

www.Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 3

Sahara desert twice as old as we thought

22nd September, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Scientists believe the Sahara desert is twice as old as we previously thought. Science books generally say the Sahara is around three million years old. However, a new study from a centre for climate research in Norway says it could be around seven million years old. Researchers used computers to try and calculate when large parts of North Africa became desert. Their tests showed that global warming seven million years ago dried a lot of the land in what is today the African nation of Chad. A sea called the Tethys Sea started shrinking. This made the African summer monsoons less frequent, which helped form sand dunes in Chad. The scientists say this is how the Sahara first started.

The Sahara is one of the world's best-known and largest deserts. It covers about 10 per cent of the whole African continent and forms large parts of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Sudan and other nations. The sands stretch from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east. Not everyone agrees that the Sahara is as old as the Norway research says it is. Stefan Kröpelin, a geologist in Germany, says real geological evidence is needed to be sure. He said the Norway research is based on numbers and not evidence, saying: "Nothing you can find in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old". He added that our knowledge of the Saharan climate is only from 10,000 years ago and that our knowledge is "full of gaps".

Sources: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2761070/Is-Sahara-Desert-TWICE-old-thought-Climate-simulations-suggest-formed-7-million-years-ago.html#ixzz3Dq0L2vIo>
http://www.nature.com/news/climate-simulation-doubles-sahara-s-age-1.15954?WT.mc_id=TWT_NatureNews
<http://www.reportingclimatescience.com/news-stories/article/sahara-older-than-thought.html>

WARM-UPS

1. DESERTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about deserts. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

old / science books / climate / research / calculate / global warming / sand dunes / continent / sands / Atlantic Ocean / geologist / numbers / evidence / knowledge

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SAND: What is it useful for? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What is it used for?	What other uses could it have?
Beaches		
Schools		
Gardens		
Golf courses		
Floods		
Construction		

4. SAHARA: Students A **strongly** believe the Sahara is the best desert in the world; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. BEST-KNOWN PLACES: Rank these with your partner. Put your favourite places at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Sahara desert
- Great Barrier Reef
- Machu Picchu
- Great Wall of China
- Niagara Falls
- Mount Everest
- Eiffel Tower
- Taj Mahal

6. OLD: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "old". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Science books usually say the Sahara is about 3 million years old. | T / F |
| b. The article mentions a new study on the Sahara from Mali. | T / F |
| c. Researchers used traditional methods to find the age of the Sahara. | T / F |
| d. Researchers say the Sahara's first sand dunes appeared in Chad. | T / F |
| e. The Sahara covers around 10% of the whole continent of Africa. | T / F |
| f. The Sahara stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Blue Sea. | T / F |
| g. A German geologist said he agreed with the research. | T / F |
| h. The geologist said nothing in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. believe | a. extends over |
| 2. previously | b. understanding |
| 3. study | c. earlier |
| 4. calculate | d. often |
| 5. frequent | e. think |
| 6. covers | f. proof |
| 7. evidence | g. spaces |
| 8. sure | h. report |
| 9. knowledge | i. certain |
| 10. gaps | j. work out |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. a new study from a centre for climate | a. warming |
| 2. global | b. dunes |
| 3. summer | c. from the Atlantic Ocean |
| 4. sand | d. whole African continent |
| 5. scientists say this is how | e. research |
| 6. It covers about 10 per cent of the | f. not evidence |
| 7. The sands stretch | g. needed to be sure |
| 8. real geological evidence is | h. monsoons |
| 9. based on numbers and | i. gaps |
| 10. our knowledge is full of | j. the Sahara first started |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Scientists believe the Sahara desert is twice as old as we (1) _____ thought. Science books generally say the Sahara is around three million years old. However, a new (2) _____ from a centre for (3) _____ research in Norway says it could be around seven million years old. Researchers used computers to try and (4) _____ when large parts of North Africa became desert. Their tests showed that global warming seven million years ago (5) _____ a lot of the land in what is today the African (6) _____ of Chad. A sea called the Tethys Sea started shrinking. This made the African summer monsoons less (7) _____, which helped form sand (8) _____ in Chad. The scientists say this is how the Sahara first started.

