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## Level 6

# Earth's Magnetic Poles Are About To Flip

7th February, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

When doom-and-gloom merchants warn us about threats to our existence, we usually hear about climate change, asteroid strikes or nuclear war. Now scientists have warned of the potential threat from Earth's magnetic poles flipping upside down. The North Pole and South Pole are responsible for creating a special barrier around Earth that protects us from killer radiation from space. All life on Earth depends on this shield. Without it, scientists say solar rays could cause considerable damage. The poles could flip in the next thousand years. This is because a rolling layer of liquid iron under the earth's crust is changing direction. The revolving currents of this molten iron at Earth's center act as a gigantic electromagnet.

Historically, Earth's North and South magnetic poles have flipped every 200,000 to 300,000 years. The last time was 780,000 years ago, so the next flip is well overdue. Some scientists say the flip could destroy satellite communications and power grids; that dangerous solar rays would greatly multiply rates of cancer; and that climate change could kill billions of creatures. Some scientists forewarn that a polar flip could even blow Earth's atmosphere away. However, one scientist dismissed the doom-mongers. He believes that the effects of any increase in radiation would be as harmful as lying on a hot beach for a day. He suggested a "floppy hat" would be enough to protect us from any increased radiation.

Sources: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5351589/Earths-magnetic-field-flip-upside-down.html>  
<https://sciexaminer.com/news/science/beware-magnetic-poles-earth-can-switch-positions-future-warn-esa-scientists-3874.html>  
<https://www.inquisitr.com/4771682/magnetic-field-reversal-doomsday-predictions-blown-out-of-proportion-experts-say/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. MAGNETIC POLES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about magnetic poles. 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?

doom / gloom / existence / asteroid / barrier / radiation / poles / molten iron / flip / magnetic / the last time / overdue / satellite / multiply / creatures / atmosphere / hat

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

**3. ARMAGEDDON:** Students A **strongly** believe Armageddon will come one day; Students B **strongly** believe it won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. THREATS:** How serious are these threats to our existence? How can we reduce the threat level? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How serious?	How we can reduce the threat level
Global warming		
Nuclear war		
Asteroid strike		
Virus		
Overpopulation		
Flipped poles		

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

**6. DAMAGE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most damaging things to our existence at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- no electricity
- no satellites
- global warming
- increased radiation
- species extinction
- global droughts
- nuclear war
- asteroid strike

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. doom      | a. Glass and rock melting at very, very, very high temperatures.                     |
| 2. gloom     | b. Continued survival on Earth.  |
| 3. existence | c. The harmful energy and electromagnetic waves transmitted by the Sun.              |
| 4. potential | d. Death, destruction, or some other terrible thing that will happen.                |
| 5. radiation | e. The top layer of rock of which forms the hard surface of a planet.                |
| 6. crust     | f. Depression and very negative thoughts and feelings.                               |
| 7. molten    | g. Having or showing the capacity to become or develop into something in the future. |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 8. overdue       | h. Treated something as being not worth thinking, considering or talking about.                        |
| 9. multiply      | i. Animals (but not humans).   |
| 10. grids        | j. People who predict disaster.  |
| 11. dismissed    | k. Increase or cause to increase greatly in number or quantity.  |
| 12. creatures    | l. Inform someone of a danger or possible problem.   |
| 13. forewarn     | m. A network of cables or pipes for distributing power, especially high-voltage lines for electricity. |
| 14. doom-mongers | n. Not having arrived, happened, or been done by the expected time.                                    |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

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

- a. The article reported news about an imminent asteroid strike. **T / F**
- b. The article said the East and West Poles create a radiation shield. **T / F**
- c. The magnetic poles could flip within the next millennium. **T / F**
- d. Liquid gold inside the earth's center serves as a huge electromagnet. **T / F**
- e. Earth's magnetic poles usually flip roughly every 250,000 years. **T / F**
- f. The last time the poles flipped was over 700,000 years ago. **T / F**
- g. Scientists said a polar flip could strengthen the Earth's atmosphere. **T / F**
- h. A scientist suggested a polar flip would not cause perilous radiation. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>doom</b>         | a. late          |
| 2. <b>gloom</b>        | b. sizable       |
| 3. <b>threat</b>       | c. defend        |
| 4. <b>considerable</b> | d. hopelessness  |
| 5. <b>revolving</b>    | e. living things |
| 6. <b>overdue</b>      | f. hazardous     |
| 7. <b>creatures</b>    | g. destruction   |
| 8. <b>dismissed</b>    | h. spinning      |
| 9. <b>harmful</b>      | i. disregarded   |
| 10. <b>protect</b>     | j. danger        |

