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**Level 2 – 9th August, 2019**

## **Child-sized parrot once lived in New Zealand**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-2.html>

Scientists found fossilised bones that belonged to the biggest parrot that ever lived. It was probably as tall as a three-year-old child and weighed around eight kilograms. The researchers found the fossils in New Zealand. They called the new parrot Hercules, a name from Greek mythology. The scientists studied the leg bones and said Hercules was about a metre tall. This is twice the size of all other known parrots. The largest parrot scientists know of is the kakapo. This is a flightless bird that also lives in New Zealand. The kakapo is on the critically endangered species list.

New Zealand is famous for its birds. The kiwi is its national symbol. Scientists say kiwis could become endangered if their environment does not change. Another famous New Zealand bird is the 3.6-metre-tall moa. These flightless birds were the biggest birds that ever lived. They became extinct in the 15th century. Hercules lived about 19 million years ago. It probably ate nuts, fruit and seeds, and even other parrots. A researcher said: "Until now, no one has ever found an extinct giant parrot, anywhere. There are many more unexpected species yet to be discovered."

Sources: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/giant-parrot-1.5238617>  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/08/07/scientists-just-discovered-prehistoric-parrot-nearly-size-kindergartner/>  
<https://www.cnet.com/news/giant-dog-sized-parrot-was-more-cannibal-than-copycat/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. bones that belonged to         | a. know of              |
| 2. as tall as a                   | b. mythology            |
| 3. They called the new            | c. the biggest parrot   |
| 4. a name from Greek              | d. species list         |
| 5. The scientists studied the leg | e. other known parrots  |
| 6. This is twice the size of all  | f. three-year-old child |
| 7. The largest parrot scientists  | g. parrot Hercules      |
| 8. on the critically endangered   | h. bones                |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. New Zealand is famous       | a. become endangered  |
| 2. The kiwi is its national    | b. the 15th century   |
| 3. Scientists say kiwis could  | c. discovered         |
| 4. flightless                  | d. and seeds          |
| 5. They became extinct in      | e. unexpected species |
| 6. It probably ate nuts, fruit | f. symbol             |
| 7. There are many more         | g. for its birds      |
| 8. yet to be                   | h. birds              |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-2.html>

Scientists found fossilised (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to the biggest parrot that ever lived. It was (2) \_\_\_\_\_ as a three-year-old child and weighed around eight kilograms. The researchers (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in New Zealand. They called the new parrot Hercules, a name from Greek mythology. The scientists studied (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and said Hercules was about a metre tall. This is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of all other known parrots. The largest parrot scientists know of is the kakapo. This is a flightless bird that also lives in New Zealand. The kakapo is on the critically (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

New Zealand is famous for its birds. The kiwi is (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Scientists say kiwis could become endangered if their environment (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Another famous New Zealand bird is the 3.6-metre-tall moa. These flightless birds were the biggest birds (9) \_\_\_\_\_. They became extinct in the 15th century. Hercules lived about 19 million years ago. It probably (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and seeds, and even other parrots. A researcher said: "Until now, no one has ever (11) \_\_\_\_\_ giant parrot, anywhere. There are many more unexpected species (12) \_\_\_\_\_ discovered."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-2.html>

Scientists found fossilised bones that belonged to the biggest parrot that ever lived. It was probably as tall as a three-year-old child and weighed a round eight kilograms. The researchers found the fossils in New Zealand. They called the new parrot Hercules, a name from Greek mythology. The scientists studied the leg bones and said Hercules was about a metre tall. This is twice the size of all other known parrots. The largest parrot scientists know of is the kakapo. This is a flightless bird that also lives in New Zealand. The kakapo is on the critically endangered species list. New Zealand is famous for its birds. The kiwi is its national symbol. Scientists say kiwi could become endangered if their environment does not change. Another famous New Zealand bird is the 3.6-metre-tall moa. These flightless birds were the biggest birds that ever lived. They became extinct in the 15th century. Hercules lived about 19 million years ago. It probably ate nuts, fruit and seeds, and even other parrots. A researcher said: "Until now, no one has ever found an extinct giant parrot, anywhere. There are many more unexpected species yet to be discovered."

# BIRDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1908/190809-giant-parrot-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about birds 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) \_\_\_\_\_

