

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

READING: New Super-Earth Discovered

Vocabulary Preview

- Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------|---|
| 1. discover (v.) | <u>E</u> | A. from another place (such as a world or planet) |
| 2. planet | ___ | B. more than maybe; almost sure |
| 3. probably | ___ | C. A person who studies stars and planets |
| 4. alien | ___ | D. ten years |
| 5. neither ... nor ... | ___ | E. to find something |
| 6. perhaps | ___ | F. not (one thing) and not (another thing) |
| 7. astronomer | ___ | G. maybe |
| 8. decade | ___ | H. a large round ball that moves around a sun |

- Use the above words to complete the sentences. Use plural forms and past tense if necessary.

1. Earth is the third planet from the sun.
2. My family lived in Florida for ten years. We lived there for a _____.
3. I am not sure when I will leave. _____ I will leave next Monday.
4. Jake has _____ time _____ money to travel.
5. Do you think there are _____ on Mars or other planets?
6. My uncle is an _____. He looks at stars with his telescope.
7. Last week, I _____ a great coffee shop near my home.
8. I am almost sure it will rain. You _____ need an umbrella.

- Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. _____
2. _____

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READING

Topics: Space & Space Travel / Science

New Super-Earth Discovered



Not an actual photo of LHS 1140b

In 1995, scientists **discovered**¹ the first exoplanet. What is an exoplanet?

An exoplanet is a **planet**² that travels around another star, not our sun.

Scientists now know about more than three thousand exoplanets. Many of these planets, unfortunately, are very close to their sun, and so they are **probably**³ too hot for **alien**⁴ life. Other planets are very far away from their sun, and so they are too cold for life. As well, many of these planets are not the right size. However, scientists now know about some planets that are **neither** too hot for life, **nor**⁵ too cold; at the same time, they are about the same size as earth. These kinds of planets are called ‘Super-Earths’. There are not many that scientists know of, **perhaps**⁶ only about twenty. In April 2017, scientists in Chile discovered a new exoplanet that one **astronomer**⁷ called, ‘the most exciting exoplanet I’ve seen in the past **decade**⁸.’ The planet, called LHS 1140b, is 1.4 times larger than Earth. It is an exciting exoplanet because it “may be a great place to look for life.” But it is located very far from our Earth – in fact, to travel there in the fastest rockets will take thousands of years.

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Grammar Practice

New Super-Earth Discovered



Not an actual photo of LHS 1140b

In 1995, scientists discovered (1)_____ first exoplanet. What is an exoplanet? An exoplanet is a planet that travels around another star, not our sun. Scientists now know about more (2)_____ three thousand exoplanets. Many of these planets, unfortunately, are very close to (3)_____ sun, and so they are probably too hot for alien life. (4)_____ planets are very far away from their sun, and so they are too cold for life. As well, many of these planets (5)_____ not the right size. However, scientists now (6)_____ about some planets that are neither too hot for life, nor too cold; at the same time, they are about the same size as earth. These kinds of planets are called 'Super-Earths'. (7)_____ are not many that scientists know of, perhaps only about twenty. In April 2017, scientists (8)_____ Chile discovered a new exoplanet that one astronomer (9)_____, 'the most exciting exoplanet I've seen in the past decade.' The planet, called LHS 1140b, is 1.4 times (10)_____ than Earth. It is an (11)_____ exoplanet because it "may be a great place to look for life." But it is located very far from (12)_____ Earth – in fact, to travel there in the fastest rockets will take thousands of years.

1.

- (A) a
- (B) an
- (C) the

2.

- (A) then
- (B) than
- (C) thin

3.

- (A) they're
- (B) there
- (C) their

4.

- (A) Other
- (B) Another
- (C) Others

5.

- (A) are
- (B) does
- (C) was

6.

- (A) know
- (B) knew
- (C) knows

7.

- (A) Their
- (B) There
- (C) They're

8.

- (A) at
- (B) in
- (C) on

9.

- (A) call
- (B) calling
- (C) called

10.

- (A) larger
- (B) large
- (C) largest

11.

- (A) excited
- (B) exciting
- (C) excites

12.

- (A) hour
- (B) ours
- (C) our

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READING: New Super-Earth Discovered

How Much Do You Understand?

- *According to the article, write 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement.*

1. _____ Scientists discovered LHS 1140b in 1995.
2. _____ Many exoplanets travel around our sun.
3. _____ Some planets maybe too hot for life, and some may be too cold.
4. _____ Scientists already know about thousands of Super-Earths.
5. _____ Earth is smaller than LHS 1140b.
6. _____ Scientists are not sure if there is life on LHS 1140b.

Discuss

- *Discuss the following questions with your classmates.*

1. Do you think it's a good idea to spend time and money to look for Super-Earths? Why? / Why not?
2. What do you think alien life on other planets looks like?
3. Imagine you found a planet with life. Can you give it an interesting name?

Write

- *Choose one of the above discussion questions. Write a short paragraph to answer it.*

Lesson "New Super-Earth Discovered"

Grammar Focus Mixed (includes Past Simple)

Vocabulary 200 words
A1 words-72% / **A2** words-10% / **B1** words-8% / **B2** words-1%
AWL words in this text: *located*
 Vocabulary Analysis by: vocabkitchen.com

Level Elementary to Pre-Intermediate (CEFR A2)

ANSWER KEY Page 1

● **Vocabulary Preview**

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1. E | 1. planet |
| 2. H | 2. decade |
| 3. B | 3. Perhaps ('Probably' is also an acceptable answer.) |
| 4. A | 4. neither / nor |
| 5. F | 5. aliens |
| 6. G | 6. astronomer |
| 7. C | 7. discovered |
| 8. D | 8. probably |

ANSWER KEY Page 3

● **Grammar (Article)**

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 7. B |
| 2. B | 8. B |
| 3. C | 9. C |
| 4. A | 10. A |
| 5. A | 11. B |
| 6. A | 12. C |

ANSWER KEY Page 4

● **How Much Do You Understand?**

1. F (*It is about how scientists are changing chickens' DNA to 'make' dinosaurs.*)
2. F (*They travel around other stars.*)
3. T
4. F (*They only know about 20 Super-Earths.*)
5. T
6. T

Article Sources:

- <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/19/world/super-earth-exoplanet-habitable-zone-lhs1140b/index.html>
- http://www.space.com/36521-alien-planet-best-bet-search-for-life.html?utm_source=sp-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20170419-sdc
- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/sciencefair/2017/04/19/planet-lhs-1140b-super-earth-life/100614094/>