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Level 5 – 29th December, 2020

Giant Antarctic iceberg A68a splits into three

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-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/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-5.html>

A huge iceberg heading towards the island of South Georgia in the southern Atlantic Ocean has split into three large chunks. NASA scientists are tracking the berg, called A68a. It actually split from the Larsen C ice shelf in 2017 and has been floating northwards ever since. In recent weeks, a fast-moving stream of water in the Southern Antarctic has put the chunks on a course that means they could run aground off the coast of South Georgia. Scientists say the three fragments are about 2,600 square kilometres in size. The underwater part of one chunk is 106 metres deep.

The bulk of the three iceberg chunks is a serious threat to the wildlife of South Georgia. It is an environmental catastrophe waiting to happen. If the chunks collide with the seabed, they could obstruct penguins and seals from looking for fish. They could also block the penguins' route to their feeding grounds during the breeding season. The bottom of the chunks could rake up the seabed near South Georgia and disrupt delicate ecosystems. This could be made worse by a mass of fresh water entering the ecosystems as the stationary chunks melt over the summer.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55428520>
<https://newatlas.com/science/giant-iceberg-a-68a-south-georgia-splits-three/>
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/giant-iceberg-heading-toward-south-atlantic-island-breaks-n1252204>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A huge iceberg heading | a. tracking the berg |
| 2. split into three | b. part of one chunk |
| 3. NASA scientists are | c. off the coast |
| 4. It actually split from the | d. large chunks |
| 5. a fast-moving | e. Larsen C ice shelf |
| 6. they could run aground | f. stream of water |
| 7. about 2,600 square | g. towards the island |
| 8. The underwater | h. kilometres |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. a serious threat | a. ecosystems |
| 2. It is an environmental | b. to the wildlife |
| 3. obstruct penguins and seals from | c. the summer |
| 4. the penguins' route to their feeding | d. looking for fish |
| 5. during the breeding | e. the ecosystems |
| 6. disrupt delicate | f. season |
| 7. a mass of fresh water entering | g. grounds |
| 8. melt over | h. catastrophe |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-5.html>

A huge iceberg heading (1) _____ of South Georgia in the southern Atlantic Ocean (2) _____ three large chunks. NASA scientists are tracking the berg, called A68a. It (3) _____ the Larsen C ice shelf in 2017 and has been floating northwards ever since. In recent weeks, a fast-moving (4) _____ in the Southern Antarctic has put the chunks on a course that means they could (5) _____ the coast of South Georgia. Scientists say the three fragments are about 2,600 square kilometres in size. The (6) _____ one chunk is 106 metres deep.

The bulk of the three iceberg chunks is (7) _____ to the wildlife of South Georgia. It is an environmental catastrophe waiting to happen. If the chunks (8) _____ seabed, they could obstruct (9) _____ from looking for fish. They could also block the penguins' route to their feeding grounds during (10) _____. The bottom of the chunks could rake up the seabed near South Georgia (11) _____ ecosystems. This could be made worse by a mass of fresh water entering the ecosystems (12) _____ chunks melt over the summer.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-5.html>

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ICEBERGS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/201229-iceberg-a68a-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about icebergs 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) _____