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

- |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. warn us about threats              | a. depends on this shield |
| 2. asteroid                           | b. the doom-mongers       |
| 3. All life on Earth                  | c. crust                  |
| 4. under the earth's                  | d. hat                    |
| 5. molten                             | e. grids                  |
| 6. the next flip is well              | f. to our existence       |
| 7. satellite communications and power | g. as harmful             |
| 8. one scientist dismissed            | h. iron                   |
| 9. any increase in radiation would be | i. strikes                |
| 10. a floppy                          | j. overdue                |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

When doom-and-gloom (1) \_\_\_\_\_ warn us about threats to our existence, we usually hear about climate change, asteroid (2) \_\_\_\_\_ or nuclear war. Now scientists have warned of the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ threat from Earth's magnetic poles (4) \_\_\_\_\_ upside down. The North Pole and South Pole are responsible for creating a special barrier around Earth that protects us from killer (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from space. All life on Earth depends on this shield. Without it, scientists say solar (6) \_\_\_\_\_ could cause considerable damage. The poles could flip in the next thousand years. This is because a rolling layer of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ iron under the earth's crust is changing direction. The revolving currents of this molten iron at Earth's center act as a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ electromagnet.

*radiation*  
*merchants*  
*liquid*  
*potential*  
*gigantic*  
*strikes*  
*rays*  
*flipping*

Historically, Earth's North and South magnetic poles have (9) \_\_\_\_\_ every 200,000 to 300,000 years. The last time was 780,000 years ago, so the next flip is well (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Some scientists say the flip could destroy satellite communications and power (11) \_\_\_\_\_; that dangerous solar rays would greatly (12) \_\_\_\_\_ rates of cancer; and that climate change could kill billions of creatures. Some scientists forewarn that a polar flip could even (13) \_\_\_\_\_ Earth's atmosphere away. However, one scientist (14) \_\_\_\_\_ the doom-mongers. He believes that the (15) \_\_\_\_\_ of any increase in radiation would be as harmful as lying on a hot beach for a day. He suggested a "(16) \_\_\_\_\_ hat" would be enough to protect us from any increased radiation.

*overdue*  
*floppy*  
*multiply*  
*dismissed*  
*flipped*  
*effects*  
*grids*  
*blow*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

- 1) When doom-and-gloom merchants warn us about threats to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. our exist stance
  - b. our exist tents
  - c. our exist ants
  - d. our existence
- 2) we usually hear about climate change, asteroid strikes \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. nor nuclear war
  - b. or nuclear war
  - c. all nuclear war
  - d. ore nuclear war
- 3) scientists have warned of the potential threat from Earth's magnetic poles \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. flipping upside by side
  - b. flipping upside side
  - c. flipping downside up
  - d. flipping upside down
- 4) All life on Earth depends on \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. this shied
  - b. this should
  - c. this shade
  - d. this shield
- 5) revolving currents of this molten iron at Earth's center act \_\_\_\_\_ electromagnet
  - a. was a giant tick
  - b. has a gigantic
  - c. as a gigantic
  - d. as a giant tick
- 6) The last time was 780,000 years ago, so the next flip \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. is well overdue
  - b. is welled overdue
  - c. is wells overdue
  - d. is willing overdue
- 7) Some scientists say the flip could destroy satellite communications \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and power grids
  - b. and power grits
  - c. and power grads
  - d. and power glides
- 8) Some scientists forewarn that a polar flip could even blow Earth's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. at most fear away
  - b. at moss sphere away
  - c. at moss fear away
  - d. atmosphere away
- 9) He believes that the effects of any increase in radiation would \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. be as harm full
  - b. be as harm fool
  - c. be as harm foul
  - d. be as harmful
- 10) He suggested a "floppy hat" would be enough to protect us from any \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. increased ray dilation
  - b. increased radiate shun
  - c. increased radiation
  - d. increased raid action

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

When doom-and-gloom merchants warn (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to our existence, we usually hear about climate change, asteroid strikes or nuclear war. Now scientists have warned of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ from Earth's magnetic poles flipping upside down. The North Pole and South Pole are responsible for creating (3) \_\_\_\_\_ around Earth that protects us from killer radiation from space. All life on Earth (4) \_\_\_\_\_ shield. Without it, scientists say solar rays could cause considerable damage. The poles could flip in the next thousand years. This is because a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ liquid iron under the earth's crust is changing direction. The revolving currents of this (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Earth's center act as a gigantic electromagnet.

