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Level 3

Zealandia – The eighth continent?

19th February, 2017

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

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

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THE ARTICLE

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

We were taught at school that there were nine planets, but now there are eight (scientists said Pluto is not a planet). Now we may have to change our thinking about how many continents there are. We are taught there are seven continents - Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists (people who study the land and the earth) now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a huge, largely underwater landmass in the southern Pacific Ocean. Six per cent of this landmass is above water and is what we know as New Zealand and New Caledonia. Around 94 per cent of it is under the ocean. In total, it measures five million square kilometres, which scientists say is big enough to be a continent.

Geologists explained why they think Zealandia is a continent. They wrote a research paper and published it in the Geological Society of America's Journal. They argue that the land does not have to be above water for it to be a continent. They said four different points make Zealandia a continent. It is a lot higher than the surrounding area, it has a unique geology, it is easy to find the shape of the continent, and it is a lot thicker than the ocean floor. Nick Mortimer, a geologist at GNS Science in New Zealand, 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. However, it may take some time before scientists agree that 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>

WARM-UPS

1. CONTINENTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about continents. 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?

taught / school / planet / continent / land / earth / underwater / ocean / scientists / geologists / research / paper / higher / shape / floor / unique / plug / let the water out

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

3. ZEALANDIA: Students A **strongly** believe Zealandia should be the eighth continent; Students B **strongly** believe it shouldn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CONTINENTS: What do you know about them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Countries	Landscapes	Cultures	Flora & Fauna
Africa				
Asia				
Antarctica				
South America				
Europe				
North America				

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

6. BEST CONTINENT: Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Africa
- Antarctica
- Asia
- Australia
- Europe
- North America
- South America
- Zealandia

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

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

- a. People at school were taught there were nine planets. **T / F**
- b. Scientists said there is a plant called Pluto. **T / F**
- c. Over 99 per cent of Zealandia is under water. **T / F**
- d. Zealandia is over fifty million square kilometres in size. **T / F**
- e. Geologists said a continent can be below water and still be a continent. **T / F**
- f. Geologists said a continent needs a unique geology to be a continent. **T / F**
- g. A geologist said if the oceans had less water, we could see Zealandia. **T / F**
- h. The article said scientists will agree quickly that Zealandia is a continent. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. taught | a. ideas |
| 2. thinking | b. encircling |
| 3. huge | c. mainly |
| 4. largely | d. see |
| 5. under | e. remove |
| 6. published | f. educated |
| 7. surrounding | g. special |
| 8. unique | h. beneath |
| 9. understand | i. printed |
| 10. pull | j. enormous |

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

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. We were taught at school that | a. is above water |
| 2. we may have to | b. to be a continent |
| 3. This is a huge, largely | c. than the ocean floor |
| 4. Six per cent of this landmass | d. before scientists agree |
| 5. big enough | e. let the water out |
| 6. They wrote a research paper | f. there were nine planets |
| 7. it has a unique | g. and published it |
| 8. a lot thicker | h. change our thinking |
| 9. pull the plug on the world's oceans and | i. geology |
| 10. it may take some time | j. underwater landmass |

GAP FILL

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

We were taught at school that there were (1) _____ planets, but now there are eight (scientists said Pluto is not a planet). Now we may have to change our (2) _____ about how many continents there are. We are taught there are seven continents - Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists (people who study the (3) _____ and the earth) now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a (4) _____, largely underwater landmass in the (5) _____ Pacific Ocean. Six per cent of this landmass is (6) _____ water and is what we know as New Zealand and New Caledonia. Around 94 per cent of it is under the ocean. In total, it (7) _____ five million square kilometres, which scientists say is big (8) _____ to be a continent.

land
measures
southern
nine
enough
thinking
above
huge

Geologists explained why they think Zealandia is a continent. They wrote a research paper and (9) _____ it in the Geological Society of America's Journal. They (10) _____ that the land does not have to be above water for it to be a continent. They said four different (11) _____ make Zealandia a continent. It is a lot higher than the surrounding area, it has a (12) _____ geology, it is easy to find the shape of the continent, and it is a lot (13) _____ than the ocean floor. Nick Mortimer, a geologist at GNS Science in New Zealand, said it would be (14) _____ to understand that Zealandia is a continent, "if you could pull the (15) _____ on the world's oceans" and let the water out. However, it may take some (16) _____ before scientists agree that there are eight continents.

