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**Level 6 – 11th March 2024**

## It once rained for two million years, say scientists

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

Farmers pray for rain in times of drought. Most of us have experience of wanting the heavens to open for our garden to be watered during an excessively dry spell. However, none of us can imagine a prolonged period of rain lasting two million years. U.K. geologist and forensic scientist Alastair Ruffell has discovered that 200-300 million years ago, before the single landmass of Pangea separated into continents, Earth did see an era during which it rained non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped forge the development of flora and fauna all over the globe. He believes the precipitation may have been sparked by a huge rise in humidity following a series of massive volcanic eruptions.

Dr Ruffell and his team based their findings on research conducted on strata of rock in the Eastern Alps in Europe in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed unusual layers deposited in ancient rock that dated back over 200 million years. Ruffell said this led to growing evidence that the wet period may have been, "the trigger that enabled dinosaurs, and possibly the other members of our modern land-based fauna, to diversify and dominate the land". He added: "It may have been one of the most important events in the history of life, in terms of its role in allowing not only the age of dinosaurs, but also the origins of most key classes that form the modern fauna of...turtles, crocodiles, lizards and mammals."

Sources: <https://www.unilad.com/news/proof-rained-million-years-earth-carnian-pluvial-event-840634-20240305>  
<https://www.earth.com/news/earth-endured-a-million-years-of-rain-in-the-carnian-pluvial-event/>  
<https://www.iflscience.com/the-carnian-pluvial-event-when-it-rained-for-2-million-years-on-earth-73205>

# WARM-UPS

**1. RAIN:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about rain. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

farmers / pray / rain / dry spells / geologist / forensic / scientist / flora / fauna / globe  
rock / data / evidence / dinosaurs / diversify / important events / history / crocodiles

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. CLOUD SEEDING:** Students A **strongly** believe governments should invest in cloud seeding to ensure there is rain; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. IMPORTANT EVENTS IN HISTORY:** What do you know about these events? How important were they? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	Its Importance
The Big Bang		
The death of the dinosaurs		
The invention of the wheel		
The Industrial Revolution		
World War II		
The start of the Internet		

**5. GLOBE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "globe". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. RAINY DAY ACTIVITIES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to do on a rainy day at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Study English
- Sleep
- Housework
- Watch a movie
- Go for a walk
- Splash in puddles
- Do the gardening
- Visit a museum

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. drought       | a. A period of time.   |
| 2. the heavens   | b. A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.                    |
| 3. spell         | c. Somebody who studies and is an expert on rocks and the earth's physical structure.                |
| 4. geologist     | d. Relating to or denoting the application of scientific methods and techniques of an investigation. |
| 5. forensic      | e. The sky (and space).  |
| 6. forge         | f. Rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls to the ground.  |
| 7. precipitation | g. Make or shape something.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 8. strata    | h. Having been in existence for a very long time.  |
| 9. ancient   | i. The animals of a particular region, habitat, or geological period.                                      |
| 10. evidence | j. The layers or series of layers of rock in the ground.   |
| 11. trigger  | k. The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid. |
| 12. fauna    | l. Have a commanding influence on; exercise control over.  |
| 13. dominate | m. Cause an event or situation to happen or exist.   |
| 14. mammal   | n. A warm-blooded animal with a backbone and hair or fur, that provides milk to its young.                 |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. Farmers pray for drought in times of heavy rain. **T / F**
2. The article says rain turns our gardens into heaven. **T / F**
3. There was a single landmass on Earth 300 million years ago. **T / F**
4. The rain may have been caused by volcanic eruptions. **T / F**
5. The geologists studied research data from the 1990s. **T / F**
6. The research data showed unusual rock from the early 10<sup>th</sup> century. **T / F**
7. Geologists say the rain may have facilitated the emergence of dinosaurs. **T / F**
8. Geologists say the rain may have facilitated the death of ancient lizards. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>drought</b>   | a. left behind  |
| 2. <b>spell</b>     | b. set up       |
| 3. <b>prolonged</b> | c. set off      |
| 4. <b>forge</b>     | d. part         |
| 5. <b>sparked</b>   | e. period       |
| 6. <b>conducted</b> | f. branch out   |
| 7. <b>deposited</b> | g. carried out  |
| 8. <b>diversify</b> | h. lack of rain |
| 9. <b>role</b>      | i. basic        |
| 10. <b>key</b>      | j. elongated    |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Farmers pray for rain in               | a. and fauna               |
| 2. for our garden to be watered during an | b. eruptions               |
| 3. forge the development of flora         | c. dominate the land       |
| 4. precipitation may have been sparked by | d. of rock                 |
| 5. following a series of massive volcanic | e. have been the trigger   |
| 6. research conducted on strata           | f. times of drought        |
| 7. unusual layers deposited               | g. mammals                 |
| 8. evidence that the wet period may       | h. a huge rise in humidity |
| 9. diversify and                          | i. in ancient rock         |
| 10. turtles, crocodiles, lizards and      | j. excessively dry spell   |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