Historically, Earth's North and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ have flipped every 200,000 to 300,000 years. The last time was 780,000 years ago, so the next flip (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Some scientists say the flip could destroy satellite communications and power grids; that dangerous solar rays would (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of cancer; and that climate change could kill billions of creatures. Some (10) \_\_\_\_\_ a polar flip could even blow Earth's atmosphere away. However, one scientist dismissed the doom-mongers. He believes that the effects of any increase in radiation would be as (11) \_\_\_\_\_ on a hot beach for a day. He suggested a "floppy hat" would be enough to protect us from (12) \_\_\_\_\_.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

1. What do we sometimes hear about hitting the earth?
2. What does a magnetic shield protect Earth from?
3. When did the article say the poles could flip?
4. What is happening to the molten iron at the center of the earth?
5. What does the molten iron act like?
6. When did Earth's magnetic poles last flip?
7. What did scientists say a polar flip could increase rates of?
8. What could get blown away because of a polar flip?
9. What did a scientist compare increased radiation after a polar flip to?
10. What did a scientist say could protect us after a post-polar flip?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

- 1) What do we sometimes hear about hitting the earth?
  - a) comets
  - b) asteroids
  - c) space debris
  - d) falling satellites
- 2) What does a magnetic shield protect Earth from?
  - a) black holes
  - b) magnetic waves
  - c) aliens
  - d) radiation
- 3) When did the article say the poles could flip?
  - a) in the next 1,000 years
  - b) within the next century
  - c) in the next decade
  - d) later this year
- 4) What is happening to the molten iron at the center of the earth?
  - a) it is hardening
  - b) it is getting hotter
  - c) it is changing direction
  - d) it is mixing with water
- 5) What does the molten iron act like?
  - a) a compass
  - b) an electromagnet
  - c) a geological fondue
  - d) a gyroscope
- 6) When did Earth's magnetic poles last flip?
  - a) 780,000 years ago
  - b) 78,000 years ago
  - c) 7,800 years ago
  - d) 780 years ago
- 7) What did scientists say a polar flip could increase rates of?
  - a) blood moons
  - b) Northern Lights
  - c) cancer
  - d) asteroid strikes
- 8) What could get blown away because of a polar flip?
  - a) Earth's atmosphere
  - b) mountaintops
  - c) all the trees in the world
  - d) pollution
- 9) What did a scientist compare increased radiation after a polar flip to?
  - a) a day on a hot beach
  - b) having two X-rays in one day
  - c) living near a nuclear power station
  - d) life on Mars
- 10) What did a scientist say could protect us after a post-polar flip?
  - a) rain
  - b) special windows
  - c) sun cream
  - d) a hat

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

## **Role A – No Electricity**

You think no electricity is the most damaging thing to our existence. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): global warming, no satellites or an asteroid strike.

## **Role B – Global Warming**

You think global warming is the most damaging thing to our existence. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): no electricity, no satellites or an asteroid strike.

## **Role C – No Satellites**

You think no satellites is the most damaging thing to our existence. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): global warming, no electricity or an asteroid strike.

## **Role D – Asteroid Strike**

You think an asteroid strike is the most damaging thing to our existence. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): global warming, no satellites or no electricity.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

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

<b>magnetic</b>	<b>pole</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>• threats</li><li>• warned</li><li>• special</li><li>• depends</li><li>• next</li><li>• currents</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• last</li><li>• destroy</li><li>• rates</li><li>• blow</li><li>• effects</li><li>• hat</li></ul>
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# MAGNETIC POLES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

Write five GOOD questions about magnetic poles 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.

# MAGNETIC POLES 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 'magnetic'?
3. What do you think of doom-and-gloom merchants?
4. What threats are there to our existence?
5. What do you know about Earth's magnetic poles?
6. How worried are you about climate change?
7. What do you know about the harm solar rays can do?
8. What do you know about magnets?
9. What would you do the day the magnetic poles flipped?
10. Are you ever a doom-and-gloom merchant?

