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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/10/15

Dinosaurs became extinct because of a giant asteroid and supervolcanoes

Why did dinosaurs become extinct? The answer is because a giant asteroid hit the earth. The aftermath of which destroyed them.

Scientists are now claiming they were also killed off by huge supervolcanoes known as the Deccan Traps, in what is now northern India. These doubled their eruptions within 50,000 years of the giant asteroid hitting the earth.

The latest theory that is published in the *Science* magazine says the asteroid or comet that hit the earth around 66 million years ago caused a huge crater 180km (110 miles) wide off what is now the coast of Mexico. The result of which caused a change to the underground plumbing of the Deccan Traps. This led to far more destructive eruptions for tens of thousands of years.

A giant asteroid impact together with the resulting volcanoes eruptions would eject massive quantities of noxious gasses and debris into the atmosphere around the world. This would have cut out the sunlight for hundreds or even thousands of years causing global climate change affecting both land and sea. The supervolcanoes most likely led to a huge global climate disturbance that killed off not just the dinosaurs but many other forms of terrestrial and marine life.

The asteroid's impact may have triggered immense earthquakes near the Deccan Traps that rattled the underground, magma-filled chambers and channels that caused high-frequency, low volume eruptions to change into much more damaging low frequency, high volume eruptions. The results of this can be seen today in a geological layer known as the K-T boundary that is dated to 66 million years ago.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about dinosaurs. Add three things you know about asteroids. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is a dinosaur?
- 2) What is an asteroid?
- 3) What is the difference between an asteroid and a comet?
- 4) Where is Mexico?
- 5) Where is India?

Student B questions

- 1) What is an earthquake?
- 2) What is the K-T boundary?
- 3) What is the Deccan Traps?
- 4) What happened when the giant asteroid hit earth?
- 5) When did the giant asteroid hit earth?

Category: Science / Dinosaurs / Supervolcanoes
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Dinosaurs became extinct because of... – 10th October 2015

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can about '**Dinosaurs**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three types of dinosaur.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three famous volcanic eruptions.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three famous volcanic mountain ranges. Discuss together!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher can choose some pairs to hear their findings.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Write down three movies you know of that feature dinosaurs! Talk about them! Were they scary movies?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What are your favourite types of dinosaur? Why?
- 3) Would you like to meet a dinosaur?
- 4) What are the chances of man recreating a dinosaur?
- 5) What are the chances of another asteroid hitting the earth and wiping out life on earth?
- 6) Had you heard of this theory of the asteroid and the volcanoes before today's English lesson?
- 7) What would you do if you knew an asteroid was about to wipe out life on earth?
- 8) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is: *Dinosaurs became extinct because of a giant asteroid and supervolcanoes.*

- 1) A student studying geology.
- 2) A geologist.
- 3) A student whose hobby is the study of dinosaurs.
- 4) A spokesperson from the Natural History Museum in London.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - *Student A* is a reporter in London. *Student B* is a student from outside of the UK. *Student A* interviews *Student B* about what they think about dinosaurs becoming extinct because a giant asteroid hit the earth, and the supervolcanoes that followed. *3 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Dinosaurs became extinct because of a giant asteroid and supervolcanoes

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Can you think of any famous museums where you can see a dinosaur or two?
- 3) Which is the best country in the world to discover dinosaur bones?
- 4) Are you scared when watching a dinosaur movie?
- 5) Would you like to study volcanoes as a career?
- 6) Have you visited any extinct volcanoes?
- 7) Have you ever seen a part of an asteroid? If yes, where? Explain.
- 8) In the future do you think life on earth will be wiped out again?
- 9) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Dinosaurs became extinct because of a giant asteroid and supervolcanoes

Why did dinosaurs become extinct? The answer is because a giant (1)___ hit the earth. The (2)___ of which destroyed them.

Scientists are now claiming they were also killed off by huge (3)___ known as the Deccan Traps, in what is now northern India. These doubled their eruptions within 50,000 years of the giant asteroid hitting the earth.

The latest (4)___ that is published in the *Science* magazine says the asteroid or (5)___ that hit the earth around 66 million years ago caused a huge (6)___ 180km (110 miles) wide off what is now the (7)___ of Mexico. The result of which caused a change to the underground plumbing of the Deccan Traps. This led to far more destructive (8)___ for tens of thousands of years.

eruptions / theory / comet / asteroid / aftermath / supervolcanoes / coast / crater

A (1)___ asteroid impact together with the resulting volcanoes eruptions would (2)___ (3)___ quantities of (4)___ gasses and debris into the atmosphere around the world. This would have cut out the sunlight for hundreds or even thousands of years causing global climate change affecting both land and sea. The supervolcanoes most likely led to a huge global climate (5)___ that killed off not just the (6)___ but many other forms of terrestrial and marine life.