Farmers pray for rain in times of (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Most of us have experience of wanting the heavens to open for our garden to be watered during an (2) \_\_\_\_\_ dry spell. However, none of us can imagine a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ period of rain lasting two million years. U.K. geologist and forensic scientist Alastair Ruffell has discovered that 200-300 million years ago, before the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ landmass of Pangea separated into continents, Earth did see an (5) \_\_\_\_\_ during which it rained non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped forge the development of flora and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ all over the globe. He believes the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ may have been sparked by a huge rise in humidity following a series of (8) \_\_\_\_\_ volcanic eruptions.

Dr Ruffell and his team based their (9) \_\_\_\_\_ on research conducted on strata of rock in the Eastern Alps in Europe in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed unusual layers (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in ancient rock that (11) \_\_\_\_\_ back over 200 million years. Ruffell said this led to growing (12) \_\_\_\_\_ that the wet period may have been, "the trigger that enabled dinosaurs, and possibly the other members of our modern land-based fauna, to (13) \_\_\_\_\_ and dominate the land". He added: "It may have been one of the most important events in the history of life, in (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of its role in allowing not only the age of dinosaurs, but also the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of most key classes that form the modern fauna of...turtles, crocodiles, lizards and (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*era*  
*excessively*  
*massive*  
*drought*  
*precipitation*  
*single*  
*prolonged*  
*fauna*

*dated*  
*terms*  
*findings*  
*mammals*  
*evidence*  
*deposited*  
*origins*  
*diversify*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

- 1) Farmers pray for rain in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. times of drought
  - b. times of draught
  - c. times of draft
  - d. times of drift
- 2) have experience of wanting the heavens to open for our garden \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to being watered
  - b. to been watered
  - c. to be watered
  - d. to be water
- 3) years ago, before the single landmass of Pangea \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. separate it into continents
  - b. separated incontinence
  - c. separated into continents
  - d. separated in two continents
- 4) Dr Ruffell said this helped forge the development of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. floral and fauna
  - b. flower and fauna
  - c. flora and fauna
  - d. floorer and fauna
- 5) a huge rise in humidity following a series of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. massive volcano eruptions
  - b. massive volcanic eruptions
  - c. massively volcanic eruptions
  - d. massive volcanic eruption
- 6) Dr Ruffell and his team based their findings on research conducted on \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. starter of rock
  - b. smarter of rock
  - c. slater of rock
  - d. strata of rock
- 7) The data showed unusual layers deposited \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. inane sent rock
  - b. inane shun rock
  - c. in ancients rock
  - d. in ancient rock
- 8) members of our modern land-based fauna, to diversify and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. domino the land
  - b. dominate a land
  - c. dominate the land
  - d. terminate the land
- 9) in terms of its role in allowing not only the age of dinosaurs, but \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. also the originals
  - b. also the origins
  - c. also an origins
  - d. also the oranges
- 10) key classes that form the modern fauna of...turtles, crocodiles, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. lizards and mammals
  - b. lizards and mammal
  - c. lizard and mammals
  - d. lizard and mammal

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

Farmers pray for rain in (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Most of us have experience of wanting the heavens to open for our garden to be watered during an (2) \_\_\_\_\_. However, none of us can imagine a prolonged period of rain lasting two million years. U.K. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ scientist Alastair Ruffell has discovered that 200-300 million years ago, before the single landmass of Pangea separated into continents, Earth did see an (4) \_\_\_\_\_ it rained non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped forge the development of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ all over the globe. He believes the precipitation may have been sparked by a huge rise in humidity following a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ volcanic eruptions.

