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## **Level 5**

# **Fairy tales could be 6,000 years old**

**24th January, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160124-fairy-tales-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/1601/160124-fairy-tales-5.html>

The 19th-century fairy tale collector Wilhelm Grimm said fairy tales dated back thousands of years. Scientists now support this. They say many popular fairy tales could be over 4,000 years old. Anthropologist Jamshid Tehrani said the oldest known fairy tale dates back 6,000 years to the Bronze Age. This is a time when humans first started making metal tools. Dr Tehrani studied the evolution of early languages. He found strong links between a tale called "The Smith and the Devil" and an ancient language that dates to around 6,000 years ago.

Dr Tehrani analysed 275 tales for elements of culture that existed before people spoke English. He said well-known tales, like "Beauty and the Beast," are at least 4,000 years old. Dr Tehrani said: "It's remarkable that these stories have survived so long without being written down. They are older than the English language and would have been first told in a language that is now extinct." He added that the new findings suggest that: "A substantial number of magical tales have existed in Indo-European oral traditions 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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The 19th-century fairy tale   | a. back thousands of years    |
| 2. fairy tales dated             | b. be over 4,000 years old    |
| 3. Scientists now support        | c. of early languages         |
| 4. fairy tales could             | d. collector                  |
| 5. the Bronze                    | e. language                   |
| 6. a time when humans first      | f. this                       |
| 7. Tehrani studied the evolution | g. started making metal tools |
| 8. an ancient                    | h. Age                        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. culture that existed before        | a. the English language  |
| 2. at least                           | b. traditions            |
| 3. It's remarkable that these stories | c. people spoke English  |
| 4. They are older than                | d. written down          |
| 5. first told in a language that      | e. have survived so long |
| 6. A substantial number               | f. 4,000 years old       |
| 7. Indo-European oral                 | g. of magical tales      |
| 8. long before they were              | h. is now extinct        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160124-fairy-tales-5.html>

The 19th-century (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Wilhelm Grimm said fairy tales dated back thousands of years. Scientists (2) \_\_\_\_\_. They say many popular fairy tales (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4,000 years old. Anthropologist Jamshid Tehrani said the oldest known fairy tale dates back 6,000 years to the Bronze Age. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ when humans first started making metal tools. Dr Tehrani studied the evolution of early languages. He (5) \_\_\_\_\_ between a tale called "The Smith and the Devil" and an (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that dates to around 6,000 years ago.

Dr Tehrani analysed 275 tales for (7) \_\_\_\_\_ that existed before people spoke English. He said well-known tales, like "Beauty and the Beast," are (8) \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Dr Tehrani said: "It's remarkable that these stories have (9) \_\_\_\_\_ long without being written down. They are older than the English language and would have been first told in a language that (10) \_\_\_\_\_." He added that the new findings suggest that: "A (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of magical tales have existed in Indo-European (12) \_\_\_\_\_ long before they were written down."

# FAIRY TALES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1601/160124-fairy-tales-5.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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Fairy tales could be 6,000 years old – 24th January, 2016*  
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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/1601/160124-fairy-tales-5.html>

Write about **fairy tales** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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