The asteroid's (7)___ may have triggered immense earthquakes near the Deccan Traps that rattled the underground, magma-filled chambers and channels that caused high-frequency, low volume eruptions to change into much more damaging low (8)___, high volume eruptions. The results of this can be seen today in a geological layer known as the K-T boundary that is dated to 66 million years ago.

frequency / noxious / eject / disturbance / dinosaurs / giant / impact / massive /

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Dinosaurs became extinct because of a giant asteroid and supervolcanoes

Why did dinosaurs become extinct? The answer is (1)___ a giant asteroid hit the earth. The aftermath of which destroyed (2)___.

Scientists are now claiming they were (3)___ killed off by huge supervolcanoes known as the Deccan Traps, in what is now northern India. These doubled (4)___ eruptions within 50,000 years of the giant asteroid hitting the earth.

The latest theory (5)___ is published in the *Science* magazine says the asteroid or comet that hit the earth around 66 million years ago caused a huge crater 180km (110 miles) wide off (6)___ is now the coast of Mexico. The result of (7)___ caused a change to the underground plumbing of the Deccan Traps. This led to far (8)___ destructive eruptions for tens of thousands of years.

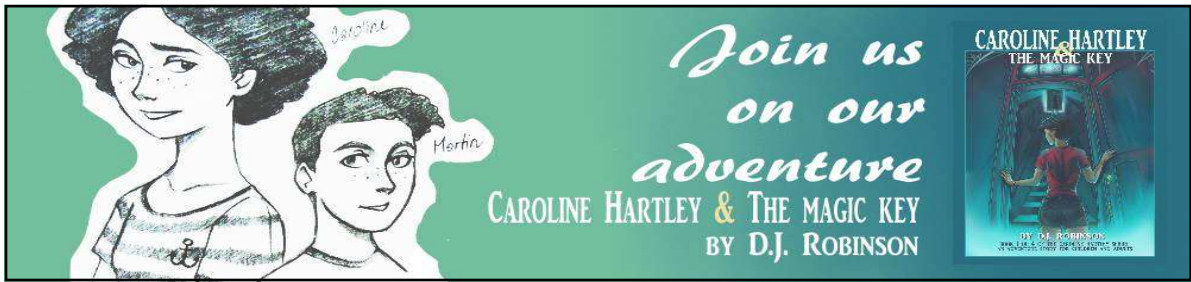
what / more / which / also / that / because / their / them

A giant asteroid impact together with the resulting volcanoes eruptions would eject massive quantities (1)___ noxious gasses and debris into the atmosphere around the world. This would have cut out the sunlight for hundreds (2)___ even thousands of years causing global climate change affecting both land and sea. The supervolcanoes most likely led to a huge global climate disturbance that killed off not (3)___ the dinosaurs (4)___ many other forms of terrestrial and marine life.

The asteroid's impact (5)___ have triggered immense earthquakes near the Deccan Traps that rattled the underground, magma-filled chambers and channels that caused high-frequency, low volume eruptions to change into much more damaging low frequency, high volume eruptions. The results of this (6)___ be seen today (7)___ a geological layer known (8)___ the K-T boundary that is dated to 66 million years ago.

but / can / may / as / or / in / of / just

Dinosaurs became extinct because of... – 10th October 2015



GAP FILL: LISTENING

Dinosaurs became extinct because of a giant asteroid and supervolcanoes

Why did dinosaurs become extinct? The answer is because _____ the earth. The aftermath of which destroyed them.

Scientists are now claiming they were also killed off by huge supervolcanoes known as the Deccan Traps, in what is now northern India. These _____ within 50,000 years of the giant asteroid hitting the earth.

_____ that is published in the *Science* magazine says the asteroid or comet that hit the earth around 66 million years ago caused a huge crater 180km (110 miles) wide off what is now _____. The result of which caused a change to the underground plumbing of _____. This led to far more destructive eruptions for tens of thousands of years.

A giant asteroid impact together with the resulting volcanoes eruptions would eject massive quantities of _____ debris into the atmosphere around the world. This would have cut out the sunlight for hundreds or

even thousands of years causing global climate change affecting both land and sea. The supervolcanoes most likely led to a huge _____ that killed off not just the dinosaurs but many other forms of terrestrial and marine life.

The asteroid's impact may have triggered immense earthquakes near the Deccan Traps that rattled the underground, _____ and channels that caused high-frequency, _____ to change into much more damaging low frequency, high volume eruptions. The results of this can be seen today in a _____ known as the K-T boundary that is dated to 66 million years ago.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list 10 things you know about: *asteroids*. Add 10 things you know about: *volcanoes*. One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The dinosaurs _____
- 2) The asteroid _____
- 3) The Deccan Traps _____

3) In class - Write 50 words about: *Dinosaurs became extinct because of a giant asteroid and supervolcanoes*. Your work can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: *Dinosaurs became extinct because of a giant asteroid and supervolcanoes*. Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) scientists
- 2) dinosaurs
- 3) extinct
- 4) asteroid
- 5) supervolcanoes
- 6) eruptions
- 7) giant
- 8) magazine
- 9) crater
- 10) noxious

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) disturbance
- 12) terrestrial
- 13) immense
- 14) earthquakes
- 15) chambers
- 16) channels
- 17) frequency
- 18) volume
- 19) geological
- 20) boundary

Dinosaurs became extinct because of... – *10th October 2015*