calculate
nation
study
dunes
previously
dried
climate
frequent

The Sahara is one of the world's best-known and (9) _____ deserts. It covers about 10 per cent of the whole African (10) _____ and forms large parts of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Sudan and other nations. The (11) _____ stretch from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east. Not everyone (12) _____ that the Sahara is as old as the Norway research says it is. Stefan Kröpelin, a (13) _____ in Germany, says real geological (14) _____ is needed to be sure. He said the Norway research is based on numbers and not evidence, saying: "Nothing you can find in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old". He added that our (15) _____ of the Saharan climate is only from 10,000 years ago and that our knowledge is "full of (16) _____".

sands
continent
geologist
knowledge
largest
gaps
agrees
evidence

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

- 1) Scientists believe the Sahara desert is twice as old as we _____
 - a. previously thoughts
 - b. previously fought
 - c. previously thought
 - d. previously thawed
- 2) a new study from a centre for _____
 - a. primate research
 - b. ultimate research
 - c. animate research
 - d. climate research
- 3) dried a lot of the land in what is today the African _____
 - a. nations of Chad
 - b. nation of Chad
 - c. national of Chad
 - d. nationals of Chad
- 4) This made the African summer monsoons less frequent, which helped _____
 - a. farm sand dunes
 - b. farm sand tunes
 - c. form sand dunes
 - d. form sand tunes
- 5) The scientists say this is how the Sahara _____
 - a. fast started
 - b. first started
 - c. first started
 - d. fist started
- 6) It covers about 10 per cent of the _____
 - a. whole African continents
 - b. whole African continent
 - c. whole African continental
 - d. whole African incontinent
- 7) large parts of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Sudan _____
 - a. and another nations
 - b. and the other nations
 - c. and other nations
 - d. and others nations
- 8) a geologist in Germany says real geological evidence is _____
 - a. needed to be sure
 - b. needed to be shore
 - c. needed to be sheer
 - d. needed to be share
- 9) He said the Norway research is _____
 - a. based in numbers
 - b. based on numbers
 - c. based un numbers
 - d. based no numbers
- 10) our knowledge is " _____ "
 - a. full of gap
 - b. full of gabs
 - c. full of gaps
 - d. full of gapes

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Scientists believe the Sahara desert is twice as (1) _____ thought. Science (2) _____ the Sahara is around three million years old. However, a new study from a centre for climate research in Norway says (3) _____ seven million years old. Researchers used computers to try and calculate when large parts of North Africa became desert. Their tests showed (4) _____ seven million years ago dried a lot of the (5) _____ the African nation of Chad. A sea called the Tethys Sea started shrinking. This made the African summer monsoons less frequent, which (6) _____ in Chad. The scientists say this is how the Sahara first started.

The Sahara is one of the world's best-known and largest deserts. It covers about 10 per cent of the (7) _____ and forms large parts of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Sudan (8) _____. The sands stretch from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red (9) _____. Not everyone agrees that the Sahara is as old as the Norway research says it is. Stefan Kröpelin, a geologist in Germany, says (10) _____ is needed to be sure. He said the Norway research is (11) _____ not evidence, saying: "Nothing you can find in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old". He added that our knowledge of the Saharan (12) _____ 10,000 years ago and that our knowledge is "full of gaps".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

1. Who believes the Sahara desert is a lot older than we thought?

2. In which country is the centre that did the research?

3. What did scientists use to work out the age of the Sahara?

4. What became less frequent in African summers 7 million years ago?

5. What formed in Chad that started the Sahara desert?

6. How much of Africa does the Sahara cover?

7. How far does the Sahara go to the east?

8. What kind of evidence does Stefan Kröpelin want to see?

9. What did Stefan Kröpelin say the research is based on?

10. How far back does our knowledge of the Saharan climate go?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

1. Who believes the Sahara desert is a lot older than we thought?
 - a) writers
 - b) scientists
 - c) travellers
 - d) nomads
2. In which country is the centre that did the research?
 - a) Chad
 - b) Peru
 - c) Sudan
 - d) Norway
3. What did scientists use to work out the age of the Sahara?
 - a) carbon dating
 - b) a magnifying glass
 - c) computers
 - d) satellites
4. What became less frequent in African summers 7 million years ago?
 - a) monsoons
 - b) visiting dinosaurs
 - c) heat waves
 - d) sand storms
5. What formed in Chad that started the Sahara desert?
 - a) a village
 - b) sand dunes
 - c) a river
 - d) a giant rock
6. How much of Africa does the Sahara cover?
 - a) 10%
 - b) 15%
 - c) 20%
 - d) 25%
7. How far does the Sahara go to the east?
 - a) to Kenya
 - b) to the Indian Ocean
 - c) to the Red Sea
 - d) to the Nile river
8. What kind of evidence does Stefan Kröpelin want to see?
 - a) geological evidence
 - b) geographical evidence
 - c) geometric evidence
 - d) geothermal evidence
9. What did Stefan Kröpelin say the research is based on?
 - a) guesswork
 - b) geology
 - c) sand
 - d) numbers
10. How far back does our knowledge of the Saharan climate go?
 - a) 10,000 millennia
 - b) 10,000 weeks
 - c) 10,000 years
 - d) 10,000 centuries

