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Level 2

Zealandia – The eighth continent?

19th February, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-2.html>

We used to believe there were nine planets, but now there are eight (Pluto is not a planet). Now we may have to change how many continents there are. We are taught there are seven - Asia, Africa, North and South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a big, largely underwater landmass in the Pacific Ocean. Six per cent of it is above water and is New Zealand and New Caledonia. The rest is under the ocean. It is five million square kilometres, which scientists say is big enough to be a continent.

Geologists explained why Zealandia is a continent in a research paper in the Geological Society of America's Journal. They argue that the land does not have to be above water to be a continent. They said Zealandia is a continent because of four points: It is a lot higher than the area around it, it has a special geology, it is easy to see its shape, and it is thicker than the ocean floor. A geologist said it would be easy to understand that Zealandia is a continent, "if you could pull the plug on the world's oceans" and let the water out. It may take time for scientists to agree there are eight continents.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-39000936>
<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/its-just-cool-isnt-scientists-excited-gigantic-new-global-continent-zealandia>
<http://www.nature.com/news/geologists-spy-an-eighth-continent-zealandia-1.21503>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. We used to believe there | a. an eighth continent |
| 2. change how many | b. square kilometres |
| 3. We are | c. the ocean |
| 4. Geologists now say there is | d. were nine planets |
| 5. This is a big, largely underwater | e. continents there are |
| 6. The rest is under | f. be a continent |
| 7. It is five million | g. taught there are seven |
| 8. big enough to | h. landmass |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Geologists explained why Zealandia | a. easy to understand |
| 2. the land does not have to | b. of four points |
| 3. Zealandia is a continent because | c. its shape |
| 4. a lot higher than the area | d. the world's oceans |
| 5. it is easy to see | e. around it |
| 6. A geologist said it would be | f. is a continent |
| 7. pull the plug on | g. to agree |
| 8. It may take time for scientists | h. be above water |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-2.html>

We (1) _____ there were nine planets, but now there are eight (Pluto is not a planet). Now (2) _____ change how many continents there are. We are (3) _____ seven - Asia, Africa, North and South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. (4) _____, largely underwater landmass in the Pacific Ocean. Six per cent of it (5) _____ is New Zealand and New Caledonia. The rest is under the ocean. It is five million square kilometres, which scientists say (6) _____ be a continent.

Geologists (7) _____ Zealandia is a continent in a research paper in the Geological Society of America's Journal. They (8) _____ land does not have to be above water to be a continent. They said Zealandia is a continent because of four points: (9) _____ than the area around it, it has a special geology, it (10) _____ its shape, and it is thicker than the ocean floor. A geologist said it would be easy to understand that Zealandia is a continent, "if you could (11) _____ the world's oceans" and let the water out. It may take time for scientists (12) _____ eight continents.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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CONTINENTS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about continents 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) _____

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia-2.html>

Write about **continents** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
