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Level 6 – 26th December, 2022

Australia's Christmas beetles are disappearing

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

There is a select group of creatures that is synonymous with Christmas - donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins. The image of a beetle does not spring to mind when thinking of the festive season. However, there is actually a Christmas beetle, but this Christmas it has gone missing. Australia's Christmas beetle used to be an indication that the holiday season was on its way in the land down under. Its numbers have declined alarmingly. Dr Tanya Latty, an entomologist from the University of Sydney, said: "Everybody over the age of 35 remembers there being huge numbers of Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that just doesn't seem to happen any more."

The Christmas beetle is as unique to Australia as koalas and kangaroos. It is a colourful, shiny and harmless bug. Dr Latty told the BBC: "We have in Australia this really unique biological event where Christmas is associated with the arrival of these beautiful, glittery, friendly beetles." She said it was "absolutely critical" to find out why there are so few around. Scientists suspect that their dwindling numbers are due to habitat loss. In 2020, bushfires wiped out huge swathes of forest that were home to the beetles. Australia has the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world. Scientists fear the Christmas beetle may also soon die out. They asked people to send them photos if they see the beetle.

Sources: <https://phys.org/news/2022-11-christmas-beetles.html>
<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/the-curious-case-around-christmas-beetles-20161212-gt94rx.html>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-08/christmas-beetle-mystery-citizen-science/101744318>

WARM-UPS

1. CHRISTMAS ANIMALS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Christmas animals. 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?

creatures / Christmas / donkeys / reindeer / turkeys / festive season / beetles / age / Australia / kangaroos / glittery / scientists / habitat / forest / bushfires / extinction

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

3. EXTINCTION: Students A **strongly** believe governments should receive huge fines if their wildlife becomes extinct; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CHRISTMAS: What do you know about these things associated with Christmas? What is Christmassy about them? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners often.

	What i Know	What's Christmassy
Snow		
A star		
Santa Claus		
Turkey		
Tree		
Presents		

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

6. HOLIDAYS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best seasons at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- World Water Day
- New Year
- Labour Day
- World Religion Day
- Safer Internet Day
- Public Service Day
- World Teachers' Day
- World Toilet Day

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. select | a. A time of the year relating to a happy occasion, especially Christmas. |
| 2. creature | b. Of a group of people or things carefully chosen from a larger number. |
| 3. synonymous | c. Closely associated with or suggestive of something. |
| 4. festive season | d. Became smaller, fewer, or less; decrease. |
| 5. indication | e. A person who studies or is an expert on insects. |
| 6. declined | f. An animal, as distinct from a human being. |
| 7. entomologist | g. A sign or piece of information that shows something. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8. unique | h. Having a decisive or crucial importance in the success, failure, or existence of something. |
| 9. biological | i. The state or process of dying out. |
| 10. glittery | j. A broad strip or area of something. |
| 11. critical | k. Reflecting a bright, shimmering light. |
| 12. dwindling | l. Reducing gradually in size, amount, or strength. |
| 13. swathe | m. Being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else. |
| 14. extinction | n. Relating to living organisms. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

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

1. The article says five creatures are associated with Christmas. **T / F**
2. The article says beetles spring to mind when we think of Christmas. **T / F**
3. The Christmas beetle tells people worldwide that Christmas is coming. **T / F**
4. An entomologist said kids today see lots of Christmas beetles. **T / F**
5. In Australia, Christmas beetles are as unique as kangaroos. **T / F**
6. An entomologist said bushfires contributed to the beetle's decline. **T / F**
7. Australia has the world's best rates of mammal preservation. **T / F**
8. An entomologist asked people to send her photos of Christmas beetles. **T / F**

