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Level 1

Sahara desert twice as old as we thought

22nd September, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert-1.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Vocabulary Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Writing and Speaking	6
Writing	7

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert-1.html>

The Sahara desert is twice as old as we thought. Science books say it is three million years old. A new study from a climate research centre says it is seven million years old. Researchers calculated when North Africa became desert. Their tests showed that global warming seven million years ago dried a lot of the land in Chad. A sea started drying so there was less rain. This helped to make sand dunes in Chad. This may be how the Sahara started.

The Sahara is one of the most famous and biggest deserts. It covers 10 per cent of Africa. It stretches from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east. A geologist in Germany does not think the Sahara is so old. He wants to see more evidence. He said the new research is just based on numbers. He said nothing in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old. Our knowledge of the Sahara climate starts 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-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A new | a. rain |
| 2. a climate | b. warming |
| 3. calculated when North Africa | c. research centre |
| 4. global | d. the Sahara started |
| 5. dried a lot | e. became desert |
| 6. there was less | f. dunes |
| 7. sand | g. study |
| 8. This may be how | h. of the land |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. one of the most famous | a. than 500,000 years |
| 2. It covers 10 per cent | b. in Germany |
| 3. It stretches from the Atlantic Ocean | c. numbers |
| 4. A geologist | d. and biggest deserts |
| 5. He wants to see more | e. Sahara climate |
| 6. based on | f. of Africa |
| 7. nothing in the Sahara is older | g. evidence |
| 8. Our knowledge of the | h. in the west |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert-1.html>

The Sahara desert is twice as old as we thought. Science books say it is (1) _____ old. A new study from a climate research centre says it is seven million years old. Researchers (2) _____ Africa became desert. Their tests showed that (3) _____ seven million years (4) _____ of the land in Chad. A sea started drying so (5) _____. This helped to make sand dunes in Chad. This (6) _____ Sahara started.

The Sahara is (7) _____ famous and biggest deserts. It covers 10 per cent of Africa. It stretches from the Atlantic Ocean (8) _____ Red Sea in the east. A geologist in Germany (9) _____ Sahara is so old. He wants to (10) _____. He said the new research (11) _____ numbers. He said nothing in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old. Our knowledge of the Sahara (12) _____ 10,000 years ago.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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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)
