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## Level 5

### Half of life on Earth gone since humans arrived

24th May, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth-5.html>

Humans are only a tiny fraction of all life on Earth, but have destroyed 83% of all wild mammals and half of our plant life. This is according to a new study from Israel. The groundbreaking report is the first look into the weight of every kind of creature and life form on Earth. Researcher Professor Ron Milo explained what started the research. He said: "I was shocked to find there wasn't already a comprehensive, holistic estimate of all the different components of biomass." He hopes the study will provide a perspective on the very dominant role that humans now play on Earth.

There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, which is just 0.01% of all living things. This is the same percentage as for termites. Since we began walking on this planet, we have managed to cause the loss of most of its living species. Humans have also greatly changed the ratios of livestock to wild animals. Today, farmed birds (mostly chickens) make up 70% of all birds on Earth. Similarly, 60% of all mammals on Earth are livestock (mostly cattle and pigs), while just 4% are wild animals. Professor Milo hopes people will look more carefully at what they consume, and eat less meat.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/21/human-race-just-001-of-all-life-but-has-destroyed-over-80-of-wild-mammals-study>  
<https://www.sciencealert.com/humans-are-just-0-01-of-life-earth-but-we-annihilated-rest-biomass-animals-mammals-plants>  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/05/plants-outweigh-all-other-life-earth>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Humans are only a tiny      | a. a perspective     |
| 2. wild                        | b. to a new study    |
| 3. half                        | c. humans now play   |
| 4. This is according           | d. mammals           |
| 5. every kind                  | e. biomass           |
| 6. the different components of | f. of our plant life |
| 7. the study will provide      | g. of creature       |
| 8. the very dominant role that | h. fraction          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. There are 7.6 billion      | a. to wild animals          |
| 2. just 0.01%                 | b. (mostly cattle and pigs) |
| 3. the same percentage as for | c. people on Earth          |
| 4. cause the loss of most of  | d. on Earth                 |
| 5. the ratios of livestock    | e. its living species       |
| 6. 60% of all mammals         | f. of all living things     |
| 7. livestock                  | g. at what they consume     |
| 8. look more carefully        | h. termites                 |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth-5.html>

Humans are only (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of all life on Earth, but have destroyed 83% of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and half of our plant life. This is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ new study from Israel. The ground-breaking report is the first look into the weight of every (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and life form on Earth. Researcher Professor Ron Milo explained what started the research. He said: "I (5) \_\_\_\_\_ find there wasn't already a comprehensive, holistic estimate of all the different components of biomass." He hopes the study will provide a perspective on the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that humans now play on Earth.

There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, which is just 0.01% of all living things. This is the same (7) \_\_\_\_\_ termites. Since we began walking on this planet, we have managed to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of most of its living species. Humans have also greatly changed (9) \_\_\_\_\_ livestock to wild animals. Today, farmed birds (mostly chickens) make up 70% of all birds on Earth. Similarly, 60% (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on Earth are livestock (mostly cattle and pigs), while just 4% (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Professor Milo hopes people will look more carefully at (12) \_\_\_\_\_, and eat less meat.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth-5.html>

Humans are only a tiny fraction of all life on Earth, but have destroyed 83% of all wild mammals and half of all plant life. This is according to a new study from Israel. The ground-breaking report is the first look into the weight of every kind of creature and life form on Earth. Researcher Professor Ron Milo explained what started the research. He said: "I was shocked to find there wasn't already a comprehensive, holistic estimate of all the different components of biomass." He hopes the study will provide a perspective on the very dominant role that humans now play on Earth. There are 7.6 billion people on Earth, which is just 0.01% of all living things. This is the same percentage as for termites. Since we began walking on this planet, we have managed to cause the loss of most of its living species. Humans have also greatly changed the ratios of livestock to wild animals. Today, farmed birds (mostly chickens) make up 70% of all birds on Earth. Similarly, 60% of all mammals on Earth are livestock (mostly cattle and pigs), while just 4% are wild animals. Professor Milo hopes people will look more carefully at what they consume, and eat less meat.

# LIFE ON EARTH SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180524-life-on-earth-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about life on Earth 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.

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_