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

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. creatures | a. gargantuan |
| 2. spring | b. areas |
| 3. indication | c. animals |
| 4. declined | d. distinctive |
| 5. huge | e. environment |
| 6. unique | f. sign |
| 7. associated | g. become extinct |
| 8. habitat | h. reduced |
| 9. swathes | i. linked |
| 10. die out | j. leap |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. a select group of creatures that is | a. and harmless bug |
| 2. The image of a beetle does not | b. was on its way |
| 3. the festive | c. extinction in the world |
| 4. an indication that the holiday season | d. season |
| 5. that just doesn't | e. due to habitat loss |
| 6. It is a colourful, shiny | f. synonymous with Christmas |
| 7. this really unique biological | g. huge swathes of forest |
| 8. their dwindling numbers are | h. event |
| 9. bushfires wiped out | i. spring to mind |
| 10. the worst rate of mammal | j. seem to happen any more |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

There is a (1) _____ group of creatures that is synonymous with Christmas - donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins. The (2) _____ of a beetle does not spring to (3) _____ when thinking of the festive season. However, there is actually a Christmas beetle, but this Christmas it has gone missing. Australia's Christmas beetle used to be an (4) _____ that the holiday season was on its way in the land (5) _____ under. Its numbers have declined alarmingly. Dr Tanya Latty, an (6) _____ from the University of Sydney, said: "Everybody over the age of 35 remembers there being huge (7) _____ of Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that just doesn't seem to (8) _____ any more."

down
mind
select
numbers
indication
happen
image
entomologist

The Christmas beetle is as (9) _____ to Australia as koalas and kangaroos. It is a colourful, shiny and harmless bug. Dr Latty told the BBC: "We have in Australia this really unique biological (10) _____ where Christmas is associated with the arrival of these beautiful, (11) _____, friendly beetles." She said it was "absolutely critical" to find out why there are so (12) _____ around. Scientists suspect that their (13) _____ numbers are due to habitat (14) _____. In 2020, bushfires wiped out huge (15) _____ of forest that were home to the beetles. Australia has the worst rate of mammal (16) _____ in the world. Scientists fear the Christmas beetle may also soon die out. They asked people to send them photos if they see the beetle.

glittery
unique
extinction
event
dwindling
loss
few
swathes

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

- 1) There is a select group of creatures that is _____
 - a. synonymous with Christmas
 - b. anonymous with Christmas
 - c. antonymous with Christmas
 - d. eponymous with Christmas
- 2) The image of a beetle does not spring to mind when thinking of _____
 - a. the festive seasonal
 - b. the festive season
 - c. the festival season
 - d. a festivity season
- 3) an indication that the holiday season was on its way in the _____
 - a. land down over
 - b. land down above
 - c. land down under
 - d. land down here
- 4) Everybody over the age of 35 remembers there _____
 - a. being huge numbers
 - b. being hug numbers
 - c. being hugely numbers
 - d. being hugs numbers
- 5) Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that just doesn't seem to _____
 - a. happens any more
 - b. happening any more
 - c. happen any more
 - d. happened any more
- 6) It is a colourful, shiny _____
 - a. and harmless bugs
 - b. and harmless bug
 - c. and harmless bugged
 - d. and harmless buggy
- 7) Dr Latty told the BBC: "We have in Australia this really _____
 - a. unique biologically event
 - b. unique biologist event
 - c. unique biological event
 - d. unique biology event
- 8) Christmas is associated with the arrival of these beautiful, _____
 - a. glittery, friendly beetles
 - b. glittery, friendless beetles
 - c. glittery, friendliness beetles
 - d. glittery, friended beetles
- 9) Scientists suspect that their dwindling numbers are due _____
 - a. to cohabitate loss
 - b. to habitant loss
 - c. to habit ate loss
 - d. to habitat loss
- 10) Australia has the worst rate _____
 - a. off mammal extinction
 - b. of mammal extinct shun
 - c. of man mall extinction
 - d. of mammal extinction

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

There is a select (1) _____ that is synonymous with Christmas - donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins. The image of a beetle does not spring to mind when thinking of (2) _____. However, there is actually a Christmas beetle, but this Christmas it has gone missing. Australia's Christmas beetle used to (3) _____ that the holiday season was on its way in the (4) _____. Its numbers have declined alarmingly. Dr Tanya Latty, an entomologist from the University of Sydney, said: "Everybody over the (5) _____ remembers there (6) _____ of Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that just doesn't seem to happen any more."