easy
argue
published
time
unique
plug
points
thicker

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) We were taught at school that there were nine planets, but now _____
 - a. there are eighth
 - b. there are eights
 - c. there are eighths
 - d. there are eight
- 2) we may have to change our thinking about how many continents _____
 - a. are there
 - b. their are
 - c. they're are
 - d. there are
- 3) Geologists (people who study the land and the earth) now say there is _____
 - a. and eighth continent
 - b. an eight continent
 - c. an eighth continent
 - d. and eight continent
- 4) Around 94 per cent of it is _____
 - a. under an ocean
 - b. under the ocean
 - c. underling ocean
 - d. and the ocean
- 5) In total, it measures five million square kilometres, which scientists say _____
 - a. is big enough
 - b. is big plenty
 - c. is bigger enough
 - d. it's big enough
- 6) They argue that the land does not have to be above water for it to _____
 - a. be the continent
 - b. be a continent
 - c. be all continent
 - d. been a continent
- 7) It is a lot higher than the surrounding area, it has a _____
 - a. uniquely geology
 - b. unique geological
 - c. uniquely geological
 - d. unique geology
- 8) it is easy to find the shape of the continent, and it is a lot thicker than _____
 - a. the ocean flair
 - b. the ocean flare
 - c. the ocean floor
 - d. the ocean flaw
- 9) if you could pull the plug on the world's oceans and _____ out
 - a. wet the water
 - b. let the water
 - c. bet the water
 - d. set the water
- 10) However, it may take some time before _____
 - a. science is agree
 - b. scientists argue
 - c. science lists argue
 - d. scientists agree

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

We (1) _____ school that there were nine planets, but now there are eight (scientists said Pluto is not a planet). Now we may have to (2) _____ about how many continents there are. We are taught there are seven continents - Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists (people who study the (3) _____) now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a huge, (4) _____ landmass in the southern Pacific Ocean. Six per cent of this landmass is above water and is what we know as New Zealand and New Caledonia. Around 94 (5) _____ the ocean. In total, it measures five million square kilometres, which scientists say is (6) _____ a continent.

Geologists explained (7) _____ Zealandia is a continent. They wrote a research paper and published it in the Geological Society of America's Journal. They (8) _____ land does not have to be above water for it to be a continent. They said four different points make Zealandia a continent. It (9) _____ than the surrounding area, it has a unique geology, it is easy (10) _____ of the continent, and it is a lot thicker than the ocean floor. Nick Mortimer, a geologist at GNS Science in New Zealand, said (11) _____ to understand that Zealandia is a continent, "if you could pull the plug on the world's oceans" and let the water out. However, it may take some time before scientists (12) _____ are eight continents.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Where were we taught that there were nine planets?
2. What did scientists say was not a planet?
3. Where is Zealandia?
4. How much of Zealandia is above water?
5. How big is Zealandia?
6. What did geologists write?
7. How many different points make Zealandia a continent?
8. What does a landmass need to be thicker than to be a continent?
9. What did a geologist say you could pull to see Zealandia?
10. How long will it take for scientists to agree on Zealandia?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) Where were we taught that there were nine planets?
 - a) school
 - b) at a planetarium
 - c) on the Internet
 - d) in maths books
- 2) What did scientists say was not a planet?
 - a) Jupiter
 - b) Neptune
 - c) Pluto
 - d) Venus
- 3) Where is Zealandia?
 - a) in the Indian Ocean
 - b) in the South Pacific
 - c) in the North Sea
 - d) in the Atlantic Ocean
- 4) How much of Zealandia is above water?
 - a) sixty per cent
 - b) sixteen per cent
 - c) sixty-six per cent
 - d) six per cent
- 5) How big is Zealandia?
 - a) five million square kilometres
 - b) fifty million square kilometres
 - c) fifteen million square kilometres
 - d) 55 million square kilometres
- 6) What did geologists write?
 - a) a song
 - b) instructions
 - c) a movie screenplay
 - d) a research paper
- 7) How many different points make Zealandia a continent?
 - a) 3
 - b) 4
 - c) 5
 - d) 6
- 8) What does a landmass need to be thicker than to be a continent?
 - a) Antarctica
 - b) the ocean
 - c) a large volcano
 - d) the ocean floor
- 9) What did a geologist say you could pull to see Zealandia?
 - a) a muscle
 - b) a shelf
 - c) a plug
 - d) a rock
- 10) How long will it take for scientists to agree on Zealandia?
 - a) a little longer
 - b) some time
 - c) 3 days
 - d) 3 years

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Africa

You think Africa is the best continent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their continents. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Asia, Europe or South America.

