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**Level 5 – 17th March 2025**

## Earth's core may hold ancient pre-Big Bang gas

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-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/2503/250317-primordial-helium-5.html>

The Earth contains mysteries that are yet to be unravelled. They focus on how Earth formed, and what is at its centre. A recent study has clues as to what shaped our planet at the beginning of the solar system. Scientists have evidence that vast amounts of a rare, primordial form of the gas helium may be trapped inside Earth. It is called helium-3. Scientists believe this helium-3 is from a giant cloud of gas and dust that gelled to create different planets. The gas has remained locked inside Earth's core for billions of years. It is occasionally released in volcanic eruptions.

The research has created great excitement among planetary geologists. They believe large amounts of helium-3 could unlock secrets of the Big Bang. The scientists are speculating that the presence of helium-3 could mean that Earth was created much more quickly than we thought. A geophysicist in the USA shed light on the possible speed of Earth's creation. He said: "There is evidence that has been interpreted to say the Earth formed very slowly, requiring 100 million years. [However], you wouldn't get much helium deep in the Earth if the Earth formed that slowly."

Sources: <https://scitechdaily.com/earths-core-may-hold-hidden-reservoirs-of-helium-scientists-discover/>  
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/primordial-helium-from-the-birth-of-the-solar-system-may-be-stuck-in-earths-core/ar-AA1AagXf>  
<https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/centre-of-the-earth-could-hold-large-reservoir-of-iron-helium-compounds/4021097.article>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. mysteries that are yet to be | a. and dust          |
| 2. clues as to what             | b. Earth             |
| 3. a rare, primordial form      | c. eruptions         |
| 4. trapped inside               | d. unravelled        |
| 5. a giant cloud of gas         | e. core              |
| 6. gelled to create different   | f. shaped our planet |
| 7. locked inside Earth's        | g. planets           |
| 8. released in volcanic         | h. of the gas helium |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The research has created great | a. of helium-3       |
| 2. planetary                      | b. the USA           |
| 3. large amounts                  | c. light on          |
| 4. unlock secrets of the          | d. geologists        |
| 5. Earth was created much         | e. deep in the Earth |
| 6. A geophysicist in              | f. Big Bang          |
| 7. shed                           | g. excitement        |
| 8. helium                         | h. more quickly      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-5.html>

The Earth contains mysteries that are yet  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_. They focus on how Earth formed,  
and what is at its centre. A recent study has  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ what shaped our planet at the  
beginning of (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Scientists have  
evidence that (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a rare, primordial  
form of the gas helium may be trapped inside Earth. It is called  
helium-3. Scientists believe this helium-3 is from a giant cloud of  
(5) \_\_\_\_\_ that gelled to create different  
planets. The gas has remained locked inside Earth's core for billions  
of years. It is occasionally released (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The research has created great excitement among planetary  
geologists. They believe (7) \_\_\_\_\_ helium-3  
could unlock secrets of the Big Bang. The scientists are speculating  
that (8) \_\_\_\_\_ helium-3 could mean that  
Earth was created much (9) \_\_\_\_\_ we  
thought. A geophysicist in the USA (10) \_\_\_\_\_  
the possible speed of Earth's creation. He said: "There is evidence  
that has been (11) \_\_\_\_\_ the Earth formed  
very slowly, requiring 100 million years. [However], you wouldn't  
get much helium deep in the Earth if the Earth  
(12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-5.html>

The Earth contains mysteries that are yet to be unravelled. They focus on how Earth formed, and what is at its centre. A recent study has clues as to what shaped our planet at the beginning of the solar system. Scientists have evidence that vast amounts of rare, primordial form of the gas helium may be trapped inside Earth. It is called helium-3. Scientists believe this helium-3 is from a giant cloud of gas and dust that gelled to create different planets. The gas has remained locked inside Earth's core for billions of years. It is occasionally released in volcanic eruptions. The research has created great excitement among planetary geologists. They believe large amounts of helium-3 could unlock secrets of the Big Bang. The scientists are speculating that the presence of helium-3 could mean that Earth was created much more quickly than we thought. A geophysicist in the USA shed light on the possible speed of Earth's creation. He said: "There is evidence that has been interpreted to say the Earth formed very slowly, requiring 100 million years. [However], you wouldn't get much helium deep in the Earth if the Earth formed that slowly."

# THE EARTH SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-4.html>

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

