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**Level 5 – 11th March 2024**

## **It once rained for two million years, say scientists**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain-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/2403/240311-rain-5.html>

Farmers pray for rain in times of drought. Most of us have wanted the heavens to open to help our garden in an excessively dry spell. However, none of us can imagine a period of rain lasting two million years. U.K. geologist Alastair Ruffell has found that 200-300 million years ago, before the landmass of Earth separated into continents, it did rain non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped the development of flora and fauna all over the globe. He believes the rain may have been sparked by a huge rise in humidity following a series of massive volcanic eruptions.

Dr Ruffell based his findings on research conducted on layers of rock in Europe's Alps in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed unusual deposits in ancient rock that dated back over 200 million years. Ruffell said this suggests the wet period may have been the "trigger" that allowed dinosaurs, and possibly "other members of our modern land-based fauna," to diversify. He added: "It may have been one of the most important events in the history of life." He suggested it was the origin of most classes of creatures like the turtles, crocodiles, lizards and mammals we see today.

Sources: <https://www.unilad.com/news/proof-rained-million-years-earth-carnian-pluvial-event-840634-20240305>  
<https://www.earth.com/news/earth-endured-a-million-years-of-rain-in-the-carnian-pluvial-event/>  
<https://www.iflscience.com/the-carnian-pluvial-event-when-it-rained-for-2-million-years-on-earth-73205>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Farmers pray for rain              | a. volcanic eruptions  |
| 2. Most of us have wanted the heavens | b. of rain             |
| 3. in an excessively                  | c. into continents     |
| 4. imagine a period                   | d. to open             |
| 5. the landmass of Earth separated    | e. rise in humidity    |
| 6. the development of                 | f. in times of drought |
| 7. sparked by a huge                  | g. flora and fauna     |
| 8. a series of massive                | h. dry spell           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. research conducted on layers | a. of life      |
| 2. unusual deposits in          | b. the trigger  |
| 3. the wet period may have been | c. and mammals  |
| 4. one of the most important    | d. of rock      |
| 5. in the history               | e. events       |
| 6. He suggested it was the      | f. of creatures |
| 7. most classes                 | g. ancient rock |
| 8. turtles, crocodiles, lizards | h. origin       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain-5.html>

Farmers pray for rain in (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Most of us have wanted the heavens to open to help our garden (2) \_\_\_\_\_ dry spell. However, none of us can imagine a period (3) \_\_\_\_\_ two million years. U.K. geologist Alastair Ruffell has found that 200-300 million years ago, before (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Earth separated into continents, it did rain non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped the development of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ all over the globe. He believes the rain may have been sparked by a huge rise in humidity following a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ volcanic eruptions.

Dr Ruffell based his findings on research (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of rock in Europe's Alps in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed unusual (8) \_\_\_\_\_ rock that dated back over 200 million years. Ruffell said this suggests the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ have been the "trigger" that allowed dinosaurs, and possibly "other members of our modern land-based (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He added: "It may have been one of the most important events in the history of life." He suggested it was (11) \_\_\_\_\_ most classes of creatures like the turtles, crocodiles, lizards (12) \_\_\_\_\_ see today.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain-5.html>

Farmers spray for rain in times of drought. Most of us have wanted the heaven to open to help pour garden in an excessively dry spell. However, none of us can imagine a period of rain lasting two million years. U.K. geologist Alistair Ruffell has found that 200-300 million years ago, before the landmass of Earth separated into continents, it did rain non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped the development of flora and fauna all over the globe. He believes the rain may have been sparked by a huge rise in humidity following a series of massive volcanic eruptions. Dr Ruffell based his findings on research conducted on layers of rock in Europe's Alps in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed unusual deposits in ancient rock that dated back over 200 million years. Ruffell said this suggests the wet period may have been the "trigger" that allowed dinosaurs, and possibly other members of our modern land-based fauna, to diversify. He added: "It may have been one of the most important events in the history of life." He suggested it was the origin of most classes of creatures like the turtles, crocodiles, lizards and mammals we see today.

# RAIN SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain-4.html>

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