Dr Ruffell and his team (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on research conducted on strata of rock in the Eastern Alps in Europe in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed (8) \_\_\_\_\_ in ancient rock that dated back over 200 million years. Ruffell said this led to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the wet period may have been, "the trigger that enabled dinosaurs, and possibly the other members of our modern land-based fauna, to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the land". He added: "It may have been one of the most important events in the history of life, in terms of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ allowing not only the age of dinosaurs, but also the origins of most key classes that form the modern fauna of...turtles, crocodiles, (12) \_\_\_\_\_."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

1. When do farmers pray for rain?
2. Why have most of us wanted the heavens to open?
3. What was the name of the single land mass that was once on Earth?
4. What did a geologist say the rain helped to forge?
5. What may have sparked a huge rise in humidity?
6. Where was the rock that the geologists studied?
7. What did a geologist say the rain may have triggered?
8. What did dinosaurs dominate?
9. What was the rain one of the most important events in the history of?
10. What did the rain lead to, besides turtles, crocodiles and lizards?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

- 1) When do farmers pray for rain?
  - a) when they go to church
  - b) in times of drought
  - c) all the time
  - d) in the winter
- 2) Why have most of us wanted the heavens to open?
  - a) the sky
  - b) the pearly gates
  - c) a better future
  - d) to water the garden
- 3) What was the name of the single land mass that was once on Earth?
  - a) Pangolin
  - b) Pangram
  - c) Pangea
  - d) Pang
- 4) What did a geologist say the rain helped to forge?
  - a) the development of flora and fauna
  - b) the metal industry
  - c) fake rain
  - d) ahead
- 5) What may have sparked a huge rise in humidity?
  - a) magma
  - b) massive volcanic eruptions
  - c) ancient global warming
  - d) fossil fuels
- 6) Where was the rock that the geologists studied?
  - a) the Eastern Alps in Europe
  - b) the Eastern Alps in Europe
  - c) Eastern Europe in the Alps
  - d) the Himalayas
- 7) What did a geologist say the rain may have triggered?
  - a) giant plants
  - b) huge tsunamis
  - c) the dinosaurs
  - d) waterfalls
- 8) What did dinosaurs dominate?
  - a) the land
  - b) early humans
  - c) the rainforests
  - d) mammals
- 9) What was the rain one of the most important events in the history of?
  - a) flooding
  - b) weather
  - c) water
  - d) life
- 10) What did the rain lead to, besides turtles, crocodiles and lizards?
  - a) alligators
  - b) tortoises
  - c) mammals
  - d) geckos

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

## **Role A – Study English**

You think studying English is the best rainy-day activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): going for a walk, visiting a museum or sleeping.

## **Role B – Go for a Walk**

You think going for a walk is the best rainy-day activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): studying English, visiting a museum or sleeping.

## **Role C – Visit a Museum**

You think visiting a museum is the best rainy-day activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): going for a walk, studying English or sleeping.

## **Role D – Sleep**

You think sleeping is the best rainy-day activity. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): going for a walk, visiting a museum or studying English.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'rain' and 'million'.

<b>rain</b>	<b>million</b>
-------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• pray</li><li>• none</li><li>• single</li><li>• during</li><li>• globe</li><li>• series</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• based</li><li>• unusual</li><li>• growing</li><li>• most</li><li>• age</li><li>• form</li></ul>
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# RAIN SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rain 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.

# RAIN DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'million'?
3. Have you ever prayed for rain?
4. What do you think of rain?
5. How important is rain?
6. How do you feel when it rains all day long?
7. How would you feel if it rained every day for a year?
8. How does heavy rain make you feel?
9. Would you like to live somewhere where it never rains?
10. What do you know about the Earth of 200 million years ago?

*It once rained for two million years, say scientists – 11th March 2024*  
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# RAIN DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'rain'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What can we learn from studying rocks?
15. What do you know about the dinosaurs?
16. Would you like to go back to the time of the dinosaurs?
17. What do you know about the earth 200 million years ago?
18. What are the most important events in the history of your life?
19. What will Earth be like in 200 million years from now?
20. What questions would you like to ask the geologists?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