The Christmas beetle (7) _____ to Australia as koalas and kangaroos. It is a colourful, shiny and harmless bug. Dr Latty told the BBC: "We have in Australia this (8) _____ event where Christmas is associated with the arrival of these beautiful, glittery, friendly beetles." She said it was (9) _____ find out why there are so few around. Scientists suspect that their dwindling numbers are due to habitat loss. In 2020, bushfires wiped (10) _____ of forest that were home to the beetles. Australia has the worst rate (11) _____ in the world. Scientists fear the Christmas beetle may also (12) _____. They asked people to send them photos if they see the beetle.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

1. How many creatures does the article say is synonymous with Xmas?
2. What does the article say does not spring to mind with Christmas?
3. What nickname for Australia is mentioned in the article?
4. What is Tanya Latty's job?
5. Who remembers there being loads of Christmas beetles as kids?
6. What in Australia is as unique as Christmas beetles?
7. What do scientists attribute the dwindling numbers of the beetles to?
8. What did Australia's 2020 bushfires wipe out?
9. Which country has the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world?
10. What did Tanya Latty ask people to send her?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

- 1) How many creatures does the article say is synonymous with Xmas?
 - a) seven
 - b) three
 - c) four
 - d) 18
- 2) What does the article say does not spring to mind with Christmas?
 - a) beetles
 - b) snow
 - c) Santa
 - d) socks
- 3) What nickname for Australia is mentioned in the article?
 - a) the land up over
 - b) the land down under
 - c) the land of the beetles
 - d) Christmas land
- 4) What is Tanya Latty's job?
 - a) a philanthropist
 - b) a philatelist
 - c) an epidemiologist
 - d) an entomologist
- 5) Who remembers there being loads of Christmas beetles as kids?
 - a) a beetle collector
 - b) Santa Claus
 - c) everybody over the age of 35
 - d) entomologists
- 6) What in Australia is as unique as Christmas beetles?
 - a) beaches and dessert
 - b) koalas and kangaroos
 - c) barbecues and opera
 - d) sharks and crocodiles
- 7) What do scientists attribute the dwindling numbers of the beetles to?
 - a) snakes
 - b) cane toads
 - c) climate change
 - d) habitat loss
- 8) What did Australia's 2020 bushfires wipe out?
 - a) deserts
 - b) huge swathes of forest
 - c) surfing
 - d) moss
- 9) Which country has the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world?
 - a) Brazil
 - b) Australia
 - c) England
 - d) Kenya
- 10) What did Tanya Latty ask people to send her?
 - a) photos of the beetles
 - b) beetles
 - c) advice
 - d) help

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

Role A – World Water Day

You think World Water Day is the best holiday. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their holidays. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy celebration of these (and why): World Teachers' Day, Public Service Day or World Toilet Day.

Role B – World Teachers' Day

You think World Teachers' Day is the best holiday. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their holidays. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy celebration of these (and why): World Water Day, Public Service Day or World Toilet Day.

Role C – Public Service Day

You think Public Service Day is the best holiday. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their holidays. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy celebration of these (and why): World Teachers' Day, World Water Day or World Toilet Day.

Role D – World Toilet Day

You think World Toilet Day is the best holiday. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their holidays. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy celebration of these (and why): World Teachers' Day, Public Service Day or World Water Day.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

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

Christmas	beetle
------------------	---------------

- 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">• select• spring• actually• land• age• kids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• shiny• really• arrival• suspect• huge• die
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

CHRISTMAS ANIMALS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Christmas animals 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.

CHRISTMAS ANIMALS 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 'Christmas'?
3. What do you think of Christmas?
4. What do you think of donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins?
5. What's your favourite festive season?
6. What do you know about beetles?
7. Why is Australia called the land down under?
8. What creatures are in decline in your country?
9. Would you like to be an entomologist?
10. What's your favourite festive moment as a kid?

