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Level 4 – 4th July, 2022

Octopuses and humans share intelligence gene

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-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/2207/220704-octopus-4.html>

Everyone knows dolphins are very smart. Scientists found that octopuses also have "remarkable" intelligence. Marine biologists said octopi have an intelligence gene similar to the one in humans. The creatures have short sequences of DNA called "jumping genes". These make up 45 per cent of the human genome. They help to create and store memories in the brain. They may give octopuses cognitive abilities like those humans have.

The research tells us how octopuses change their behaviour in response to different stimuli. This process is called "behavioural plasticity". The research could help us understand more about human intelligence. A researcher said the octopus brain has characteristics found in mammal brains. He said octopus brains could help us to know more about the "evolution of intelligence". Octopuses may be more similar to mammals than invertebrates.

Sources: <https://www.livescience.com/jumping-genes-octopus-intelligence>
<https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/51619/20220629/octopus-human-brain.htm>
<https://www.eurekaalert.org/news-releases/956980>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Everyone knows dolphins | a. DNA |
| 2. marine | b. humans |
| 3. octopi have an | c. abilities |
| 4. similar to the one in | d. biologists |
| 5. short sequences of | e. intelligence gene |
| 6. 45 per cent of the human | f. in the brain |
| 7. store memories | g. are very smart |
| 8. cognitive | h. genome |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The research tells | a. their behaviour |
| 2. octopuses change | b. intelligence |
| 3. in response | c. more |
| 4. help us understand | d. to mammals |
| 5. characteristics found | e. know more |
| 6. help us to | f. to different stimuli |
| 7. the evolution of | g. in mammal brains |
| 8. Octopuses may be more similar | h. us how |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-4.html>

Everyone knows dolphins (1) _____. Scientists found that octopuses also (2) _____. Marine biologists said octopi have an intelligence (3) _____ the one in humans. The creatures (4) _____ of DNA called "jumping genes". These make up 45 per cent of the human genome. They help to create (5) _____ in the brain. They may give octopuses (6) _____ like those humans have.

The (7) _____ how octopuses change their (8) _____ to different stimuli. This process is called "behavioural plasticity". The research could help us understand more about human intelligence. A researcher said the (9) _____ characteristics found (10) _____. He said octopus brains could help us to know more about (11) _____ intelligence. Octopuses may be more (12) _____ than invertebrates.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-4.html>

Everyone knows dolphins are very smart. Scientists found that octopuses also have "remarkable" intelligence. Marine biologists said octopuses have an intelligence gene similar to the one in humans. The creature has short sequences of DNA called "jumping genes". These make up 45 percent of the human genome. They help to create and store memories in the brain. They may give octopuses cognitive abilities like those humans have. The research tells us how octopuses change their behaviour in response to different stimuli. This process is called "behavioural plasticity". The research could help us understand more about human intelligence. A researcher said the octopus brain has characteristics found in mammal brains. He said octopus brains could help us to know more about the "evolution of intelligence". Octopuses may be more similar to mammals than invertebrates

OCTOPUSES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2207/220704-octopus-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about octopuses 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) _____