Farmers pray for rain in times of (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Most of us have experience of wanting the heavens to open for our garden to be (2) \_\_\_\_\_ during an excessively dry spell. However, none of us can imagine a prolonged period of rain lasting two million years. U.K. geologist and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ scientist Alastair Ruffell has discovered that 200-300 million years ago, before the single landmass of Pangea separated into continents, Earth did see an (4) \_\_\_\_\_ during which it rained non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped forge the development of flora and fauna all over the globe. He believes the precipitation may have been sparked (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a huge rise in humidity following a series of massive volcanic (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Dr Ruffell and his team based their findings (7) \_\_\_\_\_ research conducted on strata of rock in the Eastern Alps in Europe in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed unusual layers deposited in ancient rock that (8) \_\_\_\_\_ back over 200 million years. Ruffell said this led to growing evidence that the wet period may have been, "the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that enabled dinosaurs, and possibly the other members of our modern land-based fauna, to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and dominate the land". He added: "It may have been one of the most important events in the history of life, in (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of its role in allowing not only the age of dinosaurs, but also the origins of most key (12) \_\_\_\_\_ that form the modern fauna of...turtles, crocodiles, lizards and mammals."

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |                |               |               |               |
|-----|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) drought    | (b) draft     | (c) draught   | (d) doubt     |
| 2.  | (a) water      | (b) waters    | (c) watered   | (d) watering  |
| 3.  | (a) plastic    | (b) arsenic   | (c) forensic  | (d) endemic   |
| 4.  | (a) aura       | (b) arura     | (c) aerial    | (d) era       |
| 5.  | (a) by         | (b) at        | (c) on        | (d) as        |
| 6.  | (a) evolutions | (b) eruptions | (c) exertions | (d) emotions  |
| 7.  | (a) to         | (b) of        | (c) at        | (d) on        |
| 8.  | (a) debated    | (b) dated     | (c) bated     | (d) rated     |
| 9.  | (a) lock       | (b) stock     | (c) trigger   | (d) barrel    |
| 10. | (a) amplify    | (b) indemnify | (c) revivify  | (d) diversify |
| 11. | (a) times      | (b) teams     | (c) terns     | (d) terms     |
| 12. | (a) lessons    | (b) classes   | (c) tutorials | (d) seminars  |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. pray for rain in times of turdogh
2. during an vsesylxicee dry spell
3. a goprldoen period of rain
4. geologist and cNSEIFRO scientist
5. sparked by a huge rise in tyihiumd
6. a series of massive volcanic uronpstie

## Paragraph 2

7. research conducted on saartt of rock
8. deposited in cnnieat rock
9. growing ndivceee
10. esvfridiy and dominate the land
11. the age of isnsdauor
12. crocodiles, idarzsl and mammals

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) members of our modern land-based fauna, to diversify and dominate the land". He added: "It may have been one of the
- ( ) period of rain lasting two million years. U.K. geologist and forensic scientist Alastair Ruffell has discovered
- ( ) Dr Ruffell and his team based their findings on research conducted on strata of rock
- ( ) evidence that the wet period may have been, "the trigger that enabled dinosaurs, and possibly the other
- ( ) most important events in the history of life, in terms of its role in allowing not only the age of dinosaurs, but also the
- ( ) rock that dated back over 200 million years. Ruffell said this led to growing
- ( ) by a huge rise in humidity following a series of massive volcanic eruptions.
- ( ) during which it rained non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped forge the development
- ( ) that 200-300 million years ago, before the single landmass of Pangea separated into continents, Earth did see an era
- ( ) open for our garden to be watered during an excessively dry spell. However, none of us can imagine a prolonged
- ( ) origins of most key classes that form the modern fauna of...turtles, crocodiles, lizards and mammals."
- ( ) of flora and fauna all over the globe. He believes the precipitation may have been sparked
- ( **1** ) Farmers pray for rain in times of drought. Most of us have experience of wanting the heavens to
- ( ) in the Eastern Alps in Europe in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed unusual layers deposited in ancient

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

1. in of rain for pray Farmers drought . times
2. to open . heavens wanting experience Have of the
3. into landmass continents . Pangea separated single The of
4. helped development forge the flora . of This
5. huge rise in humidity . a Sparked by
6. was of conducted on research strata rock . The
7. years . over that back million dated Rock 200
8. have may period The wet been the trigger .
9. the in important events of The history life .
10. that form classes key fauna . modern Most the

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

Farmers pray *for / to* rain in times of drought. Most of us have experience of wanting the *hell / heavens* to open for our garden to be watered during an excessively dry spell. However, none of us can imagine a *prolonged / elongated* period of rain lasting two million years. U.K. geologist and *frenetic / forensic* scientist Alastair Ruffell has discovered that 200-300 million years ago, before the single landmass of Pangea separated *onto / into* continents, Earth did see an era during *which / when* it rained non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped *forge / forage* the development of flora and fauna all over the globe. He believes the *participation / precipitation* may have been sparked by a huge rise in *humid / humidity* following a series of massive volcanic *ablutions / eruptions*.