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CHRISTMAS ANIMALS 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 'beetle'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How is Christmas celebrated in your country?
15. What is the purpose of beetles?
16. What do you know about Australia's wildlife?
17. What animals are unique to your country?
18. How can we reverse habitat loss?
19. How do you feel about animal extinction?
20. What questions would you like to ask the entomologists?

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/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

There is a (1) _____ group of creatures that is synonymous with Christmas - donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins. The image of a beetle does not (2) _____ to mind when thinking of the festive season. However, there is (3) _____ a Christmas beetle, but this Christmas it has gone missing. Australia's Christmas beetle used to be an indication that the holiday season was on its way in the land down (4) _____. Its numbers have declined alarmingly. Dr Tanya Latty, an entomologist from the University of Sydney, said: "Everybody over the age of 35 remembers there (5) _____ huge numbers of Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that just doesn't seem to happen any (6) _____."

The Christmas beetle is as unique (7) _____ Australia as koalas and kangaroos. It is a colourful, (8) _____ and harmless bug. Dr Latty told the BBC: "We have in Australia this really unique biological event where Christmas is associated (9) _____ the arrival of these beautiful, glittery, friendly beetles." She said it was "absolutely critical" to find out why there are so (10) _____ around. Scientists suspect that their dwindling numbers are due to habitat loss. In 2020, bushfires wiped (11) _____ huge swathes of forest that were home to the beetles. Australia has the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world. Scientists fear the Christmas beetle may also soon (12) _____ out. They asked people to send them photos if they see the beetle.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) elect | (b) select | (c) detect | (d) eject |
| 2. | (a) boing | (b) spring | (c) bounce | (d) ricochet |
| 3. | (a) actualize | (b) actual | (c) actuality | (d) actually |
| 4. | (a) over | (b) under | (c) below | (d) above |
| 5. | (a) be | (b) being | (c) being | (d) was |
| 6. | (a) much | (b) most | (c) more | (d) such |
| 7. | (a) by | (b) to | (c) of | (d) on |
| 8. | (a) shiny | (b) shiner | (c) shines | (d) shined |
| 9. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) of | (d) with |
| 10. | (a) few | (b) many | (c) least | (d) minimal |
| 11. | (a) of | (b) up | (c) with | (d) out |
| 12. | (a) see | (b) pass | (c) die | (d) go |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

Paragraph 1

1. a select group of ecrrusta
2. noynmyssu with Christmas
3. thinking of the vstfee season
4. used to be an iidntnciao
5. Its numbers have ddeincle alarmingly
6. an glstoteinom from the University of Sydney

Paragraph 2

7. tryiletg, friendly beetles
8. absolutely tircilac
9. wgniddiln numbers
10. due to iatbhat loss
11. huge westsah of forest
12. the worst rate of mammal ineixctno

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () season. However, there is actually a Christmas beetle, but this Christmas it has gone missing. Australia's Christmas beetle used to be an
- () over the age of 35 remembers there being huge numbers of Christmas beetles when they were
- () due to habitat loss. In 2020, bushfires wiped out huge swathes of forest that were
- () associated with the arrival of these beautiful, glittery, friendly beetles." She said it was "absolutely
- () home to the beetles. Australia has the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world. Scientists
- () critical" to find out why there are so few around. Scientists suspect that their dwindling numbers are
- (**1**) There is a select group of creatures that is synonymous with Christmas - donkeys, reindeer,
- () turkeys and robins. The image of a beetle does not spring to mind when thinking of the festive
- () kids, but that just doesn't seem to happen any more."
- () The Christmas beetle is as unique to Australia as koalas and kangaroos. It is a colourful, shiny
- () indication that the holiday season was on its way in the land down under. Its numbers have
- () fear the Christmas beetle may also soon die out. They asked people to send them photos if they see the beetle.
- () and harmless bug. Dr Latty told the BBC: "We have in Australia this really unique biological event where Christmas is
- () declined alarmingly. Dr Tanya Latty, an entomologist from the University of Sydney, said: "Everybody

