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Atom smasher unlocks Big Bang secrets

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

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100331-large_hadron_collider.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

31st March, 2010

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100331-large_hadron_collider.html

Scientists got a huge step closer on March 30th to finding out how the universe started. Physicists created an experiment in which tiny atoms crashed into each other at unbelievable speeds. This recreated what happened at the time of the Big Bang billions of years ago. It all took place in a \$10 billion atom smasher in Switzerland, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). One of the world's leading physicists Michio Kaku told the Associated Press news agency that this experiment would help unlock the secrets of how our universe began.

This is one of the most exciting experiments ever. Phil Schewe from the American Institute of Physics called the LHC a time machine. He said: "Some of the particles they are making now, or are about to make, haven't been around for 14 billion years." This means scientists will have a better understanding of how our Earth was made. Another expert, professor Harvey Newman, was excited about the new technology the LHC would help start: "It [is] the beginning of a new era of exploration in a new range of energy," he said.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100331-large_hadron_collider.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Scientists got a huge | a. began |
| 2. tiny atoms crashed | b. secrets |
| 3. at the time | c. years ago |
| 4. billions of | d. into each other |
| 5. unlock the | e. step closer |
| 6. how our universe | f. of the Big Bang |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. one of the most | a. for 14 billion years |
| 2. a time | b. of energy |
| 3. haven't been around | c. exciting experiments |
| 4. have a better | d. new era |
| 5. the beginning of a | e. understanding |
| 6. a new range | f. machine |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100331-large_hadron_collider.html

Scientists _____ on March 30th to finding out how the universe started. Physicists created an experiment in which tiny atoms _____ at unbelievable speeds. This recreated what _____ of the Big Bang billions of years ago. _____ \$10 billion atom smasher in Switzerland, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). _____ leading physicists Michio Kaku told the Associated Press news agency that this experiment would help unlock _____ universe began.

This _____ exciting experiments ever. Phil Schewe from the American Institute of Physics called the LHC a time machine. He said: "Some of the particles _____, or are about to make, haven't been around for 14 billion years." This means scientists will have a better understanding _____ made. Another expert, _____ professor Harvey Newman, _____ was _____ technology the LHC would help start: "It [is] the _____ of exploration in _____," he said.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100331-large_hadron_collider.html

Scientists got a huge step (1) _____ on March 30th to finding out how the universe started. Physicists created an experiment in which tiny atoms crashed into (2) _____ other at unbelievable speeds. This recreated what happened at the time of the Big Bang billions of years ago. It (3) _____ took place in a \$10 billion atom smasher in Switzerland, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). One of the world's (4) _____ physicists Michio Kaku told the Associated Press news agency that this experiment would help unlock the secrets of how our universe (5) _____.

This is one of the most exciting experiments (6) _____. Phil Schewe from the American Institute of Physics (7) _____ the LHC a time machine. He said: "Some of the particles they are making now, or are about to make, haven't been (8) _____ for 14 billion years." This means scientists will have a better understanding of how our Earth was made. Another expert, professor Harvey Newman, was (9) _____ about the new technology the LHC would help start: "It [is] the beginning of a new era of exploration in a new (10) _____ of energy," he said.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) closer | (b) closely | (c) closest |
| 2. | (a) all | (b) each | (c) one |
| 3. | (a) all | (b) every | (c) whole |
| 4. | (a) leads | (b) leader | (c) leading |
| 5. | (a) beginnings | (b) began | (c) beginner |
| 6. | (a) ever | (b) never | (c) even |
| 7. | (a) calling | (b) calls | (c) called |
| 8. | (a) rounds | (b) around | (c) rounded |
| 9. | (a) excited | (b) excitement | (c) exciting |
| 10. | (a) raged | (b) arrange | (c) range |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100331-large_hadron_collider.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. a huge step lseroc
2. how the venuirse started
3. ahdercs into each other
4. lsinobil of years ago
5. the world's adlineg physicists
6. help ncoukl the secrets

Paragraph 2

7. the most ntixgice
8. a time acmihen
9. haven't been ndarou
10. have a ebtter understanding
11. cixeedt about the new technology
12. a new range of egnery

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100331-large_hadron_collider.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () at the time of the Big Bang billions of years ago. It all took place in a \$10 billion atom smasher in
- () the LHC would help start: "It [is] the beginning of a new era of exploration in a new range of energy," he said.
- () of how our Earth was made. Another expert, professor Harvey Newman, was excited about the new technology
- (**1**) Scientists got a huge step closer on March 30th to finding out how the universe started. Physicists created an
- () experiment in which tiny atoms crashed into each other at unbelievable speeds. This recreated what happened
- () Switzerland, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). One of the world's leading physicists Michio Kaku told
- () about to make, haven't been around for 14 billion years." This means scientists will have a better understanding
- () Physics called the LHC a time machine. He said: "Some of the particles they are making now, or are
- () This is one of the most exciting experiments ever. Phil Schewe from the American Institute of
- () the Associated Press news agency that this experiment would help unlock the secrets of how our universe began.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. universe out the started Finding how.

2. each atoms into other Tiny crashed.

3. Bang happened time Big What the the at of.

4. of world's physicists One the leading.

5. how Unlock our the universe secrets began of.

6. One ever experiments exciting most the of.

7. years billion 14 for around been Haven't.

8. will a understanding Scientists have better.

9. New start help would LHC the technology.

10. era beginning of of exploration a new The.

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. _____

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1003/100331-large_hadron_collider.html

Write about the Big Bang for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

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. THE BIG BANG: Search the Internet and find more information about the Big Bang. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the Big Bang. Include imaginary an interview with the scientists in Switzerland. 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 scientists in Switzerland. Ask them three questions about the Big Bang. Give them three of your opinions on the Big Bang. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.