Role B – Asia

You think Asia is the best continent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their continents. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Africa, Europe or South America.

Role C – Europe

You think Europe is the best continent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their continents. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Asia, Africa or South America.

Role D – South America

You think South America is the best continent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their continents. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Asia, Europe or Africa.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

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

planet	continent
---------------	------------------

- 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">• nine• people• seven• huge• know• total	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• why• argue• four• shape• pull• time
---	--

CONTINENTS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1702/170219-zealandia.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.

CONTINENTS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'continent'?
3. What do you know about the continents?
4. What do you know about the continent on which you live?
5. Which is the best continent, and why?
6. What do you think of Zealandia becoming a continent?
7. What do geologists do every day?
8. What is a continent?
9. What would you like to know about Zealandia?
10. What do you know about New Zealand?

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CONTINENTS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'planet'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you like about the geology of the Earth?
15. Asia and Europe are connected, so are they one continent?
16. What do you think of the name, 'Zealandia'?
17. Would you like to be a geologist?
18. What would happen if you pulled the plug on the world's oceans?
19. Why might it take time for scientists to agree Zealandia is a continent?
20. What questions would you like to ask the geologists?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

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

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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/1702/170219-zealandia.html>

We were (1) _____ at school that there were nine planets, but now there are eight (scientists said Pluto is not a planet). Now we may have to change our (2) _____ about how many continents there (3) _____. We are taught there are seven continents - Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists (people who study the land and the earth) now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a huge, (4) _____ underwater landmass in the southern Pacific Ocean. Six per cent of this landmass is above water and is (5) _____ we know as New Zealand and New Caledonia. Around 94 per cent of it is under the ocean. (6) _____ total, it measures five million square kilometres, which scientists say is big enough to be a continent.

Geologists explained why they think Zealandia is a continent. They wrote a research paper and published (7) _____ in the Geological Society of America's Journal. They argue that the land does not have to be above water (8) _____ it to be a continent. They said four different points make Zealandia a continent. It is a lot higher than the surrounding area, it has a unique geology, it is easy to find the (9) _____ of the continent, and it is a (10) _____ thicker than the ocean floor. Nick Mortimer, a geologist at GNS Science in New Zealand, 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 (11) _____. However, it may take (12) _____ time before scientists agree that there are eight continents.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) teaching | (b) teaches | (c) teach | (d) taught |
| 2. | (a) thought | (b) think | (c) thinks | (d) thinking |
| 3. | (a) be | (b) are | (c) have | (d) is |
| 4. | (a) measure | (b) degree | (c) largely | (d) extent |
| 5. | (a) that | (b) where | (c) what | (d) such |
| 6. | (a) In | (b) On | (c) To | (d) At |
| 7. | (a) issue | (b) it | (c) which | (d) paper |
| 8. | (a) for | (b) from | (c) of | (d) if |
| 9. | (a) ship | (b) shape | (c) sharp | (d) slope |
| 10. | (a) lid | (b) loads | (c) lot | (d) land |
| 11. | (a) down | (b) up | (c) out | (d) in |
| 12. | (a) lots | (b) any | (c) many | (d) some |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. there were nine netlsap
2. eiggstsolo (people who study the land)
3. ygrlael underwater
4. under the naceo
5. it aeseurms five million square kilometres
6. ... which scientists say is big unheog

Paragraph 2

7. wrote a hscreare paper and published it
8. They uerga that the land...
9. four etieffrnd points
10. higher than the gnrdouiusnr area
11. it has a uieqnu geology
12. scientists ragee

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () underwater landmass in the southern Pacific Ocean. Six per cent of this landmass is above water and is what we
- () Geologists explained why they think Zealandia is a continent. They wrote a research paper and
- () higher than the surrounding area, it has a unique geology, it is easy to find the shape of the continent, and it is a lot
- () water for it to be a continent. They said four different points make Zealandia a continent. It is a lot
- () five million square kilometres, which scientists say is big enough to be a continent.
- () out. However, it may take some time before scientists agree that there are eight continents.
- () published it in the Geological Society of America's Journal. They argue that the land does not have to be above
- () thicker than the ocean floor. Nick Mortimer, a geologist at GNS Science in New Zealand, said it would be
- () study the land and the earth) now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a huge, largely
- () a planet). Now we may have to change our thinking about how many continents there are. We are taught there are
- (**1**) We were taught at school that there were nine planets, but now there are eight (scientists said Pluto is not
- () seven continents - Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists (people who
- () know as New Zealand and New Caledonia. Around 94 per cent of it is under the ocean. In total, it measures
- () easy to understand that Zealandia is a continent, "if you could pull the plug on the world's oceans" and let the water

