

NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

Mermaids aren't real, says US government

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:
<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120704-mermaids.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

4th July, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120704-mermaids.html>

A department of the U.S. government has told Americans that mermaids do not exist. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) released a statement on its website to say that: "No evidence of aquatic humanoids has ever been found." It made the post because of a TV programme that made people believe mermaids were for real. The agency received many questions from TV viewers who watched an Animal Planet show called "Mermaids: The Body Found". The show was a joke, but people believed it.

Discovery News reported on the Animal Planet programme, which they called a "documentary-style" show. They wrote: "Though the filmmakers [accepted] that the film is science fiction, for many people it was indeed 'wildly convincing.' The show was [a]... mix of...computer animation, historical fact...and faked footage" to make it seem like mermaids do exist. The NOAA said: "The belief in mermaids may have arisen at the very dawn of our species...30,000 years ago."

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120704-mermaids.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A department | a. but people believed it |
| 2. released | b. humanoids |
| 3. aquatic | c. of the U.S. government |
| 4. made people believe | d. viewers |
| 5. TV | e. a statement |
| 6. the show was a joke, | f. mermaids were for real |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. a documentary-style | a. animation |
| 2. the film is science | b. of our species |
| 3. computer | c. fiction |
| 4. faked | d. mermaids |
| 5. The belief in | e. footage |
| 6. at the very dawn | f. show |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120704-mermaids.html>

(1) _____ U.S. government has told Americans that (2) _____. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) (3) _____ on its website to say that: "No evidence of aquatic humanoids (4) _____." It made the post because of a TV programme that made people believe (5) _____. The agency received many questions from TV viewers who watched an Animal Planet show called "Mermaids: The Body Found". (6) _____, but people believed it.

Discovery News reported on the Animal Planet programme, which they called a "(7) _____" show. They wrote: "Though the filmmakers [accepted] (8) _____ fiction, for many people it was indeed 'wildly convincing.' The show was (9) _____ animation, (10) _____ faked footage" to make it seem like (11) _____. The NOAA said: "The belief in mermaids may have arisen (12) _____ of our species...30,000 years ago."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120704-mermaids.html>

A department (1) _____ the U.S. government has told Americans that mermaids do not (2) _____. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) (3) _____ a statement on its website to say that: "No evidence of aquatic humanoids has ever been found." It made the post because (4) _____ a TV programme that made people believe mermaids were for (5) _____. The agency received many questions from TV viewers who watched an Animal Planet show called "Mermaids: The Body Found". The show was a (6) _____, but people believed it.

Discovery News reported on the Animal Planet programme, which they (7) _____ a "documentary-style" show. They wrote: "(8) _____ the filmmakers [accepted] that the film is science fiction, for many people it was indeed 'wildly convincing.' The show was [a]... (9) _____ of...computer animation, historical fact...and (10) _____ footage" to make it (11) _____ like mermaids do exist. The NOAA said: "The belief in mermaids may have arisen at the very (12) _____ of our species...30,000 years ago."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) as | (b) of | (c) by |
| 2. | (a) exist | (b) existed | (c) existence |
| 3. | (a) releases | (b) releasing | (c) released |
| 4. | (a) for | (b) of | (c) from |
| 5. | (a) real | (b) reality | (c) really |
| 6. | (a) funny | (b) laughter | (c) joke |
| 7. | (a) called | (b) names | (c) shouted |
| 8. | (a) Through | (b) Thought | (c) Though |
| 9. | (a) fix | (b) six | (c) mix |
| 10. | (a) faking | (b) faked | (c) fakes |
| 11. | (a) seem | (b) seems | (c) seemed |
| 12. | (a) dusk | (b) dawn | (c) noon |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120704-mermaids.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. A etnepadmrt of the U.S. government
2. mermaids do not sietx
3. No deeeenvic
4. The agency deiervec many questions
5. TV eerswiv
6. people diveleeb it

Paragraph 2

7. a documentary-lyest show
8. science ctinifo
9. computer anmitioa
10. tsiaoihclr fact
11. faked ftgaooe
12. the very dawn of our ciepess

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1207/120704-mermaids.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () of...computer animation, historical fact...and faked footage" to make it seem
- () style" show. They wrote: "Though the filmmakers [accepted] that the film is science
- () of a TV programme that made people believe mermaids were for real. The agency received
- () called "Mermaids: The Body Found". The show was a joke, but people believed it.
- () fiction, for many people it was indeed 'wildly convincing.' The show was [a]... mix
- (**1**) A department of the U.S. government has told Americans that mermaids do
- () like mermaids do exist. The NOAA said: "The belief in mermaids may
- () have arisen at the very dawn of our species...30,000 years ago."
- () not exist. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) released a statement on its
- () website to say that: "No evidence of aquatic humanoids has ever been found." It made the post because
- () many questions from TV viewers who watched an Animal Planet show
- () Discovery News reported on the Animal Planet programme, which they called a "documentary-

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. of has found evidence humanoids been No aquatic ever.

2. the of programme made because TV It post a.

3. mermaids believe people Made real for were.

4. viewers many questions The from agency TV received.

5. was a joke , but people believed it The show.

6. is accepted film fiction filmmakers the science The that.

7. convincing' it was For indeed many 'wildly people.

8. computer was animation a mix The of show.

9. exist do mermaids like seem it Make.

10. dawn very the At species our of.

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. MERMAIDS: Search the Internet and find more information about mermaids. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about mermaids. Include an imaginary interview with a real one. 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 a mermaid expert. Ask him/her three questions about mermaids. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.