." After the (12) _____ died out, many small animals slowly grew bigger and bigger. The same thing could happen with rats if there are no animals left that (13) _____ and kill them. Dr Zalasiewicz also believes that "super-rats" will start killing other (14) _____ to make them extinct. This will have a big impact on (15) _____ chains. He did not say what humans would do about giant rats running (16) _____ everywhere.

species
around
adapted
dinosaurs
examples
food
ferocious
hunt

Level 3

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LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Rats that are the size of sheep might be a good _____
 - a. horror movies story
 - b. horrors movie story
 - c. horror movie story
 - d. horrors movies story
- 2) Rats are spreading _____
 - a. all over the Earth
 - b. moreover the Earth
 - c. or over the Earth
 - d. awe over the Earth
- 3) _____ that never had rats before
 - a. relocated to areas
 - b. relocate to areas
 - c. relocates to areas
 - d. relocating to areas
- 4) Another reason is that many larger animals are _____
 - a. become in extinct
 - b. be coming extinct
 - c. becoming extinct
 - d. bee come in extinct
- 5) Given enough time, rats could probably grow to be...the _____
 - a. world's largest row dent
 - b. world's largest re-dent
 - c. world's largest low dent
 - d. world's largest rodent
- 6) _____ we have spread around the world
 - a. as pea she's that
 - b. a specials that
 - c. a species that
 - d. a spree she's that
- 7) successfully adapted to many of the _____
 - a. news environments
 - b. newly environments
 - c. newer environments
 - d. new environments
- 8) heavy rats, fast and ferocious rats, probably _____
 - a. future aquatic rats
 - b. future acrobatic rats
 - c. future aqua tick rats
 - d. future a quack tick rats
- 9) The same thing could happen with rats if there are no animals left that _____
 - a. hunts and kills them
 - b. hunt and kill them
 - c. hunts and kill them
 - d. hunt and kills them
- 10) This will have a big impact on _____
 - a. food chairs
 - b. food chain
 - c. food chained
 - d. food chains

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Rats that are the size of sheep might be a (1) _____ story. However, scientists from the University of Leicester in England say that in the future, (2) _____ giant rats on the Earth. They could be as big as sheep and weigh up to 80kg. Rats are (3) _____ the Earth. They are now the strongest animals on many small islands. One of the reasons for this is that they travel on ships (4) _____ that never had rats before. Another reason is that many larger animals are (5) _____, so there are fewer animals that might kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said: "Given enough time, rats could probably grow to be...the (6) _____."

Dr Zalasiewicz said rats are one of the best (7) _____ that we have spread around the world, and have successfully adapted to many of the new environments. He said: "There will be future thin rats, future fat rats, slow and heavy rats, fast (8) _____, probably future aquatic rats - (9) _____." After the dinosaurs died out, many small animals slowly grew bigger and bigger. The same thing could happen with rats if there are no animals (10) _____ kill them. Dr Zalasiewicz also believes that "super-rats" will start killing other species to make them extinct. This will have a (11) _____ chains. He did not say what humans (12) _____ giant rats running around everywhere.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What kind of movie could this story be good for?