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

1. group of A with synonymous Christmas . select creatures
2. to of image spring doesn't The mind . beetles
3. the down land under . in way On its
4. being 35 numbers . over remembers Everybody huge there
5. doesn't seem any more . just that happen to But
6. to unique as Australia Beetles as are koalas .
7. glittery associated is these with beautiful, Christmas beetles .
8. It find absolutely out why . to was critical
9. to habitat loss . Their numbers are due dwindling
10. send asked They beetle people them photos . to

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

There is a *select / selection* group of creatures that is *synonymous / anonymous* with Christmas - donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins. The image of a beetle does not *bounce / spring* to mind when thinking of the festive *seasoning / season*. However, there is actually a Christmas *Beatle / beetle*, but this Christmas it has gone missing. Australia's Christmas beetle used to be an indication that *a / the* holiday season was *in / on* its way in the land *down / up* under. Its numbers have declined alarmingly. Dr Tanya Latty, an entomologist from the University of Sydney, said: "Everybody over the age of 35 remembers *there / their* being huge numbers of Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that *just / justly* doesn't seem to happen any more."

The Christmas beetle is *has / as* unique to Australia as koalas and kangaroos. It is a colourful, *shiny / shined* and harmless bug. Dr Latty told the BBC: "We have in Australia this really unique *biologist / biological* event where Christmas is associated *on / with* the arrival of these beautiful, glittery, friendly beetles." She said it was "absolutely critical" to find out why there are so *little / few* around. Scientists suspect that their dwindling numbers are due to habitat *loss / loses*. In 2020, bushfires wiped *up / out* huge swathes of forest that were home to the beetles. Australia has the worst rate *of / at* mammal extinction in the world. Scientists fear the Christmas beetle may also soon die *up / out*. They asked people to send them *photographers / photos* if they see the beetle.

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/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

Th_r_ _s_ _s_l_ct gr__p _f cr__t_r_s th_t _s
syn_nym__s w_th Chr_stm_s - d_nk_ys, r__nd__r,
t_rk_ys _nd r_b_ns. Th_ _m_g_ _f _ b__tl_ d__s n_t
spr_ng t_ m_nd wh_n th_nk_ng _f th_ f_st_v_ s__s_n.
H_w_v_r, th_r_ _s_ _ct__lly _ Chr_stm_s b__tl_, b_t
th_s Chr_stm_s _t h_s g_n_ m_ss_ng. __str_l__'s
Chr_stm_s b__tl_ _s_d t_ b_ _n _nd_c_t__n th_t th_
h_l_d_y s__s_n w_s _n _ts w_y _n th_ l_nd d_wn
_nd_r. _ts n_mb_rs h_v_ d_cl_n_d _l_rm_ngly. Dr
T_ny_ L_tty, _n _nt_m_l_g_st fr_m th_ _n_v_rs_ty _f
Sydn_y, s__d: "_v_ryb_dy _v_r th_ _g_ _f 35
r_m_mb_rs th_r_ b__ng h_g_ n_mb_rs _f Chr_stm_s
b__tl_s wh_n th_y w_r_ k_ds, b_t th_t j_st d__sn't
s__m t_ h_pp_n _nym_r_."

