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Level 0 – 16th November 2023

Diseases in 'Factor X' could be next global threat

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231116-factor-x-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231116-factor-x-0.html>

There could be many deadly diseases underground in permafrost. Permafrost is in mountains and near the North and South Poles. Climate change is melting it. This could release unknown, harmful viruses. Scientists are calling these 'Factor X'. An infectious diseases professor said we know little about Factor X.

There are viruses in permafrost that are a million years old. A scientist said these "ancient viruses" could be terrifying. We have never seen them before. The scientist said deadly diseases like smallpox could be released. Factor X could be an even bigger problem. We need to learn more about Factor X.

Sources: <https://www.newsweek.com/scientists-fear-cataclysmic-disease-emerge-earth-permafrost-climate-change-pandemic-1842724>
<https://www.sciencealert.com/a-dangerous-factor-x-could-be-lurking-in-earths-ice-scientist-warns>
<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/world/rising-global-temperature-could-awaken-ancient-pathogens-in-russian-permafrost/ar-AA1jS25C>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231116-factor-x-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. There could be many deadly | a. calling these 'Factor X' |
| 2. underground | b. melting it |
| 3. near the North and South | c. about Factor X |
| 4. Climate change is | d. diseases |
| 5. This could release unknown, | e. Poles |
| 6. Scientists are | f. diseases professor |
| 7. An infectious | g. harmful viruses |
| 8. we know little | h. in permafrost |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. There are viruses | a. released |
| 2. a million | b. before |
| 3. ancient viruses could | c. about Factor X |
| 4. We have never seen them | d. in permafrost |
| 5. deadly | e. be terrifying |
| 6. smallpox could be | f. bigger problem |
| 7. Factor X could be an even | g. years old |
| 8. We need to learn more | h. diseases |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231116-factor-x-0.html>

There (1) _____ deadly diseases underground in permafrost. Permafrost is in mountains (2) _____ North and South Poles. Climate (3) _____ it. This could release (4) _____. Scientists are calling these 'Factor X'. (5) _____ professor said we (6) _____ Factor X. (7) _____ in permafrost that are a million years old. A scientist (8) _____ viruses" could be terrifying. We (9) _____ them before. The scientist (10) _____ like smallpox could be released. Factor X (11) _____ even bigger problem. We (12) _____ more about Factor X.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231116-factor-x-0.html>

There could be many deadly diseases underground in permafrost. Permafrost is in mountains and near the North and South Poles. Climate change is melting it. This could release unknown, harmful viruses. Scientists are calling these 'Factor X'. An infectious diseases professor said we know little about Factor X. There are viruses in permafrost that are a million years old. A scientist said these "ancient viruses" could be terrifying. We have never seen them before. The scientist said deadly diseases like smallpox could be released. Factor X could be an even bigger problem. We know very little about Factor X.

WORLD THREATS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2311/231116-factor-x-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about world threats 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) _____

