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Level 4

Fairy tales could be 6,000 years old

24th January, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160124-fairy-4.html>

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Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160124-fairy-tales-4.html>

A 19th-century fairy tale collector said fairy tales were thousands of years old. Scientists now say this is true and that many popular tales could be over 4,000 years old. The oldest known fairy tale, "The Smith and the Devil," dates back 6,000 years to the Bronze Age - a time when humans first started making metal tools. One scientist, Dr Jamshid Tehrani, found that this tale came from an ancient language that dates to around 6,000 years ago.

Dr Tehrani looked at 275 fairy tales. He said: "It's remarkable that these stories have survived so long without being written down." He added that: "They are older than the English language and would have been first told in a language that is now extinct." He said well-known tales, like "Beauty and the Beast," were at least 4,000 years old. He said his research suggests that many fairy tales were told in ancient languages, long before they were written down.

Sources: <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/fairy-tales-could-date-back-thousands-of-years-research-says-a6822021.html>
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/no-fairy-tale-origins-some-famous-stories-go-back-thousands-years>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35358487>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160124-fairy-tales-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. A 19th-century fairy tale | a. language |
| 2. thousands | b. say this is true |
| 3. Scientists now | c. language |
| 4. The oldest | d. 6,000 years ago |
| 5. the Bronze Age | e. collector |
| 6. humans first started making | f. known fairy tale |
| 7. an ancient | g. of years old |
| 8. dates to around | h. metal tools |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Dr Tehrani looked | a. that is now extinct |
| 2. It's remarkable that these stories have | b. at 275 fairy tales |
| 3. written | c. 4,000 years old |
| 4. They are older than the | d. were written down |
| 5. told in a language | e. down |
| 6. at least | f. survived so long |
| 7. many fairy tales were told | g. English language |
| 8. long before they | h. in ancient languages |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160124-fairy-tales-4.html>

A 19th-century fairy tale collector said fairy tales (1) _____ years old. Scientists now say this (2) _____ many popular tales (3) _____ 4,000 years old. The oldest known fairy tale, "The Smith and the Devil," dates back 6,000 years (4) _____ - a time when humans first started making metal tools. One scientist, Dr Jamshid Tehrani, (5) _____ tale came from an ancient language that (6) _____ 6,000 years ago.

Dr Tehrani looked at 275 fairy tales. He said: "(7) _____ these stories have (8) _____ without being written down." He added that: "They are (9) _____ English language and would have been first told in a language (10) _____." He said well-known tales, like "Beauty and the Beast," (11) _____ 4,000 years old. He said his research suggests that many fairy tales were told in (12) _____, long before they were written down.

FAIRY TALES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160124-fairy-tales-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about fairy tales 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)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

