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**Level 5 – 4th September 2023**

## **Mystery of radioactivity of Germany's wild boars**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2309/230904-radioactive-wild-boars-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/2309/230904-radioactive-wild-boars-5.html>

Radioactive wild boars have roamed the forests of Germany for decades. Scientists believed their radioactivity is from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. However, other animals are not as radioactive. Levels of radioactive caesium decreased over the years in other creatures. This has puzzled scientists because radioactivity in wild boars is at high levels. Scientists dubbed this mystery the "wild boar paradox". Research says the contamination of the wild boars is from nuclear weapons tests last century. The Chernobyl caesium has a much shorter life than that in nuclear weapons.

Scientists believe wild boars have remained so radioactive because of their love of truffle mushrooms. Radioactive particles accumulate in these underground fungi, which the boars eat. The levels of caesium in boars make the animals too dangerous to be eaten. This has led to a reduction in the hunting of the animals and a proliferation of their numbers. A geochemist asked why the effects of nuclear weapons testing on the environment has been "under-studied and largely forgotten". He said caesium soil pollution will "haunt generations to come".

Sources: <https://www.science.org/content/article/germany-s-radioactive-boars-are-bristly-reminder-nuclear-fallout>  
<https://www.sciencealert.com/wild-pigs-in-germany-are-mysteriously-radioactive-and-we-finally-know-why>  
<https://au.news.yahoo.com/mystery-radioactive-bavarian-boar-solved-162014981.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2309/230904-radioactive-wild-boars-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. roamed the forests of          | a. shorter life          |
| 2. the 1986 Chernobyl             | b. as radioactive        |
| 3. other animals are not          | c. the wild boar paradox |
| 4. This has puzzled               | d. Germany for decades   |
| 5. scientists dubbed this mystery | e. last century          |
| 6. the contamination              | f. nuclear disaster      |
| 7. nuclear weapons tests          | g. scientists            |
| 8. caesium has a much             | h. of the wild boars     |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. their love of truffle      | a. pollution          |
| 2. radioactive particles      | b. numbers            |
| 3. a reduction in the hunting | c. accumulate         |
| 4. a proliferation of their   | d. to come            |
| 5. the effects                | e. mushrooms          |
| 6. the environment has been   | f. of the animals     |
| 7. soil                       | g. under-studied      |
| 8. haunt generations          | h. of nuclear weapons |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2309/230904-radioactive-wild-boars-5.html>

Radioactive wild boars (1) \_\_\_\_\_ forests of Germany for decades. Scientists believed their radioactivity is from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. However, other animals are (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Levels of radioactive caesium decreased over the years in other creatures. This (3) \_\_\_\_\_ because radioactivity in wild boars is at high levels. Scientists (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the "wild boar paradox". Research says the contamination of the wild boars is from nuclear weapons (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The Chernobyl caesium has a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ than that in nuclear weapons.

Scientists believe wild boars have (7) \_\_\_\_\_ because of their love of truffle mushrooms. Radioactive (8) \_\_\_\_\_ these underground fungi, which the boars eat. The levels of caesium in boars make the animals too dangerous to be eaten. This has led to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the hunting of the animals and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ their numbers. A geochemist asked why the effects of nuclear weapons testing on the environment has been "under-studied (11) \_\_\_\_\_". He said caesium soil pollution will "(12) \_\_\_\_\_ come".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2309/230904-radioactive-wild-boars-5.html>

Radioactive wild boars have roamed the forests of Germany for decades. Scientists believed their radioactivity is from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. However, other animals are not as radioactive. Levels of radioactive caesium decreased over the years in other creatures. This has puzzled scientists because radioactivity in wild boars is at high levels. Scientists dubbed this mystery the "wild boar paradox". Research says the contamination of the wild boars is from nuclear weapon tests last century. The Chernobyl caesium has a much shorter life than that in nuclear weapons. Scientists believe wild boars have remained so radioactive because of their love of truffle mushrooms. Radioactive particles accumulate in these underground fungi, which the boars eat. The level of caesium in boars makes the animal too dangerous to be eaten. This has led to a reduction in the hunting of the animals and a proliferation of their numbers. A geochemist asked why the effects of nuclear weapon testing on the environment has been "under-studied and largely forgotten". He said caesium soil pollution will "haunt generations to come".

# RADIOACTIVITY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2309/230904-radioactive-wild-boars-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about radioactivity 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Mystery of radioactivity of Germany's wild boars – 4th September 2023*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2309/230904-radioactive-wild-boars-5.html>

Write about **radioactivity** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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