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Level 5

Scientists turn CO2 emissions into stone

12th June, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1606/160612-co2-emissions-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1606/160612-co2-emissions-5.html>

Scientists have a smart but simple way to deal with carbon dioxide emissions – to turn them back into stone. Researchers in Iceland pumped 220 tons of CO₂ deep underground into volcanic rock. It reacted with the rock and relatively quickly, it transformed into a solid substance similar to limestone. The team were surprised at how fast the conversion happened. Lead scientist Juerg Matter said: "Of our 220 tons of injected CO₂, 95 per cent was converted to limestone in less than two years....It was a huge surprise to all the scientists involved in the project, and we thought, 'Wow!'"

The scientists hope their experiment now moves to a larger scale. It could help the problem of CO₂ emissions entering the atmosphere and warming the planet. It could also be a key technique in carbon capture and storage (CCS) solutions. Many other CCS techniques have involved injecting CO₂ underground, but there was always the problem of the emissions leaking back above ground and into the atmosphere. Dr Matter was enthusiastic about the experiments. He said: "We need to deal with rising carbon emissions and this is the ultimate permanent storage – turn them back to stone."

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-36494501>
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jun/09/co2-turned-into-stone-in-iceland-in-climate-change-breakthrough>
<http://www.sciencealert.com/scientists-have-figured-out-how-to-turn-co2-into-solid-rock-within-months>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1606/160612-co2-emissions-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. a smart but | a. with carbon dioxide |
| 2. deal | b. the conversion happened |
| 3. pumped 220 tons of CO2 | c. 'Wow!' |
| 4. it transformed into a solid | d. involved in the project |
| 5. surprised at how fast | e. simple way |
| 6. 95 per cent was converted | f. substance |
| 7. all the scientists | g. deep underground |
| 8. we thought, | h. to limestone |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. moves to a larger | a. the planet |
| 2. It could help the problem | b. and storage |
| 3. warming | c. storage |
| 4. a key technique in carbon capture | d. scale |
| 5. injecting | e. back above ground |
| 6. emissions leaking | f. about the experiments |
| 7. Dr Matter was enthusiastic | g. of CO2 emissions |
| 8. this is the ultimate permanent | h. CO2 underground |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1606/160612-co2-emissions-5.html>

Scientists have a (1) _____ way to deal with carbon dioxide emissions – to (2) _____ into stone. Researchers in Iceland pumped 220 tons of CO2 (3) _____ into volcanic rock. It reacted with the rock and relatively quickly, it transformed into a solid (4) _____ limestone. The team were surprised at how (5) _____ happened. Lead scientist Juerg Matter said: "Of our 220 tons of injected CO2, 95 per cent was converted to limestone in less than two years....It was a huge surprise to all the (6) _____ the project, and we thought, 'Wow!'"

The scientists hope their experiment now (7) _____ scale. It could help the problem of CO2 (8) _____ the atmosphere and warming the planet. It could also be a key technique in carbon (9) _____ (CCS) solutions. Many other CCS techniques have involved injecting CO2 underground, but there was always the problem of the emissions (10) _____ ground and into the atmosphere. Dr Matter was (11) _____ the experiments. He said: "We need to deal with rising carbon emissions and this is the (12) _____ storage – turn them back to stone."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1606/160612-co2-emissions-5.html>

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CO2 SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1606/160612-co2-emissions-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about CO2 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) _____