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. nine were school were We at there planets taught that .
2. how Change many our continents thinking there about are .
3. land earth people the the are study and Geologists who .
4. huge underwater the A largely in Pacific , landmass southern .
5. , square it kilometres measures In five total million .
6. research a wrote They it published and paper .
7. to have not does land the that argue They water above be .
8. surrounding lot area higher It than is the a .
9. the let and oceans world's the on plug the Pull out water .
10. may time agree it some scientists , take before However .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

We were *taught / teach* at school that there were nine planets, but now there are eight (scientists said Pluto is not *the / a* planet). Now we may have to change our *thinks / thinking* about how many continents there *be / are*. We are taught there are seven continents - Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists (people who study the land and *the / an* earth) now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a huge, *largely / enlarge* underwater landmass in the southern Pacific Ocean. Six per cent *for / of* this landmass is above water and is what we *know / known* as New Zealand and New Caledonia. Around 94 per cent of it is under the ocean. In *totally / total*, it measures five million square kilometres, which scientists say is big enough to *do / be* a continent.

Geologists *explanation / explained* why they think Zealandia is a continent. They wrote a research paper and published it *on / in* the Geological Society of America's Journal. They argue that the land does not have to be *higher / above* water for it to be a continent. They said four *different / difference* points make Zealandia a continent. It is a *much / lot* higher than the surrounding area, it has a *unique / uniquely* geology, it is easy to find the shape of the continent, and it is a lot *thicken / thicker* than the ocean floor. Nick Mortimer, a geologist at GNS Science in New Zealand, said it would be easy to understand that Zealandia is a continent, "if you could *push / pull* the plug on the world's oceans" and let the water *out / in*. However, it may take some time *then / before* scientists agree that there are eight continents.

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/1702/170219-zealandia.html>

W_ w_ r_ t_ _ght _t sch_ _l th_ t th_ r_ w_ r_ n_ n_ pl_ n_ ts, b_ t n_ w_ th_ r_ _r_ _ght (sc_ _nt_ sts s_ _d Pl_ t_ _s n_ t_ pl_ n_ t). N_ w_ w_ m_ y h_ v_ t_ ch_ ng_ _r_ th_ nk_ ng _b_ _t h_ w_ m_ ny c_ nt_ n_ nts th_ r_ _r_ . W_ _r_ t_ _ght th_ r_ _r_ s_ v_ n_ c_ nt_ n_ nts - _s_ , _fr_ c_ , N_ rth_ _m_ r_ c_ , S_ _th_ _m_ r_ c_ , _nt_ rct_ c_ , _r_ p_ , _nd _str_ l_ . G_ _l_ g_ sts (p_ _pl_ wh_ st_ dy th_ l_ nd _nd th_ _rth) n_ w_ s_ y th_ r_ _s_ n_ _ghth c_ nt_ n_ nt - Z_ _l_ nd_ . Th_ s_ _s_ _h_ g_ , l_ rg_ ly _nd rw_ t_ r l_ ndm_ ss _n th_ s_ _th_ rn P_ c_ f_ c_ _c_ n. S_ x p_ r_ c_ nt _f th_ s l_ ndm_ ss _s_ b_ v_ w_ t_ r_ nd_ s wh_ t w_ kn_ w _s N_ w_ Z_ _l_ nd_ nd N_ w_ C_ l_ d_ n_ . _r_ nd 94 p_ r c_ nt _f t_ s _nd_ r th_ _c_ n. _n t_ t_ l, _t m_ _s_ r_ s f_ v_ m_ ll_ n sq_ _r_ k_ l_ m_ tr_ s, wh_ ch sc_ _nt_ sts s_ y _s b_ g_ _n_ _ght_ b_ _c_ nt_ n_ nt.