*Earth's Magnetic Poles Are About To Flip – 7th February, 2018*  
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# MAGNETIC POLES 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 'pole'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What is the biggest threat to our existence?
15. How worried are you about Armageddon?
16. What would happen if all our electricity failed?
17. What would happen if our atmosphere blew away?
18. How dangerous is lying on a beach?
19. How useful is a floppy hat?
20. What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

# 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/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

When (1) \_\_\_\_\_-and-gloom merchants warn us about threats to our (2) \_\_\_\_\_, we usually hear about climate change, asteroid strikes or nuclear war. Now scientists have warned (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the potential threat from Earth's magnetic poles flipping upside down. The North Pole and South Pole are responsible for creating a special barrier around Earth that protects (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from killer radiation from space. All life on Earth depends on this shield. Without it, scientists say solar rays could cause considerable damage. The poles could flip in the next thousand years. This is because a rolling (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of liquid iron under the earth's crust is changing direction. The revolving currents of this (6) \_\_\_\_\_ iron at Earth's center act as a gigantic electromagnet.

Historically, Earth's North and South magnetic poles have flipped every 200,000 to 300,000 years. The last time was 780,000 years ago, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the next flip is well overdue. Some scientists say the flip could destroy satellite communications and power (8) \_\_\_\_\_; that dangerous solar rays would greatly multiply (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of cancer; and that climate change could kill billions of creatures. Some scientists forewarn that a polar flip could even (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Earth's atmosphere away. However, one scientist dismissed the doom-mongers. He believes that the effects (11) \_\_\_\_\_ any increase in radiation would be as harmful as lying on a hot beach for a day. He suggested a "floppy hat" would be enough to protect us from (12) \_\_\_\_\_ increased radiation.

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

- |     |              |            |               |             |
|-----|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1.  | (a) doom     | (b) dome   | (c) dame      | (d) mood    |
| 2.  | (a) exist    | (b) exists | (c) existence | (d) existed |
| 3.  | (a) for      | (b) by     | (c) of        | (d) at      |
| 4.  | (a) them     | (b) all    | (c) we        | (d) us      |
| 5.  | (a) ladder   | (b) laver  | (c) layer     | (d) laser   |
| 6.  | (a) gluten   | (b) molten | (c) hasten    | (d) fasten  |
| 7.  | (a) as       | (b) so     | (c) but       | (d) because |
| 8.  | (a) girds    | (b) grids  | (c) grits     | (d) girths  |
| 9.  | (a) ratios   | (b) rotes  | (c) rates     | (d) rites   |
| 10. | (a) gust     | (b) puff   | (c) suck      | (d) blow    |
| 11. | (a) to       | (b) on     | (c) as        | (d) of      |
| 12. | (a) anything | (b) many   | (c) at        | (d) any     |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. doom-and-gloom srteanhcm
2. threats to our enixetcse
3. rsoteaid strikes
4. warned of the lonieptta threat
5. The lroevngiv currents
6. a itinaggc electromagnet

## Paragraph 2

7. the next flip is well deorvue
8. destroy tslleiate communications
9. kill billions of racuterer
10. blow Earth's tmsahpoere away
11. one scientist isidssmed the doom-mongers
12. any increased adirtiaon

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

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

- ( ) Earth's atmosphere away. However, one scientist dismissed the doom-mongers. He believes that the
- ( ) strikes or nuclear war. Now scientists have warned of the potential threat from Earth's magnetic poles flipping upside
- ( ) time was 780,000 years ago, so the next flip is well overdue. Some scientists say the flip could destroy satellite
- ( ) Historically, Earth's North and South magnetic poles have flipped every 200,000 to 300,000 years. The last
- ( ) communications and power grids; that dangerous solar rays would greatly multiply rates
- ( ) years. This is because a rolling layer of liquid iron under the earth's crust is changing
- ( ) direction. The revolving currents of this molten iron at Earth's center act as a gigantic electromagnet.
- ( ) of cancer; and that climate change could kill billions of creatures. Some scientists forewarn that a polar flip could even blow
- ( ) effects of any increase in radiation would be as harmful as lying on a hot beach for a day. He suggested a "floppy
- ( ) us from killer radiation from space. All life on Earth depends on this shield. Without it, scientists say solar
- ( ) down. The North Pole and South Pole are responsible for creating a special barrier around Earth that protects
- ( **1** ) When doom-and-gloom merchants warn us about threats to our existence, we usually hear about climate change, asteroid
- ( ) hat" would be enough to protect us from any increased radiation.
- ( ) rays could cause considerable damage. The poles could flip in the next thousand