Dr Ruffell and his team *biased / based* their findings on research conducted on strata *of / to* rock in the Eastern Alps in Europe in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed unusual layers *withdrawn / deposited* in ancient rock that dated *forward / back* over 200 million years. Ruffell said this led to *growing / grown* evidence that the wet period may have been, "the trigger that enabled dinosaurs, and possibly the other members of our modern land-based *fawns / fauna*, to diversify and dominate the land". He added: "It may have been *once / one* of the most important events in the history of life, in terms of its *roll / role* in allowing not only the age of dinosaurs, but also the origins *on / of* most key *classes / lessons* that form the modern fauna of...turtles, crocodiles, lizards and mammals."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

F\_r\_m\_r\_s pr\_y fr r\_n \_n t\_m\_s \_f dr\_ght. M\_st \_f \_s h\_v\_ \_xp\_r\_nc\_ \_f w\_nt\_ng th\_ h\_v\_ns t\_ \_p\_n fr \_\_r g\_rdn t\_ b\_ w\_t\_r\_d d\_rng \_n \_xc\_ss\_v\_ly dry sp\_ll. H\_w\_v\_r, n\_n\_ \_f \_s c\_n \_m\_g\_n\_ \_ pr\_lng\_d p\_r\_d \_f r\_n l\_st\_ng tw\_ m\_ll\_n y\_rs. \_K. g\_l\_g\_st \_nd f\_r\_ns\_c sc\_\_nt\_st \_l\_st\_r R\_ff\_ll h\_s d\_sc\_v\_r\_d th\_t 200-300 m\_ll\_n y\_rs \_g\_, b\_f\_r\_ th\_ s\_ngl\_ l\_ndm\_ss \_f P\_ng\_\_ s\_p\_r\_t\_d \_nt\_ c\_nt\_n\_nts, \_\_rth d\_d s\_\_ \_n \_r\_ d\_rng wh\_ch \_t r\_\_nd n\_n-st\_p fr \_p t\_ tw\_ m\_ll\_n y\_rs. Dr R\_ff\_ll s\_\_d th\_s h\_lp\_d f\_rg\_ th\_ d\_v\_l\_pm\_nt \_f fl\_r\_ \_nd f\_\_n\_ \_ll \_v\_r th\_ gl\_b\_. H\_ b\_l\_v\_s th\_ pr\_c\_p\_t\_t\_n m\_y h\_v\_ b\_\_n sp\_rk\_d by \_ h\_g\_ r\_s\_ \_n h\_m\_d\_ty f\_ll\_w\_ng \_ s\_r\_s \_f m\_ss\_v\_v\_lc\_n\_c \_r\_pt\_\_ns.

Dr R\_ff\_ll \_nd h\_s t\_\_m b\_s\_d th\_\_r f\_nd\_ngs \_n r\_s\_\_rch c\_nd\_ct\_d \_n str\_t\_ \_f r\_ck \_n th\_ \_\_st\_rn \_lps \_n \_\_r\_p\_ \_n th\_ 1970s \_nd 80s. Th\_ d\_t\_ sh\_w\_d \_n\_s\_l l\_y\_rs d\_p\_s\_t\_d \_n \_nc\_\_nt r\_ck th\_t d\_t\_d b\_ck \_v\_r 200 m\_ll\_n y\_rs. R\_ff\_ll s\_\_d th\_s l\_d t\_ gr\_w\_ng \_v\_d\_nc\_ th\_t th\_ w\_t p\_r\_d m\_y h\_v\_ b\_\_n, "th\_ tr\_gg\_r th\_t \_n\_bl\_d d\_n\_s\_\_rs, \_nd p\_ss\_bly th\_ \_th\_r m\_mb\_rs \_f \_\_r m\_d\_rn l\_nd-b\_s\_d f\_\_n\_, t\_ d\_v\_rs\_fy \_nd d\_m\_n\_t\_ th\_ l\_nd". H\_ \_dd\_d: "\_t m\_y h\_v\_ b\_\_n \_n\_ \_f th\_ m\_st \_mp\_r\_t\_nt \_v\_nts \_n th\_ h\_st\_ry \_f l\_f\_, \_n t\_rms \_f \_ts r\_l\_ \_n \_ll\_w\_ng n\_t \_nly th\_ \_g\_ \_f d\_n\_s\_\_rs, b\_t \_ls\_ th\_ \_r\_g\_ns \_f m\_st k\_y cl\_ss\_s th\_t f\_rm th\_ m\_d\_rn f\_\_n\_ f..t\_rtl\_s, cr\_c\_d\_l\_s, l\_z\_rds \_nd m\_mm\_ls."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