2. How much could rats weigh in the future?

3. Where are rats spreading?

4. What is happening to many larger animals?

5. What did a doctor say could happen to rats, given enough time?

6. Who spread rats around the world?

7. What have rats successfully adapted to?

8. What happened to animals after the dinosaurs died out?

9. What happens if "super-rats" start killing other species?

10. What did the doctor say humans would do about giant rats?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. What kind of movies could this story be good for?
 - a) horror movies
 - b) action
 - c) love romances
 - d) mysteries
2. How much could rats weigh in the future?
 - a) 8kg
 - b) 18kg
 - c) 80kg
 - d) 8 million kg
3. Where are rats spreading?
 - a) underground
 - b) all over the Earth
 - c) London
 - d) in cyberspace
4. What is happening to many larger animals?
 - a) they are getting smaller
 - b) they are getting larger
 - c) they are starting to eat rats
 - d) they are becoming extinct
5. What did a doctor say could happen to rats, given enough time?
 - a) they could be the largest rodents
 - b) they could fly
 - c) they'll all die out
 - d) they'll be the only animals left
6. Who spread rats around the world?
 - a) pet lovers
 - b) zoo keepers
 - c) 19th-century explorers
 - d) we did
7. What have rats successfully adapted to?
 - a) organic food
 - b) new environments
 - c) new technology
 - d) life in the fast lane
8. What happened to animals after the dinosaurs died out?
 - a) they got smaller
 - b) they died out too
 - c) they became less ferocious
 - d) they got bigger
9. What happens if "super-rats" start killing other species?
 - a) the other species will fight back
 - b) humans will kill the rats
 - c) the species will become extinct
 - d) all animals will die out
10. What did the doctor say humans would do about giant rats?
 - a) he said humans would hunt them
 - b) he didn't say
 - c) they'd live inside giant walls
 - d) they'd live on rat-free islands

ROLE PLAY ABOUT NEW HORROR MOVIES

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

Role A – The Giant Rats

You think "The Giant Rats" would be the best movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): "Deadly Mobile Phones", "Revenge Of Your Enemies" or "Facebook Shares Secrets".

Role B – Deadly Mobile Phones

You think "Deadly Mobile Phones" would be the best movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): "The Giant Rats", "Revenge Of Your Enemies" or "Facebook Shares Secrets".

Role C – Revenge Of Your Enemies

You think "Revenge Of Your Enemies" would be the best movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): "Deadly Mobile Phones", "The Giant Rats" or "Facebook Shares Secrets".

Role D – Facebook Shares Secrets

You think "Facebook Shares Secrets" would be the best movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): "Deadly Mobile Phones", "Revenge Of Your Enemies" or "The Giant Rats".

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'giant' and 'rat'.

giant	rat
--------------	------------

- 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">• size• really• 80• ships• reason• enough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• best• thin• dinosaurs• hunt• super• running
--	--

RATS SURVEY

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

Write five GOOD questions about rats 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.

RATS DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'rat'?
- c) What experiences have you had with rats?
- d) What do you think of the idea of rats the size of sheep?
- e) How possible is it for rats to become as large as sheep?
- f) How would nature change if rats were as large as sheep?
- g) Are rats useful?
- h) Why do some people keep rats as pets? Would you like one?
- i) Why are rats so successful?
- j) What would you really like to know about rats?

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RATS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Have humans caused damage by spreading rats around the world?
- c) What do you do when you see a rat?
- d) Why are so many people afraid of rats?
- e) Are rats necessary?
- f) What do you think of the idea of "super-rats"?
- g) What will happen to the Earth if super-rats make other species extinct?
- h) How many rodents can you name? What's your favourite?
- i) What will humans do if giant rats are running around everywhere?
- j) 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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1402/140206-rats.html>

Rats that are the size of sheep might be a good (1) _____ movie story. However, scientists from the University of Leicester in England say that (2) _____ the future, there could really be giant rats on the Earth. They could be as big as sheep and weigh (3) _____ to 80kg. Rats are spreading all over the Earth. They are now the strongest animals on many small islands. One of the (4) _____ for this is that they travel on ships and relocate to areas that never had rats before. Another reason is that many larger animals are becoming (5) _____, so there are fewer animals that might kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said: "Given enough time, rats could probably grow to be...the world's largest (6) _____."

