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**Level 4 – 29th December, 2020**

## **Giant Antarctic iceberg A68a splits into three**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-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/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-4.html>

A huge iceberg heading towards South Georgia in the southern Atlantic has split into three chunks. NASA scientists are tracking the main berg, called A68a. It split from an ice shelf in 2017 and has been floating north ever since. A fast-moving stream of water in the Southern Antarctic has put the chunks on a course that could see them run aground off the South Georgia coast. Scientists say the three fragments are about 2,600 square kilometres in size.

The size of the chunks is a big threat to the South Georgia wildlife. It could be an environmental catastrophe. If they hit the seabed, they could block penguins and seals from looking for fish. They could also block routes to feeding grounds during the breeding season. The bottom of the chunks could rake up the seabed and disrupt delicate ecosystems. A mass of melting fresh water from the chunks over the summer could worsen this situation.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55428520>  
<https://newatlas.com/science/giant-iceberg-a-68a-south-georgia-splits-three/>  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/giant-iceberg-heading-toward-south-atlantic-island-breaks-n1252204>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. A huge                           | a. north           |
| 2. in the southern                  | b. chunks          |
| 3. split into three                 | c. shelf           |
| 4. NASA scientists are tracking     | d. Atlantic        |
| 5. It split from an ice             | e. stream of water |
| 6. floating                         | f. iceberg         |
| 7. A fast-moving                    | g. aground         |
| 8. a course that could see them run | h. the main berg   |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The size of                       | a. wildlife         |
| 2. a big threat to the South Georgia | b. up the seabed    |
| 3. an environmental                  | c. grounds          |
| 4. block penguins and seals from     | d. situation        |
| 5. block routes to feeding           | e. season           |
| 6. during the breeding               | f. the chunks       |
| 7. the chunks could rake             | g. catastrophe      |
| 8. worsen this                       | h. looking for fish |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-4.html>

A huge (1) \_\_\_\_\_ South Georgia in the southern Atlantic has split into three chunks. NASA scientists are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ berg, called A68a. It split from an ice shelf in 2017 and has been (3) \_\_\_\_\_ since. A fast-moving (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Southern Antarctic has put the chunks on a course that could see them (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the South Georgia coast. Scientists say (6) \_\_\_\_\_ are about 2,600 square kilometres in size.

The size of the chunks is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to the South Georgia wildlife. It could be an environmental catastrophe. If they (8) \_\_\_\_\_, they could block (9) \_\_\_\_\_ from looking for fish. They could also block (10) \_\_\_\_\_ grounds during (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The bottom of the chunks could rake up the seabed and disrupt delicate ecosystems. A (12) \_\_\_\_\_ fresh water from the chunks over the summer could worsen this situation.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-4.html>

A huge iceberg heading towards South Georgia in the southern Atlantic has split into three chunks. NASA scientists are tracking the main berg, called A68a. It split from an ice shelf in 2017 and has been floating north ever since. A fast-moving stream of water in the Southern Ocean has put the chunks on a course that could see them run aground off the South Georgia coast. Scientists say the three fragments are about 2,600 square kilometres in size. The size of the chunks is a big threat to the South Georgia wildlife. It could be an environmental catastrophe. If they hit the seabed, they could block penguins and seals from looking for fish. They could also block routes to feeding grounds during the breeding season. The bottom of the chunks could rake up the seabed and disrupt delicate ecosystems. A mass of melting freshwater from the chunks over the summer could worsen the situation.

# ICEBERGS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about icebergs 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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More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