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

1. about us Doom-and-gloom merchants warn threats .
2. Earth's poles . magnetic The from potential threat
3. for Earth . Responsible special a barrier around creating
4. life this All Earth on on depends shield .
5. crust . under iron the layer of A liquid earth's rolling
6. satellite Scientists flip the could destroy say communications .
7. would of Solar rays multiply cancer . rates greatly
8. flip blow A could polar atmosphere Earth's away .
9. a harmful as As beach . hot on lying
10. suggested a be floppy hat enough . would He

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

When doom-and-gloom *merchants / merchandise* warn us about threats to our existence, we usually hear about climate change, asteroid *stricken / strikes* or nuclear war. Now scientists have warned of the *potentially / potential* threat from Earth's magnetic poles *flipping / flapping* upside down. The North Pole and South Pole are *responsibility / responsible* for creating a special barrier around Earth that protects *them / us* from killer radiation from space. All life on Earth depends *on / off* this shield. Without it, scientists say solar rays could cause *considerably / considerable* damage. The poles could flip in the next thousand years. This is because a rolling layer of liquid *irons / iron* under the earth's crust is changing direction. The revolving currents of this molten iron at Earth's center *acts / act* as a gigantic electromagnet.

Historically / History, Earth's North and South magnetic poles have flipped every 200,000 to 300,000 years. The last time was 780,000 years ago, *so / as* the next flip is well *overdue / overdone*. Some scientists say the flip could destroy satellite communications and *powerful / power* grids; that dangerous solar rays would greatly multiply rates *by / of* cancer; and that climate change could kill billions of creatures. Some scientists *forward / forewarn* that a polar flip could *even / ever* blow Earth's atmosphere away. However, one scientist dismissed the doom-mongers. He believes that the *affects / effects* of any increase in radiation would be as *harmful / harm* as lying on a hot beach for a day. He suggested a "floppy hat" would be enough to *protect / project* us from any increased radiation.

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

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

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

W h \_ n \_ d \_ \_ m \_ - \_ n d \_ - g l \_ \_ m \_ m \_ r c h \_ n t s \_ w \_ r n \_ s \_  
\_ b \_ \_ t \_ t h r \_ \_ t s \_ t \_ \_ r \_ \_ x \_ s t \_ n c \_ , \_ w \_ \_ s \_ \_ l l y \_  
h \_ \_ r \_ \_ b \_ \_ t \_ c l \_ m \_ t \_ c h \_ n g \_ , \_ s t \_ r \_ \_ d \_ s t r \_ k \_ s \_ r \_  
n \_ c l \_ \_ r \_ w \_ r . \_ N \_ w \_ s c \_ \_ n t \_ s t s \_ h \_ v \_ \_ w \_ r n \_ d \_ f \_  
t h \_ p \_ t \_ n t \_ \_ l \_ t h r \_ \_ t \_ f r \_ m \_ E \_ r t h ' s \_ m \_ g \_ n \_ t \_ c \_  
p \_ l \_ s \_ f l \_ p \_ p \_ n g \_ \_ p \_ s \_ d \_ \_ d \_ w \_ n . \_ T h \_ N \_ r t h \_ P \_ l \_ \_ n \_  
d \_ S \_ \_ t h \_ P \_ l \_ \_ r \_ r \_ s \_ p \_ n \_ s \_ b \_ l \_ f \_ r \_ c \_ r \_ \_ t \_ n g \_ \_ s \_  
p \_ c \_ \_ l \_ b \_ r r \_ \_ r \_ r \_ \_ n d \_ E \_ r t h \_ t h \_ t \_ p \_ r \_ t \_ c \_ t \_ s \_ s \_  
f r \_ m \_ k \_ l l \_ r \_ r \_ d \_ \_ t \_ \_ n \_ f r \_ m \_ s \_ p \_ c \_ . \_ A \_ l l \_ l \_ f \_ \_ n \_  
E \_ r t h \_ d \_ p \_ n d \_ s \_ \_ n \_ t h \_ s \_ s h \_ \_ l d . \_ W \_ t h \_ \_ t \_ t \_ , \_  
s c \_ \_ n t \_ s t s \_ s \_ y \_ s \_ l \_ r \_ r \_ y \_ s \_ c \_ \_ l d \_ c \_ \_ s \_ \_ c \_ n \_  
s \_ d \_ r \_ b \_ l \_ d \_ m \_ g \_ . \_ T h \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ c \_ \_ l d \_ f l \_ p \_ \_ n \_ t h \_  
n \_ x t \_ t h \_ \_ s \_ n d \_ y \_ \_ r \_ s . \_ T h \_ s \_ s \_ b \_ c \_ \_ s \_ \_ r \_ l \_  
l \_ n g \_ l \_ y \_ r \_ f \_ l \_ q \_ \_ d \_ \_ r \_ n \_ \_ n d \_ r \_ t h \_ \_ \_ r t h ' s \_ c \_  
r \_ s \_ t \_ \_ s \_ c h \_ n g \_ n g \_ d \_ r \_ c \_ t \_ \_ n . \_ T h \_ r \_ v \_ l \_ v \_ n g \_  
c \_ r r \_ n t s \_ f \_ t h \_ s \_ m \_ l \_ t \_ n \_ \_ r \_ n \_ t \_ E \_ r t h ' s \_ c \_ n \_  
t \_ r \_ \_ c \_ t \_ \_ s \_ \_ g \_ g \_ n \_ t \_ c \_ \_ l \_ c \_ t \_ r \_ m \_ g \_ n \_ t .

