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## **Level 1**

### **Vegetable gardens tested for Mars**

**10th October, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-1.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-1.html>

NASA scientists want to get humans to Mars. Researchers are trying to find out what plants can grow on Mars. They hope astronauts will grow their own food on the Red Planet. Getting to Mars could take two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need a lot of food for the journey. They can never come back to Earth. This means they will need to grow their own food from seeds. This could be a problem because Mars doesn't have good soil. It just has red dust.

Humans could be on Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing "Martian gardens" using a soil made of volcanic dust. It has no nutrients or organic material, so it is similar to Mars dust. The scientists grew lettuce in it and it tasted normal. The lettuce had weaker roots and took longer to grow. NASA said testing 'Martian gardens' on Earth would help to develop ways of growing food on Mars in the future.

Sources: <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2016/1006/NASA-s-Martian-gardens-What-kinds-of-veggies-can-we-grow-on-Mars>  
<http://www.techtimes.com/articles/181178/20161007/martian-gardens-key-to-surviving-mars-colonization-nasa.htm>  
<http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/29858/20161008/survival-in-mars-nasa-scientists-developing-martian-garden.htm>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. NASA scientists want to get    | a. back to Earth        |
| 2. Researchers are trying to find | b. their own food       |
| 3. plants can grow                | c. out                  |
| 4. astronauts will grow           | d. two-and-a-half years |
| 5. Getting to Mars could take     | e. soil                 |
| 6. The astronauts will need       | f. humans to Mars       |
| 7. They can never come            | g. a lot of food        |
| 8. Mars doesn't have good         | h. on Mars              |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Humans could be on Mars              | a. tasted normal        |
| 2. NASA has been testing "Martian       | b. dust                 |
| 3. soil made of volcanic                | c. material             |
| 4. It has no nutrients or organic       | d. roots                |
| 5. it is similar                        | e. in the next 15 years |
| 6. scientists grew lettuce in it and it | f. growing food on Mars |
| 7. The lettuce had weaker               | g. gardens"             |
| 8. develop ways of                      | h. to Mars dust         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-1.html>

NASA scientists (1) \_\_\_\_\_ humans to Mars. Researchers are trying (2) \_\_\_\_\_ what plants can grow on Mars. They hope astronauts will (3) \_\_\_\_\_ food on the Red Planet. Getting to Mars could take two-and-a-half years. The astronauts (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of food for the journey. They can never come back to Earth. This means (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to grow their own food from seeds. This could be a problem because Mars doesn't have good soil. It just (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Humans (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Mars in the next 15 years. NASA (8) \_\_\_\_\_ "Martian gardens" using a soil made of volcanic dust. It has no nutrients (9) \_\_\_\_\_ material, so it is similar to Mars dust. The scientists grew lettuce (10) \_\_\_\_\_ tasted normal. The lettuce had weaker roots and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ grow. NASA said testing 'Martian gardens' on Earth would help (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of growing food on Mars in the future.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-1.html>

NASA scientists want to get humans to Mars. Researchers are trying to find out what plants can grow on Mars. They hope astronauts will grow their own food on the Red Planet. Getting to Mars could take two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need a lot of food for the journey. They can never come back to Earth. This means they will need to grow their own food from seeds. This could be a problem because Mars doesn't have good soil. It just has red dust. Humans could be on Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing "Mars gardens" using soil made of volcanic dust. It has no nutrients or organic material, so it is similar to Mars dust. The scientists grew lettuce in it and it tasted normal. The lettuce had weaker roots and took longer to grow. NASA said testing 'Mars gardens' on Earth would help to develop ways of growing food on Mars in the future.

# VEGETABLE GARDENS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about vegetable gardens 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Vegetable gardens tested for Mars – 10th October, 2016*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

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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/1610/161010-gardens-1.html>

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

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