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Level 5

Research shows dogs used to be more like cats

21st August, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150821-dogs-5.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26–page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150821-dogs-5.html>

New research says climate change transformed dogs from creatures resembling cats to how they look today. Researchers in the USA believe that 40 million years ago, dogs were smaller and hunted and ambushed their prey like cats. As the changing climate reduced the amount of forests in North America, the physique and food-gathering habits of dogs changed. Grassland emerged everywhere, which meant dogs had fewer places to hide to ambush their victims. To adapt to this, dogs changed their hunting styles and slowly grew longer legs.

Scientists analysed how dogs evolved by looking at the elbows and teeth of 32 different species that lived up to 40 million years ago. The dogs' elbows, in particular, were good indicators of evolutionary change. Dogs from 40 million years ago had elbows that were like those of cats. Their front paws swivelled so they could grab and hold on to prey. Elbows changed in dogs to let them become endurance runners. This meant they could chase their prey over long distances. The teeth in dogs also became more efficient. They became harder so they could hold on to prey.

Sources: <http://www.irisht Examiner.com/examviral/science-world/so-it-turns-out-dogs-used-to-be-quite-similar-to-cats-348926.html>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3202370/How-climate-change-shaped-DOGS-Man-s-best-friend-cat-like-North-America-hotter-covered-forests.html>
<http://www.pressexaminer.com/new-discovery-shows-that-dogs-used-to-look-more-like-cats/42298>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150821-dogs-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. climate | a. today |
| 2. creatures resembling | b. prey like cats |
| 3. how they look | c. everywhere |
| 4. 40 million years | d. change |
| 5. ambushed their | e. hunting styles |
| 6. the changing climate reduced the amount of | f. cats |
| 7. Grassland emerged | g. ago |
| 8. dogs changed their | h. forests |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Scientists analysed how | a. runners |
| 2. 32 different | b. more efficient |
| 3. evolutionary | c. paws |
| 4. front | d. could hold on to prey |
| 5. become endurance | e. species |
| 6. they could chase their prey over | f. change |
| 7. The teeth in dogs also became | g. dogs evolved |
| 8. They became harder so they | h. long distances |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150821-dogs-5.html>

New research says climate change (1) _____ creatures resembling cats (2) _____ today. Researchers in the USA believe that 40 million years ago, dogs were smaller and hunted and (3) _____ like cats. As the changing climate reduced the amount of forests in North America, (4) _____ food-gathering habits of dogs changed. Grassland (5) _____, which meant dogs had fewer places to hide to ambush their victims. To adapt to this, dogs changed their hunting (6) _____ longer legs.

Scientists analysed (7) _____ by looking at the elbows and teeth of 32 different species (8) _____ 40 million years ago. The dogs' elbows, in particular, (9) _____ of evolutionary change. Dogs from 40 million years ago had elbows (10) _____ of cats. Their front paws swivelled so they could grab and hold on to prey. Elbows (11) _____ to let them become endurance runners. This meant they could (12) _____ long distances. The teeth in dogs also became more efficient. They became harder so they could hold on to prey.

DOGS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1508/150821-dogs-5.html>

Write five GOOD questions about dogs 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)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

