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Level 4

Plastic-eating worm could remove the world's waste

30th April, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-4.html>

A natural answer to plastic waste may be near. Researchers found that a tiny caterpillar called a waxworm likes to eat plastic. The waxworm eats plastic at "uniquely high speeds". Scientists could use millions of waxworms as an environmentally-friendly solution to global waste. Waxworms could eat the trillions of plastic bags, bottles, household items and other waste that end up in the ground around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade.

A researcher said: "It's extremely...exciting because breaking down plastic has proved so challenging." Waxworms break down very tough plastics more than 1,400 times faster than other insects. They use their saliva to digest the plastic. It might be possible to copy this and spray it on waste to break it down. Another researcher said this, "could be a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences of plastic accumulation".

Sources: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/04/24/plastic-eating-wax-worm-extremely-exciting-global-pollution/?WT.mc_id=tmgliveapp_iosshare_AntqGjhPTrbZ
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/04/170424141338.htm>
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/04/wax-worms-eat-plastic-polyethylene-trash-pollution-cleanup/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. A natural | a. friendly solution |
| 2. a tiny | b. high speeds |
| 3. eats plastic at uniquely | c. items |
| 4. an environmentally- | d. to biodegrade |
| 5. eat the trillions | e. in the ground |
| 6. household | f. of plastic bags |
| 7. end up | g. answer |
| 8. They take centuries | h. caterpillar |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. breaking down plastic has proved | a. our oceans |
| 2. break down very | b. so challenging |
| 3. more than 1,400 | c. consequences |
| 4. use their saliva to digest | d. tough plastics |
| 5. It might be possible | e. the plastic |
| 6. spray it on waste to | f. to copy this |
| 7. a solution to save | g. break it down |
| 8. unavoidable | h. times faster |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-4.html>

A (1) _____ plastic waste may be near. Researchers found that a tiny caterpillar called a waxworm (2) _____ plastic. The waxworm eats plastic (3) _____ speeds". Scientists could use millions of waxworms as an environmentally-friendly solution to global waste. Waxworms could (4) _____ of plastic bags, bottles, household items and other waste (5) _____ the (6) _____ world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade.

A researcher said: "It's (7) _____ because breaking down plastic has proved (8) _____." Waxworms break down very tough plastics more than 1,400 times faster than other insects. They use their (9) _____ the plastic. It might be possible to copy this and spray it on waste to (10) _____. Another researcher said this, "could be a solution (11) _____ oceans, rivers, and all the environment from (12) _____ consequences of plastic accumulation".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-4.html>

A natural answer to plastic waste may be near. Researchers found that a tiny caterpillar called a wax worm likes to eat plastic. The wax worm eats plastic at "uniquely high speeds". Scientists could use millions of wax worms as an environmentally-friendly solution to global waste. Wax worms could eat the trillion of plastic bags, bottles, household items and other waste that end up in the ground around the world each year. They take centuries to biodegrade. A researcher said: "It's extremely...exciting because breaking down plastic has proved so challenging." Wax worms break down every tough plastic more than 1,400 times faster than other insects. They use their saliva to digest the plastic. It might be possible to copy this and spray it on waste to break it down. Another researcher said this, "could be a solution to save our oceans, rivers, and all the environment from the unavoidable consequences of plastic accumulation".

PLASTIC SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about plastic 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) _____

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170430-plastic-eating-waxworm-4.html>

Write about **plastic** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
