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Level 4 – 12th June, 2019

Drones used to battle tortoise-killing ravens

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-4.html>

Drones are helping tortoises survive in the USA's Mojave Desert. Tortoises there are under threat from ravens. The raven population in the Mojave has increased by 700 per cent in 25 years. This has been a disaster for the desert tortoises. A local conservationist said that in some places where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000. They could completely wipe out the tortoises, whose numbers have fallen by over 90 per cent since 1990.

Technology may rescue the tortoises. Biologists have a plan to reduce the raven population, using drones and a technique called "egg oiling". This involves drones removing fertilized eggs from raven nests, coating the eggs in corn oil, and then replacing them. The oil blocks the egg's oxygen and so ends the life of the embryo inside. A biologist said: "If ravens figure out that their eggs are rotten, they are likely to...nest someplace else."

Sources: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/drones-ravens-baby-tortoises-california_n_5cfda2b5e4b0aab91c081d60
<https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-raven-killing-drone-protects-desert-tortoises-20190609-story.html>
<https://www.thedailybeast.com/california-biologists-deploy-drones-to-battle-raven-population-explosion-threatening-desert-tortoises>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Drones are helping tortoises | a. population |
| 2. Tortoises there are under | b. out the tortoises |
| 3. The raven | c. conservationist |
| 4. This has been a | d. over 90 per cent |
| 5. A local | e. used to be 10 |
| 6. in some places where there | f. threat from ravens |
| 7. They could completely wipe | g. survive |
| 8. numbers have fallen by | h. disaster |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Technology may rescue | a. eggs are rotten |
| 2. reduce the raven | b. in corn oil |
| 3. removing fertilized eggs | c. else |
| 4. coating the eggs | d. population |
| 5. The oil blocks | e. embryo |
| 6. ends the life of the | f. the tortoises |
| 7. ravens figure out that their | g. the egg's oxygen |
| 8. likely to nest someplace | h. from raven nests |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-4.html>

Drones are helping tortoises (1) _____ USA's Mojave Desert. Tortoises there (2) _____ from ravens. The raven population in the Mojave (3) _____ 700 per cent in 25 years. This has been (4) _____ the desert tortoises. A local conservationist said that (5) _____ where there used to be 10 ravens, there are now 15,000. They could completely wipe out the tortoises, whose numbers (6) _____ over 90 per cent since 1990.

Technology (7) _____ tortoises. Biologists have a plan to reduce the raven population, using drones (8) _____ called "egg oiling". This involves drones removing (9) _____ raven nests, coating the eggs in corn oil, and (10) _____. The oil blocks the egg's oxygen and so ends the life (11) _____ inside. A biologist said: "If ravens figure out that their eggs are rotten, they (12) _____...nest someplace else."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-4.html>

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TORTOISES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about tortoises 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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1906/190612-ravens-4.html>

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