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Level 5 – 22nd January 2024

Deadly fire ants spreading across Australia

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-5.html>

Australia's ecosystems are under threat from one of the world's most invasive species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant is native to South America, but has spread worldwide. It causes huge damage to crops and farms. It also kills indigenous insects and other animals, including livestock. The ant's painful and venomous sting can cause allergic reactions in humans. It is deadly and can cause fatal anaphylactic shock. The Minister for Agriculture called the ants a "super-pest, which cause serious social, economic and environmental harm".

Red fire ants were first found in Australia in 2001. They were only in the state of Queensland, until now. Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading because of flood waters. They are clinging to each other to create "rafts" on the water. An ISC statement said: "Fire ants are more active before or after rainfall and can form large floating rafts, which move with water currents to establish footholds in new areas." It warned that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not kept in check.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-68002401>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/17/australia/fire-ants-forming-rafts-to-cross-australia-flood-waters-intl-scli-scn-climate/index.html>
<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/floating-rafts-of-deadly-fire-ants-pose-growing-threat-to-nsw-20240116-p5exnf.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Australia's ecosystems are under | a. to South America |
| 2. one of the world's most | b. "super-pest" |
| 3. The tiny ant is native | c. insects |
| 4. It causes huge damage | d. invasive species |
| 5. It also kills indigenous | e. shock |
| 6. The ant's painful and | f. threat |
| 7. anaphylactic | g. to crops |
| 8. called the ants a | h. venomous sting |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Red fire ants were first | a. not kept in check |
| 2. the ants are spreading | b. move with water currents |
| 3. They are clinging | c. every corner of Australia |
| 4. Fire ants are more active | d. to each other |
| 5. large floating rafts, which | e. in new areas |
| 6. establish footholds | f. found in Australia in 2001 |
| 7. the fire ants will reach | g. before or after rainfall |
| 8. if the current outbreak is | h. because of flood waters |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-5.html>

Australia's ecosystems are (1) _____ one of the world's most invasive species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant is native to South America, but has spread worldwide. It causes huge (2) _____ and farms. It also kills indigenous insects and other animals, including livestock. The ant's (3) _____ sting can (4) _____ in humans. It is deadly and can cause (5) _____. The Minister for Agriculture called the ants (6) _____, which cause serious social, economic and environmental harm".

Red fire ants (7) _____ in Australia in 2001. They were only in (8) _____ Queensland, until now. Australia's Invasive Species Council (ISC) says the ants are spreading because (9) _____. They are clinging to each other to create "rafts" on the water. An ISC statement said: "Fire ants are more (10) _____ after rainfall and can form large floating rafts, which move with water (11) _____ footholds in new areas." It warned that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-5.html>

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ANTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2401/240122-fire-ants-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about ants 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) _____

