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Scientists to build giant telescope

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0907/090723-telescope.html>

IN THIS LESSON:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Multiple Choice	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Writing	10
Homework	11

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

23rd July, 2009

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Scientists are going to build the world's most gigantic telescope. It is called the Thirty Meter Telescope. This is because the telescope's mirror is 30 meters in diameter. Astronomers will be able to see light from 400 billion years ago, from the Big Bang. That light spent 13 billion years traveling to Earth. A spokesman said: "It will sort of give us the history of the universe." The telescope will be built on top of Mauna Kea volcano in Hawaii. Native Hawaiians are very upset about this. They say their volcano is a sacred gateway to heaven.

I think this is a very exciting project. I can't wait for it to open in 2018. I've never been to a giant telescope. I would love to look through the Thirty Meter Telescope and see the stars. It would be great to get a glimpse of the early years of the universe. I wonder what space looks like. I've only seen it on television. I really want to see it with my own eyes. The new telescope is not all good news. I feel sorry for the native Hawaiians. I read the telescope will be built on their burial sites. That's not good.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the world's most | a. history of the universe |
| 2. the telescope's mirror is | b. gateway to heaven |
| 3. see light from 400 | c. gigantic telescope |
| 4. It will sort of give us the | d. billion years ago |
| 5. Native Hawaiians are very | e. 30 meters in diameter |
| 6. their volcano is a sacred | f. upset about this |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. I can't wait | a. giant telescope |
| 2. I've never been to a | b. Hawaiians |
| 3. It would be great to get | c. with my own eyes |
| 4. I wonder what | d. for it to open |
| 5. I really want to see it | e. a glimpse |
| 6. I feel sorry for the native | f. space looks like |

LISTENING GAP FILL

Scientists are _____ world's most gigantic telescope. It is called the Thirty Meter Telescope. This is because the telescope's mirror is 30 _____. Astronomers will be able to see light from 400 billion years ago, from the Big Bang. _____ billion years traveling to Earth. A spokesman said: "It will _____ the history of the universe." The telescope _____ of Mauna Kea volcano in Hawaii. Native Hawaiians are very upset about this. They say their volcano _____ to heaven.

I think this is a very exciting project. I _____ to open in 2018. I've never been to a giant telescope. I would love _____ the Thirty Meter Telescope and see the stars. It would be _____ of the early years of the universe. I wonder what space looks like. I've only seen it on television. I really want to see it _____. The new telescope is not all good news. _____ the native Hawaiians. I read the telescope will be _____. That's not good.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Scientists are going to (1) _____ the world's most gigantic telescope. It is called the Thirty Meter Telescope. This is because the telescope's (2) _____ is 30 meters in diameter. Astronomers will be able to see light from 400 billion years ago, from the Big Bang. That light (3) _____ 13 billion years traveling to Earth. A spokesman said: "It will sort (4) _____ give us the history of the universe." The telescope will be built on top of Mauna Kea volcano in Hawaii. Native Hawaiians are very upset about this. They say their volcano is a (5) _____ gateway to heaven.

I think this is a very (6) _____ project. I can't wait for it to open in 2018. I've never been to a giant telescope. I would love to look (7) _____ the Thirty Meter Telescope and see the stars. It would be great to (8) _____ a glimpse of the early years of the universe. I wonder what space looks like. I've only seen it on television. I really want to see it with my own eyes. The new telescope is not (9) _____ good news. I feel sorry for the native Hawaiians. I read the telescope will be built on their burial (10) _____. That's not good.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) build | (b) building | (c) builds |
| 2. | (a) mirrors | (b) mirrored | (c) mirror |
| 3. | (a) spends | (b) spent | (c) spending |
| 4. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) for |
| 5. | (a) sacred | (b) scarred | (c) scared |
| 6. | (a) excited | (b) exciting | (c) excites |
| 7. | (a) though | (b) thought | (c) through |
| 8. | (a) get | (b) do | (c) give |
| 9. | (a) every | (b) whole | (c) all |
| 10. | (a) sights | (b) sightseeing | (c) sites |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. gagcinti telescope
2. the telescope's rorrim
3. 400 onililb years
4. the iyotrsh of the universe
5. very upset
6. a sacred gateway to nvaehe

Paragraph 2

7. a very exciting tcjeorp
8. I would love to look uhtrogh
9. get a gspmlie
10. I dworen what space looks like
11. atvnei Hawaiians
12. blriau sites

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () 2018. I've never been to a giant telescope. I would love to look through the Thirty Meter Telescope and see the
- () 400 billion years ago, from the Big Bang. That light spent 13 billion years traveling to Earth. A spokesman
- () I think this is a very exciting project. I can't wait for it to open in
- () said: "It will sort of give us the history of the universe." The telescope will be built on top of Mauna Kea volcano
- () news. I feel sorry for the native Hawaiians. I read the telescope will be built on their burial sites. That's not good.
- () This is because the telescope's mirror is 30 meters in diameter. Astronomers will be able to see light from
- () in Hawaii. Native Hawaiians are very upset about this. They say their volcano is a sacred gateway to heaven.
- (**1**) Scientists are going to build the world's most gigantic telescope. It is called the Thirty Meter Telescope.
- () stars. It would be great to get a glimpse of the early years of the universe. I wonder what space looks
- () like. I've only seen it on television. I really want to see it with my own eyes. The new telescope is not all good

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. the most telescope Build world's gigantic.

2. is 30 The meters telescope's in mirror diameter.

3. 13 traveling spent years Earth light billion to That.

4. sort will It universe the of history the us give of.

5. gateway volcano to is heaven a sacred Their.

6. exciting this project is a I very think.

7. I've telescope giant a to been never.

8. glimpse of the early years of the universe Get a.

9. want to see it with my own eyes I really.

10. native the for sorry feel I Hawaiians.

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. _____

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 more information about telescopes. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about telescopes. Include imaginary interviews people who make them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. 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.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the designer of the Thirty Meter Telescope. Ask him/her three questions about the telescope. Give him/her three of your opinions on telescopes and space. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.