H \_ s \_ t \_ r \_ c \_ l l y , \_ E \_ r t h ' s \_ N \_ r t h \_ \_ n d \_ S \_ \_ t h \_ m \_ g \_  
n \_ t \_ c \_ p \_ l \_ s \_ h \_ v \_ \_ f l \_ p \_ p \_ d \_ \_ v \_ r y \_ 2 0 0 , 0 0 0 \_ t \_ 3 \_  
0 0 , 0 0 0 \_ y \_ \_ r \_ s . \_ T h \_ l \_ s t \_ t \_ m \_ \_ w \_ s \_ 7 8 0 , 0 0 0 \_  
y \_ \_ r \_ s \_ \_ g \_ , \_ s \_ t h \_ n \_ x t \_ f l \_ p \_ \_ s \_ w \_ l l \_ \_ v \_ r d \_ \_ . \_  
S \_ m \_ \_ s c \_ \_ n t \_ s t s \_ s \_ y \_ t h \_ f l \_ p \_ c \_ \_ l d \_ d \_ s t r \_ y \_  
s \_ t \_ l l \_ t \_ c \_ m \_ m \_ n \_ c \_ t \_ \_ n \_ s \_ \_ n d \_ p \_ w \_ r \_ g \_ r \_ d \_ s ; \_ t \_  
h \_ t \_ d \_ n g \_ r \_ \_ s \_ s \_ l \_ r \_ r \_ y \_ s \_ w \_ \_ l d \_ g \_ r \_ \_ t l y \_ m \_ l \_  
t \_ p l y \_ r \_ t \_ s \_ \_ f \_ c \_ n \_ c \_ r ; \_ \_ n d \_ t h \_ t \_ c l \_ m \_ t \_ c h \_ n \_  
g \_ c \_ \_ l d \_ k \_ l l \_ b \_ l l \_ \_ n \_ s \_ \_ f \_ c \_ r \_ \_ t \_ r \_ s . \_ S \_ m \_ \_ s \_  
c \_ \_ n t \_ s t s \_ f \_ r \_ w \_ r n \_ t h \_ t \_ \_ p \_ l \_ r \_ f l \_ p \_ c \_ \_ l d \_  
\_ v \_ n \_ b l \_ w \_ E \_ r t h ' s \_ \_ t \_ m \_ s \_ p \_ h \_ r \_ \_ w \_ y . \_ H \_ w \_ v \_ r , \_  
\_ n \_ \_ s c \_ \_ n t \_ s t \_ d \_ s \_ m \_ s \_ s \_ d \_ t h \_ d \_ \_ m \_ - \_ m \_ n \_ g \_ r \_ s . \_  
H \_ \_ b \_ l \_ \_ v \_ s \_ t h \_ t \_ t h \_ \_ f f \_ c \_ t \_ s \_ \_ f \_ \_ n \_ y \_ \_ n \_ c \_ r \_ \_ s \_  
\_ n \_ r \_ d \_ \_ t \_ \_ n \_ w \_ \_ l d \_ b \_ \_ s \_ h \_ r \_ m \_ f \_ l \_ \_ s \_ l y \_ n g \_  
\_ n \_ \_ h \_ t \_ b \_ \_ c h \_ f \_ r \_ \_ d \_ y . \_ H \_ \_ s \_ g \_ g \_ s \_ t \_ d \_ \_ " \_ f \_  
l \_ p \_ p \_ y \_ h \_ t " \_ w \_ \_ l d \_ b \_ \_ n \_ \_ g \_ h \_ t \_ p \_ r \_ t \_ c \_ t \_ \_ s \_ f \_  
r \_ m \_ \_ n \_ y \_ \_ n \_ c \_ r \_ \_ s \_ d \_ r \_ d \_ \_ t \_ \_ n .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

