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**Level 2 – 15th December, 2022**

**World's oldest land animal celebrates 190th birthday**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-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/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-2.html>

We all like birthdays. Some people live long enough to have 120 of them. The world's oldest land animal just celebrated his 190th birthday. It is a giant turtle called Jonathan. Zoologists think he was born in 1832, but there are no official records. Some scientists think Jonathan might be ten years older. He could be as old as 200. Jonathan was born in the Seychelles. He was taken to the British overseas territory of St Helena in 1882. Jonathan was born before Britain's Queen Victoria became queen. He was born before the invention of the postage stamp, refrigeration, and the gun\*.

Jonathan had a good birthday. He had a three-day party. Chefs made a special tortoise birthday cake that was full of his favourite vegetables. St Helena printed a set of postage stamps to celebrate his birthday. Sadly, Jonathan did not get to see any of this because he is blind. He also cannot smell. However, he has an excellent sense of hearing, so he could hear "Happy Birthday" being sung. Jonathan's vet said the giant tortoise still has plenty of energy. He also likes to relax in the sun. He said: "On mild days, he will sunbathe - his long neck and legs stretched fully out of his shell."

\* revolver

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/03/world/seychelles-tortoise-st-helena-jonathan-190-birthday-intl-hnk/index.html>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/02/worlds-oldest-recorded-tortoise-prepares-for-190th-birthday-party>  
<https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/54483/20221206/jonathan-the-tortoise-worlds-oldest-land-animal-turns-190.htm>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. We all like                 | a. records            |
| 2. people live long enough     | b. in the Seychelles  |
| 3. The world's oldest land     | c. postage stamp      |
| 4. there are no official       | d. animal             |
| 5. Jonathan might              | e. as old as 200      |
| 6. He could be                 | f. birthdays          |
| 7. Jonathan was born           | g. be ten years older |
| 8. before the invention of the | h. to have 120        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. He had a three-              | a. he will sunbathe |
| 2. full of his favourite        | b. postage stamps   |
| 3. printed a set of             | c. plenty of energy |
| 4. he has an excellent sense    | d. out of his shell |
| 5. the giant tortoise still has | e. day party        |
| 6. He also likes to             | f. vegetables       |
| 7. On mild days,                | g. relax in the sun |
| 8. legs stretched fully         | h. of hearing       |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-2.html>

We all like birthdays. Some people (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to have 120 of them. The world's oldest land animal just celebrated his 190th birthday. It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ turtle called Jonathan. Zoologists think he was born in 1832, but there (3) \_\_\_\_\_ records. Some scientists think Jonathan (4) \_\_\_\_\_ years older. He could be as old as 200. Jonathan was born in the Seychelles. He was taken to the British (5) \_\_\_\_\_ St Helena in 1882. Jonathan was born before Britain's Queen Victoria became queen. He was born before (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the postage stamp, refrigeration, and the gun\*.

Jonathan (7) \_\_\_\_\_ birthday. He had a three-day party. Chefs made a special tortoise birthday cake (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of his favourite vegetables. St Helena printed (9) \_\_\_\_\_ postage stamps to celebrate his birthday. Sadly, Jonathan did not get to see any of this because (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He also cannot smell. However, he has an excellent sense of hearing, so he could hear "Happy Birthday" being sung. Jonathan's vet said the giant tortoise (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of energy. He also likes to relax in the sun. He said: "On mild days, he will sunbathe - his long neck and legs stretched (12) \_\_\_\_\_ his shell."

\* revolver

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-2.html>

We all like birthdays. Some people live long enough to have 120 of them. The world's oldest land animal just celebrated his 190th birthday. It is a giant turtle called Jonathan. Zoologists think he was born in 1832, but there are no official records. Some scientists think Jonathan might be ten years older. He could be as old as 200. Jonathan was born in the Seychelles. He was taken to the British overseas territory of St Helen in 1882. Jonathan was born before Britain's Queen Victoria became queen. He was born before the invention of the postage stamp, refrigeration, and the gun. Jonathan had a good birthday. He had a three-day party. Chefs made a special tortoise birthday cake that was full of his favourite vegetables. St Helen printed a set of postage stamps to celebrate his birthday. Sadly, Jonathan did not get to see any of this because he is blind. He also cannot smell. However, he has an excellent sense of hearing, so he could hear "Happy Birthday" being sung. Jonathan's vets said the giant tortoise still has plenty of energy. He also likes to relax in the sun. He said: "On mild days, he will sunbathe - his long neck and legs stretched fully out of his shell."

# TORTOISES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-2.html>

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

*World's oldest land animal celebrates 190th birthday – 15th December, 2022*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2212/221215-worlds-oldest-animal-2.html>

Write about **tortoises** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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