Th_ Chr_stm_s b__tl_ _s _s _n_q__ t_ __str_l__ _s
k__l_s _nd k_ng_r__s. _t _s _c_l__rf_l, sh_ny _nd
h_rml_ss b_g. Dr L_tty t_ld th_ BBC: "W_ h_v_ _n
__str_l__ th_s r__lly _n_q__ b__l_g_c_l _v_nt wh_r_
Chr_stm_s _s _ss_c__t_d w_th th_ _rr_v_l _f th_s_
b__t_f_l, gl_tt_ry, fr__ndly b__tl_s." Sh_ s__d _t w_s
"_bs_l_t_ly cr_t_c_l" t_ f_nd __t why th_r_ _r_ s_ f_w
_r__nd. Sc__nt_sts s_sp_ct th_t th__r dw_ndl_ng
n_mb_rs _r_ d__ t_ h_b_t_t l_ss. _n 2020, b_shf_r_s
w_p_d __t h_g_ sw_th_s _f f_r_st th_t w_r_ h_m_ t_
th_ b__tl_s. __str_l__ h_s th_ w_rst r_t_ _f m_mm_l
_xt_nct__n _n th_ w_rld. Sc__nt_sts f__r th_ Chr_stm_s
b__tl_ m_y _ls_ s__n d__ __t. Th_y _sk_d p__pl_ t_
s_nd th_m ph_t_s _f th_y s__ th_ b__tl_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

there is a select group of creatures that is synonymous with christmas donkeys reindeer turkeys and robins the image of a beetle does not spring to mind when thinking of the festive season however there is actually a christmas beetle but this christmas it has gone missing australia's christmas beetle used to be an indication that the holiday season was on its way in the land down under its numbers have declined alarmingly dr tanya latty an entomologist from the university of sydney said everybody over the age of 35 remembers there being huge numbers of christmas beetles when they were kids but that just doesn't seem to happen any more

the christmas beetle is as unique to australia as koalas and kangaroos it is a colourful shiny and harmless bug dr latty told the bbc we have in australia this really unique biological event where christmas is associated with the arrival of these beautiful glittery friendly beetles she said it was absolutely critical to find out why there are so few around scientists suspect that their dwindling numbers are due to habitat loss in 2020 bushfires wiped out huge swathes of forest that were home to the beetles australia has the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world scientists fear the christmas beetle may also soon die out they asked people to send them photos if they see the beetle

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221226-christmas-beetle.html>

There is a select group of creatures that is synonymous with Christmas - donkeys, reindeer, turkeys and robins. The image of a beetle does not spring to mind when thinking of the festive season. However, there is actually a Christmas beetle, but this Christmas has gone missing. Australia's Christmas beetle used to be an indication that the holiday season was on its way in the land down under. Its numbers have declined alarmingly. Dr Tanya Latty, an entomologist from the University of Sydney, said: "Everybody over the age of 35 remembers there being huge numbers of Christmas beetles when they were kids, but that just doesn't seem to happen anymore." The Christmas beetle is a unique to Australia as koalas and kangaroos. It is a colourful, shiny and harmless bug. Dr Latty told the BBC: "We have in Australia this really unique biological event where Christmas is associated with the arrival of these beautiful, glittery, friendly beetles." She said it was "absolutely critical" to find out why there are so few around. Scientists suspect that their dwindling numbers are due to habitat loss. In 2020, bushfires wiped out huge swathes of forest that were home to the beetles. Australia has the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world. Scientists fear the Christmas beetle may also soon die out. They asked people to send them photos if they see the beetle.

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. CHRISTMAS ANIMALS: Make a poster about Christmas animals. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Write a magazine article about encouraging people to celebrate Christmas according to its true spirit. 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 Christmas. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make the holiday more meaningful. 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. f 3. c 4. a 5. g 6. d 7. e
8. m 9. n 10. k 11. h 12. l 13. j 14. i

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- Four
- Beetles
- The land down under
- An entomologist
- Everybody over the age of 35
- Koalas and kangaroos
- Habitat loss
- Huge swathes of forest
- Australia
- Photos of the beetle

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- A select group of creatures synonymous with Christmas.
- The image of beetles doesn't spring to mind.
- On its way in the land down under.
- Everybody over 35 remembers there being huge numbers.
- But that just doesn't seem to happen any more.
- Beetles are as unique to Australia as koalas.
- Christmas is associated with these beautiful, glittery beetles.
- It was absolutely critical to find out why.
- Their dwindling numbers are due to habitat loss.
- They asked people to send them beetle photos.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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