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Role A – Sahara desert

You think the Sahara desert is the best place in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Everest, the Great Wall of China or the Great Barrier Reef.

Role B – Mount Everest

You think Mount Everest is the best place in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Sahara desert, the Great Wall of China or the Great Barrier Reef.

Role C – Great Wall of China

You think the Great Wall of China is the best place in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Everest, the Sahara desert or the Great Barrier Reef.

Role D – Great Barrier Reef

You think the Great Barrier Reef is the best place in the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so great about their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Everest, the Great Wall of China or the Sahara desert.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'sand' and 'form'.

form	sand

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• books• centre• large• dried• less• sand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• covers• stretch• everyone• real• numbers• 10,000
--	---

DESERTS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Write five GOOD questions about deserts 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.

DESERTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'desert'?
- 3) What do you know about the Sahara desert?
- 4) Is it important if a desert is 3 million or 7 million years old?
- 5) How do scientists calculate the age of a desert?
- 6) Would you like to be a scientist and research deserts?
- 7) What makes deserts so beautiful?
- 8) What will happen if deserts get bigger and bigger?
- 9) What do you think the world was like seven million years ago?
- 10) Is it interesting to know how deserts started?

Sahara desert twice as old as we thought – 22nd September, 2014
Thousands more free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

DESERTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) Is the Sahara the best desert in the world?
- 12) What things in the article surprised you?
- 14) What things in the article were most interesting?
- 15) What would you do in the Sahara if you went there?
- 16) Why can't scientists agree on things?
- 17) What dangers are there in the desert?
- 18) What would it be like to live in the desert?
- 19) Are you a desert person or a jungle person? Why?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Copyright © www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com 2014

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Scientists (1) _____ the Sahara desert is twice as old as we previously thought. Science books (2) _____ say the Sahara is around three million years old. However, a new study from a centre for (3) _____ research in Norway says it could be around seven million years old. Researchers used computers to try and (4) _____ when large parts of North Africa became desert. Their tests showed that global warming seven million years ago dried a lot of the land in (5) _____ is today the African nation of Chad. A sea called the Tethys Sea started shrinking. This made the African summer monsoons less frequent, which helped form (6) _____ dunes in Chad. The scientists say this is how the Sahara first started.

The Sahara is one of the world's best-(7) _____ and largest deserts. It covers about 10 per cent of the whole African continent and (8) _____ large parts of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Sudan and other nations. The sands (9) _____ from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east. Not everyone agrees that the Sahara is as old as the Norway research says it is. Stefan Kröpelin, a geologist in Germany, says real geological evidence is (10) _____ to be sure. He said the Norway research is based (11) _____ numbers and not evidence, saying: "Nothing you can find in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old". He added that our knowledge of the Saharan climate is only from 10,000 years ago and that our knowledge is "full of (12) _____".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) belief | (b) beliefs | (c) believe | (d) believes |
| 2. | (a) generally | (b) general | (c) generously | (d) generous |
| 3. | (a) climate | (b) animate | (c) primate | (d) ultimate |
| 4. | (a) calculate | (b) calculator | (c) calculation | (d) calculated |
| 5. | (a) which | (b) what | (c) where | (d) that |
| 6. | (a) wand | (b) land | (c) hand | (d) sand |
| 7. | (a) understand | (b) aware | (c) known | (d) fact |
| 8. | (a) frames | (b) firms | (c) farms | (d) forms |
| 9. | (a) stretch | (b) stretching | (c) stretches | (d) stretcher |
| 10. | (a) needed | (b) needing | (c) needy | (d) needs |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) off | (d) of |
| 12. | (a) gasp | (b) gasps | (c) gaps | (d) gapes |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Paragraph 1

1. twice as old as we ipureoslyv thought
2. a centre for ciltmea research
3. around seven nliliom years old.
4. try and culaaclte when
5. the Tethys Sea started ikinsnhrg
6. summer monsoons less funreteq

