

NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

NASA rover sends back first color photo

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

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120809-curiosity.html>

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9th August, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120809-curiosity.html>

NASA's new space rover, called Curiosity, has sent back its first pictures of the Mars landscape. The color image is of the area around the robotic rover. The nuclear-powered mobile science lab landed on Mars on Sunday night. NASA scientists were amazed it touched down safely and began working immediately. They have been working on the project for eight years. The picture from Curiosity is from a camera that will take detailed photos to see if life ever existed on the red planet.

It took Curiosity more than eight months to reach Mars. It travelled a distance of 566 million km and cost \$2.6 billion. NASA said its car-sized rover is in "great shape". Curiosity scientist Ken Edgett could not hide his joy at how well things are going. He told reporters: "This was basically a focus test. It works. It's awesome. We can't wait to open it and see what else we can see." The team will now check to see if everything on Curiosity works. It entered the Martian atmosphere at 17 times the speed of sound and seems undamaged.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120809-curiosity.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. first pictures of the Mars | a. photos |
| 2. The nuclear-powered mobile | b. for eight years |
| 3. it touched down | c. on the red planet |
| 4. working on the project | d. safely |
| 5. take detailed | e. landscape |
| 6. see if life ever existed | f. science lab |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. eight months to | a. shape |
| 2. a distance of | b. to open it |
| 3. in great | c. 566 million km |
| 4. could not hide | d. of sound |
| 5. We can't wait | e. reach Mars |
| 6. 17 times the speed | f. his joy |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120809-curiosity.html>

NASA's new space rover, called Curiosity, (1) _____ its first pictures of the Mars landscape. The color image is of the (2) _____ robotic rover. The nuclear-powered mobile science (3) _____ Mars on Sunday night. NASA scientists were amazed it (4) _____ and began working immediately. They have (5) _____ the project for eight years. The picture from Curiosity is from a camera that will take detailed photos to see if (6) _____ on the red planet.

It took Curiosity more than eight months to reach Mars. It (7) _____ of 566 million km and cost \$2.6 billion. NASA said its car-sized rover (8) _____. Curiosity scientist Ken Edgett could not (9) _____ how well things are going. He told reporters: "This was basically a focus test. It works. It's awesome. We (10) _____ it and see what else we can see." The team (11) _____ see if everything on Curiosity works. It entered the Martian atmosphere at 17 (12) _____ of sound and seems undamaged.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120809-curiosity.html>

NASA's new space rover, called Curiosity, has sent (1) _____ its first pictures of the Mars landscape. The color image is of the (2) _____ around the robotic rover. The nuclear-powered mobile science lab (3) _____ on Mars on Sunday night. NASA scientists were amazed it (4) _____ down safely and began working immediately. They have been working on the project for eight years. The picture from Curiosity is from a camera that will (5) _____ detailed photos to see if (6) _____ ever existed on the red planet.

It took Curiosity more than eight months to (7) _____ Mars. It travelled a distance of 566 million km and cost \$2.6 billion. NASA said its car-sized rover is in "great (8) _____ ". Curiosity scientist Ken Edgett could not hide his joy at how well things are (9) _____. He told reporters: "This was basically a focus test. It works. It's awesome. We can't (10) _____ to open it and see what else we can see." The team will now check to (11) _____ if everything on Curiosity works. It entered the Martian atmosphere at 17 (12) _____ the speed of sound and seems undamaged.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) front | (b) back | (c) inside |
| 2. | (a) area | (b) inside | (c) 3D |
| 3. | (a) earthed | (b) grounded | (c) landed |
| 4. | (a) slapped | (b) felt | (c) touched |
| 5. | (a) seize | (b) take | (c) grip |
| 6. | (a) life | (b) living | (c) alive |
| 7. | (a) get | (b) reach | (c) arrive |
| 8. | (a) ship | (b) sharp | (c) shape |
| 9. | (a) goes | (b) going | (c) went |
| 10. | (a) wait | (b) sit | (c) pause |
| 11. | (a) see | (b) watch | (c) look |
| 12. | (a) timings | (b) timed | (c) times |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120809-curiosity.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. the tiroboc rover
2. The nuclear-redpwoe mobile science lab
3. it cuoehdt down safely
4. working on the ejtopcr
5. take tidadeel photos
6. see if life ever stxedie

Paragraph 2

7. eight months to aechr Mars
8. a taeniscd of 566 million km
9. in "great epahs"
10. how well things are giogn
11. It's seawmoe
12. 17 times the speed of sdonu

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120809-curiosity.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () detailed photos to see if life ever existed on the red planet.
- () project for eight years. The picture from Curiosity is from a camera that will take
- () down safely and began working immediately. They have been working on the
- () of 566 million km and cost \$2.6 billion. NASA said its car-sized rover is in "great
- () shape". Curiosity scientist Ken Edgett could not hide his joy at how well things are
- () It took Curiosity more than eight months to reach Mars. It travelled a distance
- () wait to open it and see what else we can see." The team will now check to see if everything on Curiosity
- () landscape. The color image is of the area around the robotic rover. The nuclear-
- () powered mobile science lab landed on Mars on Sunday night. NASA scientists were amazed it touched
- () going. He told reporters: "This was basically a focus test. It works. It's awesome. We can't
- (**1**) NASA's new space rover, called Curiosity, has sent back its first pictures of the Mars
- () works. It entered the Martian atmosphere at 17 times the speed of sound and seems undamaged.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1208/120809-curiosity.html>

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

1. first the its of landscape back pictures Mars Sent.

2. it amazed were Scientists safely down touched.

3. on the project for 8 years They have been working.

4. a detailed camera photos that will From take.

5. ever the life on planet if existed red See.

6. months to reach Mars It took Curiosity more than 8.

7. distance of It 566 travelled million a km.

8. going how well His things joy are at.

9. can't and wait see to open We it.

10. of times speed sound 17 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/1208/120809-curiosity.html>

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

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