when doomandgloom merchants warn us about threats to our existence we usually hear about climate change asteroid strikes or nuclear war now scientists have warned of the potential threat from earths magnetic poles flipping upside down the north pole and south pole are responsible for creating a special barrier around earth that protects us from killer radiation from space all life on earth depends on this shield without it scientists say solar rays could cause considerable damage the poles could flip in the next thousand years this is because a rolling layer of liquid iron under the earths crust is changing direction the revolving currents of this molten iron at earths center act as a gigantic electromagnet

historically earths north and south magnetic poles have flipped every 200000 to 300000 years the last time was 780000 years ago so the next flip is well overdue some scientists say the flip could destroy satellite communications and power grids that dangerous solar rays would greatly multiply rates of cancer and that climate change could kill billions of creatures some scientists forewarn that a polar flip could even blow earths atmosphere away however one scientist dismissed the doommongers he believes that the effects of any increase in radiation would be as harmful as lying on a hot beach for a day he suggested a floppy hat would be enough to protect us from any increased radiation.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

When doom-and-gloom merchants warn us about threats to our existence, we usually hear about climate change, asteroid strikes or nuclear war. Now scientists have warned of the potential threat from Earth's magnetic poles flipping upside down. The North Pole and South Pole are responsible for creating a special barrier around Earth that protects us from killer radiation from space. All life on Earth depends on this shield. Without it, scientists say solar arrays could cause considerable damage. The poles could flip in the next thousand years. This is because a rolling layer of liquid iron under the earth's crust is changing direction. The revolving currents of this molten iron at Earth's center act as a gigantic electromagnet. Historically, Earth's North and South magnetic poles have flipped every 200,000 to 300,000 years. The last time was 780,000 years ago, so the next flip is well overdue. Some scientists say the flip could destroy satellite communications and power grids; that dangerous solar arrays would greatly multiply rates of cancer; and that climate change could kill billions of creatures. Some scientists fear that a polar flip could even blow Earth's atmosphere away. However, one scientist dismissed the doom-mongers. He believes that the effects of any increase in radiation would be as harmful as lying on a hot beach for a day. He suggested a "floppy hat" would be enough to protect us from any increased radiation.

# FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

Write about **magnetic poles** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180207-magnetic-poles.html>

What are the three biggest threats to Earth? How can we combat them?

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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. MAGNETIC POLES:** Make a poster about Earth's magnetic poles. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. ARMAGEDDON:** Write a magazine article about the possibilities of Armageddon. Include imaginary interviews with people who believe it will happen and with people who think it will never happen.

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 Armageddon. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

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

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F    b F    c T    d F    e T    f T    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. doom         | a. destruction   |
| 2. gloom        | b. hopelessness  |
| 3. threat       | c. danger        |
| 4. considerable | d. sizable       |
| 5. revolving    | e. spinning      |
| 6. overdue      | f. late          |
| 7. creatures    | g. living things |
| 8. dismissed    | h. disregarded   |
| 9. harmful      | i. hazardous     |
| 10. protect     | j. defend        |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Asteroids
2. (Killer) radiation
3. In the next 1,000 years
4. It is changing direction
5. A gigantic electromagnet
6. 780,000 years ago
7. Cancer
8. Earth's atmosphere
9. Lying on a hot beach for a day
10. A floppy hat

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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