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Level 0

Sahara desert twice as old as we thought

22nd September, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert-0.html>

The Sahara desert is twice as old as we thought. A new report from a climate research centre says it is seven million years old. Researchers worked out that a lot of North Africa became desert seven million years ago. A sea started to dry, so there was less rain. This helped to make sand dunes, and started the Sahara.

The Sahara is a famous and big desert. It covers 10 per cent of Africa, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea. A researcher does not think the Sahara is so old. He said the new report has no facts. He said nothing in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old. We only know about the Sahara's climate from 10,000 years ago.

Sources: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2761070/Is-Sahara-Desert-TWICE-old-thought-Climate-simulations-suggest-formed-7-million-years-ago.html#ixzz3Dq0L2vIo>
http://www.nature.com/news/climate-simulation-doubles-sahara-s-age-1.15954?WT.mc_id=TWT_NatureNews
<http://www.reportingclimatescience.com/news-stories/article/sahara-older-than-thought.html>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The Sahara desert is | a. less rain |
| 2. A new | b. became desert |
| 3. a climate | c. dunes |
| 4. a lot of North Africa | d. report |
| 5. A sea started | e. research centre |
| 6. there was | f. twice as old |
| 7. sand | g. Sahara |
| 8. started the | h. to dry |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. a famous and | a. no facts |
| 2. It covers 10 per cent | b. to the Red Sea |
| 3. from the Atlantic Ocean | c. climate |
| 4. the Sahara is | d. than 500,000 years |
| 5. the new report has | e. big desert |
| 6. nothing in the Sahara is older | f. years ago |
| 7. the Sahara's | g. of Africa |
| 8. from 10,000 | h. so old |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert-0.html>

The Sahara (1) _____ old as we thought. A new report from a climate (2) _____ says it is seven million years old. Researchers (3) _____ lot of North Africa became desert seven (4) _____. A sea (5) _____, so there was less rain. This helped to (6) _____, and started the Sahara.

The Sahara is a famous (7) _____. It covers 10 per cent of Africa, from the Atlantic Ocean (8) _____. A researcher does not think (9) _____. He said the new (10) _____. He said nothing in the Sahara is older than (11) _____. We only know about the Sahara's climate from (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert-0.html>

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nothing in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old. We only know about
the Sahara's climate from 10,000 years ago.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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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) _____