Paragraph 2

7. the whole African cnotintne
8. Egypt, Sudan and other iatnsno
9. The sands trsecth from the Atlantic Ocean
10. Not everyone eagrse
11. real geological edcneive is needed
12. our ewkenldgo is full of gaps

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () warming seven million years ago dried a lot of the land in what is today the African nation of Chad. A sea called the Tethys Sea started
- () calculate when large parts of North Africa became desert. Their tests showed that global
- () find in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old". He added that our knowledge of the Saharan
- (**1**) Scientists believe the Sahara desert is twice as old as we previously thought. Science
- () dunes in Chad. The scientists say this is how the Sahara first started.
- () The Sahara is one of the world's best-known and largest deserts. It covers about 10 per cent of the whole African
- () in the west to the Red Sea in the east. Not everyone agrees that the Sahara is as old as the Norway
- () climate is only from 10,000 years ago and that our knowledge is "full of gaps".
- () research in Norway says it could be around seven million years old. Researchers used computers to try and
- () sure. He said the Norway research is based on numbers and not evidence, saying: "Nothing you can
- () research says it is. Stefan Kröpelin, a geologist in Germany, says real geological evidence is needed to be
- () shrinking. This made the African summer monsoons less frequent, which helped form sand
- () books generally say the Sahara is around three million years old. However, a new study from a centre for climate
- () continent and forms large parts of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Sudan and other nations. The sands stretch from the Atlantic Ocean

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

1. study centre research new a climate A from for .

2. and try to computers used Researchers calculate .

3. of Chad Land in what is today the African nation .

4. made less the frequent African summer This monsoons .

5. first Scientists is Sahara this the started say how .

6. About . African of 10 continent the per whole cent

7. sands The Ocean Atlantic the from stretch .

8. old everyone the as Not that is agrees Sahara .

9. to geological be evidence sure is needed Real .

10. in is Nothing find Sahara can the older you .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Scientists *believe* / *belief* the Sahara desert is twice as old as we *previous* / *previously* thought. Science books generally say the Sahara is around three million years old. However, a new study from a centre for *primate* / *climate* research in Norway says it could be around seven million years old. Researchers *used* / *using* computers to try and calculate when *largish* / *large* parts of North Africa became *dessert* / *desert*. Their tests showed that global warming seven million years ago *dried* / *drying* a lot of the land in what is today the African *nation* / *national* of Chad. A sea called the Tethys Sea started shrinking. This made the African summer monsoons *less* / *fewer* frequent, which helped form sand *dunes* / *domes* in Chad. The scientists say this is how the Sahara first started.

The Sahara is one of the world's *best-known* / *best-knowing* and largest deserts. It covers about 10 per cent of the whole African *incontinent* / *continent* and forms large parts of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Sudan and other nations. The *sands* / *sand* stretch from the Atlantic Ocean in the west *to* / *by* the Red Sea in the east. Not everyone *agreeing* / *agrees* that the Sahara is as old as the Norway research says it is. Stefan Kröpelin, a *geology* / *geologist* in Germany, says *real* / *really* geological evidence is needed to be *sure* / *shore*. He said the Norway research is based *on* / *one* numbers and not evidence, saying: "Nothing you can find in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old". He added that our knowledge of the Saharan climate is only from 10,000 years ago and that our knowledge is "full of *gap* / *gaps*".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Sc__nt__sts b_l__v__th__ S_h_r__d_s_rt__s tw_c__s__ld__s w__pr_v__sly th__ght. Sc__nc__b__ks g_n_r_lly s_y th__ S_h_r__s__r__nd thr__m_ll__n y__rs__ld. H_w_v_r, __n_w st_dy fr_m __c_ntr__f_r cl_m_t__r_s__rch __n N_rw_y s_sys__t c__ld b__r__nd s_v_n m_ll__n y__rs__ld. R_s__rch_rs__s_d c_m_p_t_rs t__try __nd c_l_c_l_t__wh_n l_rg__p_rts__f N_rth__fr_c__b_c_m__d_s_rt. Th__r t__sts sh_w_d th_t gl_b_l w_rm_ng s_v_n m_ll__n y__rs__g__dr__d__l_t__f th__l_nd__n wh_t__s t_d_y th__fr_c_n n_t__n__f Ch_d. __s__c_ll_d th__T_thys S__st_r_t_d shrnk_ng. Th_s m_d__th__fr_c_n s__mm_r m_ns__ns l_ss fr_q__nt, wh_ch h_lp_d fr_m s__nd d_n_s__n Ch_d. Th__sc__nt__sts s_y th_s__s h_w th__S_h_r__f_rst st_r_t_d.