farmers pray for rain in times of drought most of us have experience of wanting the heavens to open for our garden to be watered during an excessively dry spell however none of us can imagine a prolonged period of rain lasting two million years uk geologist and forensic scientist alastair ruffell has discovered that 200300 million years ago before the single landmass of pangea separated into continents earth did see an era during which it rained nonstop for up to two million years dr ruffell said this helped forge the development of flora and fauna all over the globe he believes the precipitation may have been sparked by a huge rise in humidity following a series of massive volcanic eruptions

dr ruffell and his team based their findings on research conducted on strata of rock in the eastern alps in europe in the 1970s and 80s the data showed unusual layers deposited in ancient rock that dated back over 200 million years ruffell said this led to growing evidence that the wet period may have been the trigger that enabled dinosaurs and possibly the other members of our modern landbased fauna to diversify and dominate the land he added it may have been one of the most important events in the history of life in terms of its role in allowing not only the age of dinosaurs but also the origins of most key classes that form the modern fauna of turtles crocodiles lizards and mammals

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

Farmersprayforrainintimesofdrought.Mostofushaveexperienceofwantingtheheavenstoopenforourgardentobewateredduringanexcessivelydryspell.However,noneofuscanimagineaprolongedperiodofrainlastingtwomillionyears.U.K.geologistandforensicscientistAlastairRuffellhasdiscoveredthat200-300millionyearsago,beforethesinglelandmassofPangeaseparatedintocontinents,Earthdidseeanera during whichit rained non-stopforuptotwomillionyears.DrRuffellsaidthishelpedforgethedevelopmentoffloraandfaunaallovertheglobe.Hebelievestheprecipitationmayhavebeensparkedbyahugeriseinhumidityfollowingaseriesofmassivevolcaniceruptions.DrRuffellandhisteambasedtheirfindingsonresearchconductedonstrataofrockintheEasternAlpsinEuropeinthe1970sand80s.Thedatashowedunusuallayersdepositedinancientrockthatdatedbackover200millionyears.Ruffellsaidthisledtogrowingevidencethatthewetperiodmayhavebeen,"thetriggerthatenableddinosaurs,andpossiblytheothermembersofourmodernland-basedfauna,todiversifyanddominatetheland".Headed:"Itmayhavebeentheoneofthemostimportanteventsinthehistoryoflife,intermsofitsroleinallowingnotonlytheageofdinosaurs,butalsotheoriginsofmostkeyclassiesthatformthefmodernfaunaof...turtles,crocodiles,lizardsandmammals."

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240311-rain.html>

Write about **rain** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. RAIN:** Make a poster about rain. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. RAIN MAKER:** Write a magazine article about governments spending money on rainmaking machines. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on rain. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on rain. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. b    2. e    3. a    4. c    5. d    6. g    7. f  
8. j    9. h    10. k    11. m    12. i    13. l    14. n

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 F    7 T    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. g	7. a	8. f	9. d	10. i

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. In times of drought
2. To water the garden
3. Pangea
4. The development of flora and fauna
5. Massive volcanic eruptions
6. The Eastern Alps in Europe
7. The dinosaurs
8. The land
9. Life
10. Mammals

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Farmers pray for rain in times of drought.
2. Have experience of wanting the heavens to open.
3. The single landmass of Pangea separated into continents.
4. This helped forge the development of flora.
5. Sparked by a huge rise in humidity.
6. The research was conducted on strata of rock.
7. Rock that dated back over 200 million years.
8. The wet period may have been the trigger.
9. The important events in the history of life.
10. Most key classes that form the modern fauna.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b    2. d    3. c    4. a    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. d    10. c

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)