G_ _l_ g_ sts _xpl_ _n_ d why th_ y th_ nk Z_ _l_ nd_ _s_ _c_ nt_ n_ nt. Th_ y wr_ t_ _r_ s_ _rch p_ p_ r_ nd p_ bl_ sh_ d _t _n th_ G_ _l_ g_ c_ l S_ c_ ty _f _m_ r_ c_ 's J_ _rn_ l. Th_ y _rg_ _ th_ t th_ l_ nd d_ _s_ n_ t h_ v_ t_ b_ _b_ v_ w_ t_ r_ fr_ _t_ t_ b_ _c_ nt_ n_ nt. Th_ y s_ _d f_ _r d_ ff_ r_ nt p_ _nts m_ k_ Z_ _l_ nd_ _c_ nt_ n_ nt. _t_ s_ _l_ t h_ gh_ r th_ n th_ s_ rr_ nd_ ng_ r_ , _t h_ s_ _n_ q_ _g_ _l_ gy, _t_ _s_ _sy_ t_ f_ nd th_ sh_ p_ _f th_ c_ nt_ n_ nt, _nd _t_ s_ _l_ t th_ ck_ r th_ n th_ _c_ n fl_ _r. N_ ck M_ rt_ m_ r, _g_ _l_ g_ st_ t GNS Sc_ _nc_ _n N_ w_ Z_ _l_ nd, s_ _d _t w_ _ld b_ _sy_ t_ _nd_ rst_ nd th_ t Z_ _l_ nd_ _s_ _c_ nt_ n_ nt, " _f_ y_ _c_ ld p_ ll th_ pl_ g_ _n th_ w_ rld's _c_ ns" _nd l_ t th_ w_ t_ r_ _t. H_ w_ v_ r, _t_ m_ y_ t_ k_ s_ m_ t_ m_ b_ f_ r_ sc_ _nt_ sts _gr_ _ th_ t th_ r_ _r_ _ght_ c_ nt_ n_ nts.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

we were taught at school that there were nine planets but now there are eight (scientists said pluto is not a planet) now we may have to change our thinking about how many continents there are we are taught there are seven continents - asia africa north america south america antarctica europe and australia geologists (people who study the land and the earth) now say there is an eighth continent - zealandia this is a huge largely underwater landmass in the southern pacific ocean six per cent of this landmass is above water and is what we know as new zealand and new caledonia around 94 per cent of it is under the ocean in total it measures five million square kilometres which scientists say is big enough to be a continent

geologists explained why they think zealandia is a continent they wrote a research paper and published it in the geological society of america's journal they argue that the land does not have to be above water for it to be a continent they said four different points make zealandia a continent it is a lot higher than the surrounding area it has a unique geology it is easy to find the shape of the continent and it is a lot thicker than the ocean floor nick mortimer a geologist at gns science in new zealand 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 however it may take some time before scientists agree that there are eight continents

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

We were taught at school that there were nine planets, but now there are eight (scientists said Pluto is not a planet). Now we may have to change our thinking about how many continents there are. We are taught there are seven continents - Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australia. Geologists (people who study the land and the earth) now say there is an eighth continent - Zealandia. This is a huge, largely underwater land mass in the southern Pacific Ocean. Six percent of this land mass is above water and is what we know as New Zealand and New Caledonia. Around 94 percent of it is under the ocean. In total, it measures five million square kilometres, which scientists say is big enough to be a continent. Geologists explained why they think Zealandia is a continent. They wrote a research paper and published it in the Geological Society of America's Journal. They argue that the land does not have to be above water for it to be a continent. They said four different points make Zealandia a continent. It is a lot higher than the surrounding area, it has a unique geology, it is easy to find the shape of the continent, and it is a lot thicker than the ocean floor. Nick Mortimer, a geologist at GNS Science in New Zealand, 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. However, it may take some time before scientists agree that there are eight continents.

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 Zealandia. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CONTINENTS: Make a poster about continents. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ZEALANDIA: Write a magazine article about Zealandia and whether it should become the eighth continent. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 continents. Ask him/her three questions about Zealandia. Give him/her three of your opinions on whether Zealandia should be the eighth continent. 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 F e T f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. taught | a. educated |
| 2. thinking | b. ideas |
| 3. huge | c. enormous |
| 4. largely | d. mainly |
| 5. under | e. beneath |
| 6. published | f. printed |
| 7. surrounding | g. encircling |
| 8. unique | h. special |
| 9. understand | i. see |
| 10. pull | j. remove |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. School
2. Pluto
3. In the South Pacific
4. Six per cent
5. Five million square metres
6. A research paper
7. Four
8. The ocean floor
9. A plug
10. Some time

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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