Th__S_h_r__s__n__f th__w_rld's b__st-kn_wn__nd l_rg__st d_s_rts. __t c_v_rs__b__t 10 p_r_c_nt__f th__wh_l__fr_c_n c__nt_n__nt__nd f_rms l_rg__p_rts__f __lg_r__, Ch_d, __gypt, S_d_n__nd__th_r n_t__ns. Th__s__nds str_tch fr_m th__tl__nt_c__c__n__n th__w__st t__th__R_d S__n th__st. N_t v_r_y_n__gr__s th_t th__S_h_r__s__s__ld__s th__N_rw_y r_s__rch s_sys__t__s. St_f_n Kröp_l_n, __g__l_g__st__n G_r_m_ny, s_y_s r__l g__l_g_c_l__v_d_nc__s__n__d_d_t__b__s_r__. H__s__d th__N_rw_y r_s__rch__s b__s_d__n n__mb_rs__nd n_t__v_d_nc__, s_y_ng: "N__th__ng y__c__n f__nd__n th__S_h_r__s__ld_r th_n 500,000 y__rs__ld". H__dd_d th_t__r kn_wl_dg____f th__S_h_r__n cl_m_t____s__nly fr_m 10,000 y__rs__g__nd th_t__r kn_wl_dg____s "f__ll__f g__ps".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

scientists believe the sahara desert is twice as old as we previously thought science books generally say the sahara is around three million years old however a new study from a centre for climate research in norway says it could be around seven million years old researchers used computers to try and calculate when large parts of north africa became desert their tests showed that global warming seven million years ago dried a lot of the land in what is today the african nation of chad a sea called the tethys sea started shrinking this made the african summer monsoons less frequent which helped form sand dunes in chad the scientists say this is how the sahara first started

the sahara is one of the world's best-known and largest deserts it covers about 10 per cent of the whole african continent and forms large parts of algeria chad egypt sudan and other nations the sands stretch from the atlantic ocean in the west to the red sea in the east not everyone agrees that the sahara is as old as the norway research says it is stefan kröpelin a geologist in germany says real geological evidence is needed to be sure he said the norway research is based on numbers and not evidence saying "nothing you can find in the sahara is older than 500000 years old" he added that our knowledge of the saharan climate is only from 10000 years ago and that our knowledge is "full of gaps"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1409/140922-sahara-desert.html>

Scientists believe the Sahara desert is twice as old as we previously thought. Science books generally say the Sahara is around three million years old. However, a new study from a centre for climate research in Norway says it could be around seven million years old. Researchers used computers to try and calculate when large parts of North Africa became desert. Their tests showed that global warming seven million years ago dried a lot of the land in what is today the African nation of Chad. A sea called the Tethys Sea started shrinking. This made the African summer monsoons less frequent, which helped form sand dunes in Chad. The scientists say this is how the Sahara first started. The Sahara is one of the world's best-known and largest deserts. It covers about 10 percent of the whole African continent and forms large parts of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Sudan and other nations. The sands stretch from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east. Not everyone agrees that the Sahara is as old as the Norway research says it is. Stefan Kröpelin, a geologist in Germany, says real geological evidence is needed to be sure. He said the Norway research is based on numbers and not evidence, saying: "Nothing you can find in the Sahara is older than 500,000 years old". He added that our knowledge of the Sahara climate is only from 10,000 years ago and that our knowledge is "full of gaps".

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about deserts. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SAHARA DESERT: Make a poster about the Sahara desert. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. DESERTS: Write a magazine article about deserts. Include imaginary interviews with people who live in the desert.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on deserts. Ask him/her three questions about deserts. Give him/her three of your ideas on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c F d T e T f F g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. believe | a. think |
| 2. previously | b. earlier |
| 3. study | c. report |
| 4. calculate | d. work out |
| 5. frequent | e. often |
| 6. covers | f. extends over |
| 7. evidence | g. proof |
| 8. sure | h. certain |
| 9. knowledge | i. understanding |
| 10. gaps | j. spaces |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Scientists
2. Norway
3. Computers
4. Monsoons
5. Sand dunes
6. 10%
7. To the Red Sea
8. Geological evidence
9. Numbers
10. 10,000 years

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)