Dr Zalasiewicz said rats are one of the best examples of a species that we have (7) _____ around the world, and have successfully (8) _____ to many of the new environments. He said: "There will be future thin rats, future fat rats, slow and heavy rats, fast and (9) _____ rats, probably future aquatic rats - the list goes on." After the dinosaurs died out, many small animals slowly grew bigger and (10) _____. The same thing could happen with rats if there are no animals left that hunt and kill them. Dr Zalasiewicz also believes that "super-rats" will start killing other species to make them extinct. This will have a big impact on (11) _____ chains. He did not say what humans would do about giant rats running (12) _____ everywhere.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) horrifying | (b) horrific | (c) horrible | (d) horror |
| 2. | (a) to | (b) by | (c) at | (d) in |
| 3. | (a) increase | (b) up | (c) heavy | (d) level |
| 4. | (a) cause | (b) whys | (c) reasons | (d) answers |
| 5. | (a) exact | (b) exported | (c) extinct | (d) exist |
| 6. | (a) rodent | (b) radiant | (c) render | (d) recant |
| 7. | (a) smothered | (b) spread | (c) scattered | (d) scared |
| 8. | (a) adapted | (b) adept | (c) adopted | (d) added up |
| 9. | (a) ferrous | (b) ferocious | (c) furious | (d) feathered |
| 10. | (a) biggest | (b) bigly | (c) bigger | (d) bigoted |
| 11. | (a) garden | (b) key | (c) food | (d) heavy |
| 12. | (a) across | (b) up | (c) fast | (d) around |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. hrrroo movie
2. scinsitest from the University of Leicester
3. agpenirsd all over the Earth
4. tereocla to areas that never had rats before
5. animals are becoming ttcxien
6. guoneh time

Paragraph 2

7. one of the best epmxseal
8. a ceepssi that we have spread around the world
9. adapted to many of the new nnetivrsmoen
10. future qatiauc rats
11. After the raissondu died out
12. have a big ciatpm on food chains

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () from the University of Leicester in England say that in the future, there could really be giant rats
- () and bigger. The same thing could happen with rats if there are no animals left that hunt and
- () Dr Zalasiewicz said rats are one of the best examples of a species that we have spread
- () strongest animals on many small islands. One of the reasons for this is that they travel
- () extinct. This will have a big impact on food chains. He did not say what humans would do about giant rats running around everywhere.
- () around the world, and have successfully adapted to many of the new environments. He said: "There will be future thin rats,
- (**1**) Rats that are the size of sheep might be a good horror movie story. However, scientists
- () on the Earth. They could be as big as sheep and weigh up to 80kg. Rats are spreading all over the Earth. They are now the
- () time, rats could probably grow to be...the world's largest rodent."
- () on." After the dinosaurs died out, many small animals slowly grew bigger
- () future fat rats, slow and heavy rats, fast and ferocious rats, probably future aquatic rats - the list goes
- () on ships and relocate to areas that never had rats before. Another reason is that many larger animals are becoming
- () kill them. Dr Zalasiewicz also believes that "super-rats" will start killing other species to make them
- () extinct, so there are fewer animals that might kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said: "Given enough

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. might sheep of size the Rats movie horror good a be.

2. small islands They are now the strongest animals on many.

3. never Relocate had to rats areas before that.

4. kill fewer rats animals that There might are.

5. world's grow the rodent could be largest Rats to.

6. species have the A we around that spread world.

7. Many bigger small and animals bigger slowly grew.

8. with happen could thing same The rats.

9. - other rats species will start Super killing.

10. humans what say not did He rats giant about do would.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Rats that are the *size / sizes* of sheep might be a good horror movie story. However, *scientists / scientist* from the University of Leicester in England say that in the future, there could *really / reality* be giant rats on the Earth. They could be as big as sheep and *weigh / weight* up to 80kg. Rats are *sprawling / spreading* all over the Earth. They are now the *strongest / strangest* animals on many small islands. One of the *reason / reasons* for this is that they travel on ships and *locate / relocate* to areas that never had rats before. Another reason is that many larger animals are becoming *exact / extinct*, so there are fewer animals that might kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said: "Given enough time, rats could probably *growth / grow* to be...the world's largest rodent."

Dr Zalasiewicz said rats are one of the best examples of a *spaces / species* that we have spread around the world, and have *successful / successfully adapted / adopted* to many of the new environments. He said: "There will be future *think / thin* rats, future fat rats, slow and heavy rats, fast and *ferocious / ferociously* rats, probably future aquatic rats - the list goes on." After the dinosaurs died *in / out*, many small animals slowly grew bigger and *bigger / biggest*. The same thing could happen with rats if there are no animals left that hunt and kill *it / them*. Dr Zalasiewicz also believes that "super-rats" will start killing other species to make them extinct. This will have a big *compact / impact* on food chains. He did not say what humans would do about giant rats running around *anywhere / everywhere*.

