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Level 5

Massive coral reef found in Amazon River

25th April, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160425-coral-reef-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160425-coral-reef-5.html>

A team of scientists has discovered a huge coral reef in the Amazon River. The team from universities in the USA and Brazil was on an expedition to learn more about plumes when it made the discovery. Plumes are the areas near where a river meets the sea and the river's freshwater mixes with the ocean's saltwater. The reef system covers an area of 5,800 square kilometres, stretching from the coast of French Guiana to the Brazilian rainforest. The finding is surprising because reefs are rarely found in rivers as the water is usually too muddy and does not contain enough salt.

The scientists explored just 10 per cent of the reef. There were many sponges, creatures and other marine life that had adapted to life in the dark water. They also found 73 species of reef fish, many of them carnivorous. A researcher said: "We brought up the most amazing and colorful animals I have ever seen." Not all news about the reef is good. The area has been marked for oil exploration. The researcher warned that: "From ocean acidification and ocean warming to plans for offshore oil exploration...the whole system is at risk from human impacts."

Sources: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/04/23/world/amazon-river-coral-reef-irpt/>
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/04/220416-Amazon-coral-reef-Brazil-ocean-river-fish/>
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/apr/22/huge-coral-reef-discovered-at-amazon-river-mouth>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160425-coral-reef-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A team of | a. too muddy |
| 2. on an | b. 5,800 sq kilometres |
| 3. where a river | c. salt |
| 4. The reef system covers an area of | d. expedition |
| 5. stretching from the coast | e. scientists |
| 6. reefs are rarely found | f. of French Guiana |
| 7. the water is usually | g. in rivers |
| 8. does not contain enough | h. meets the sea |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. The scientists explored just | a. in the dark water |
| 2. marine | b. reef is good |
| 3. adapted to life | c. I have ever seen |
| 4. They also found 73 species | d. life |
| 5. the most amazing and colorful animals | e. exploration |
| 6. Not all news about the | f. 10 per cent of the reef |
| 7. oil | g. risk from human impacts |
| 8. the whole system is at | h. of reef fish |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160425-coral-reef-5.html>

A team of scientists has discovered (1) _____ in the Amazon River. The team from universities in the USA and Brazil was on an expedition (2) _____ about plumes when it made the discovery. Plumes (3) _____ where a river meets the sea and the river's freshwater (4) _____ ocean's saltwater. The reef system covers an area of 5,800 square kilometres, stretching from the coast of French Guiana to the Brazilian rainforest. The (5) _____ because reefs are rarely found in rivers as the water is usually too muddy and does not (6) _____.

The scientists (7) _____ 10 per cent of the reef. There were many sponges, creatures and (8) _____ that had adapted to life in the dark water. They also found 73 (9) _____ fish, many of them carnivorous. A researcher said: "We brought up the most amazing and colorful animals I have ever seen." (10) _____ the reef is good. The area has been marked for oil exploration. The researcher warned that: "From ocean acidification (11) _____ to plans for offshore oil exploration...the whole system (12) _____ human impacts."

CORAL REEFS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160425-coral-reef-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about coral reefs 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)

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160425-coral-reef-5.html>

Write about **coral reefs** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