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

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

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

Rats that are the size of sheep might be going to
harm many stories. However, scientists from the
University of Lancaster in England say that in the
future, they could really be going to eat rats in the
north. They could be as big as sheep and weigh up to 80kg.
Rats are spreading all over the north. They are now
the strongest animals in many small islands. In fact
the rats are for the first time that they travel in ships and
aircraft to the islands that never had rats before. In the
past, many large animals are becoming
extinct, so the rats are for many islands that might kill
rats. Researcher Dr John Ziswiler said: "Given
enough time, rats could probably grow to be...the
world's largest rodent."

Dr Ziswiler said rats are now one of the best examples
of species that will have spread around the world,
and have successfully adapted to many of the new
environments. He said: "The white rats, the brown
rats, the black rats, the grey rats, the
flea rats, probably the most common - the
black rat." In fact the diseases that, many small
animals slowly grow bigger and bigger. The same
thing could happen with rats if they are now in
islands that have not had them. Dr Ziswiler is
believing that "super-rats" will start killing other
species that make them extinct. This will have a big
impact on food chains. He did not say what humans
would do about giant rats running around everywhere.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

rats that are the size of sheep might be a good horror movie story however scientists from the university of leicester in england say that in the future there could really be giant rats on the earth they could be as big as sheep and weigh up to 80kg rats are spreading all over the earth they are now the strongest animals on many small islands one of the reasons for this is that they travel on ships and relocate to areas that never had rats before another reason is that many larger animals are becoming extinct so there are fewer animals that might kill rats researcher dr jan zalasiewicz said "given enough time rats could probably grow to be...the world's largest rodent"

dr zalasiewicz said rats are one of the best examples of a species that we have spread around the world and have successfully adapted to many of the new environments he said "there will be future thin rats future fat rats slow and heavy rats fast and ferocious rats probably future aquatic rats - the list goes on" after the dinosaurs died out many small animals slowly grew bigger and bigger the same thing could happen with rats if there are no animals left that hunt and kill them dr zalasiewicz also believes that "super-rats" will start killing other species to make them extinct this will have a big impact on food chains he did not say what humans would do about giant rats running around everywhere

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Rats that are the size of sheep might be a good horror movie story. However, scientists from the University of Leicester in England say that in the future, there could really be giant rats on the Earth. They could be as big as sheep and weigh up to 80 kg. Rats are spreading all over the Earth. They are now the strongest animal on many small islands. One of the reasons for this is that they travel on ships and relocate to areas that have never had rats before. Another reason is that many larger animals are becoming extinct, so there are fewer animals that might kill rats. Researcher Dr Jan Zalasiewicz said: "Given enough time, rats could probably grow to be... the world's largest rodent." Dr Zalasiewicz said rats are one of the best examples of a species that we have spread around the world, and have successfully adapted to many of the new environments. He said: "There will be future thin rats, future fat rats, slow and heavy rats, fast and ferocious rats, probably future aquatic rats - the list goes on." After the dinosaurs died out, many small animals slowly grew bigger and bigger. The same thing could happen with rats if there are no animals left that hunt and kill them. Dr Zalasiewicz also believes that "super-rats" will start killing other species to make them extinct. This will have a big impact on food chains. He did not say what humans would do about giant rats running around everywhere.

FREE WRITING

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

Write about **rats** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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 rats. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. RATS: Make a poster about rats. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. GIANT RATS: Write a magazine article about giant rats. Include imaginary interviews with people who think they would make life dangerous for humans and people who think they would not make life dangerous for humans.

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 a rat expert. Ask him/her three questions about giant rats. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c T d F e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. movie | a. film |
| 2. up to | b. as much as |
| 3. strongest | c. most powerful |
| 4. relocate | d. move |
| 5. reason | e. cause |
| 6. around | f. all over |
| 7. adapted | g. adjusted |
| 8. goes on | h. continues |
| 9. impact | i. effect |
| 10. say | j. mention |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Horror movies
2. 80kg
3. All over the Earth
4. They are becoming extinct
5. They could become the world's largest rodents
6. We (humans) did
7. Their new environments
8. They got bigger
9. They'll become extinct
10. He didn't say what humans would do

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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