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**Level 4 – 17th March 2025**

## **Earth's core may hold ancient pre-Big Bang gas**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-4.html>

The Earth contains many mysteries about how formed, and what is at its centre. A recent study has clues as to what shaped our planet and solar system. Scientists say vast amounts of a primordial form of the gas helium may be trapped inside Earth. It is called helium-3. Scientists believe it is from a giant cloud of gas and dust that gelled to create different planets. It has been inside Earth's core for billions of years. It is occasionally released in volcanic eruptions.

The research is very exciting for planetary geologists. They think the helium-3 could unlock secrets of the Big Bang. The presence of helium-3 could mean that Earth was created faster than we thought. A geophysicist in the USA said: "There is evidence that has been interpreted to say the Earth formed very slowly, requiring 100 million years. [However], you wouldn't get much helium deep in the Earth if the Earth formed that slowly."

Sources: <https://scitechdaily.com/earths-core-may-hold-hidden-reservoirs-of-helium-scientists-discover/>  
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/primordial-helium-from-the-birth-of-the-solar-system-may-be-stuck-in-earths-core/ar-AA1AagXf>  
<https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/centre-of-the-earth-could-hold-large-reservoir-of-iron-helium-compounds/4021097.article>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The Earth contains many            | a. of the gas helium |
| 2. about how it                       | b. core              |
| 3. what is at                         | c. formed            |
| 4. clues as to what shaped            | d. different planets |
| 5. a primordial form                  | e. our planet        |
| 6. gas and dust that gelled to create | f. mysteries         |
| 7. It has been inside Earth's         | g. eruptions         |
| 8. occasionally released in volcanic  | h. its centre        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The research is very         | a. in the USA        |
| 2. planetary                    | b. of the Big Bang   |
| 3. unlock secrets               | c. of helium-3       |
| 4. The presence                 | d. slowly            |
| 5. Earth was created faster     | e. exciting          |
| 6. A geophysicist               | f. deep in the Earth |
| 7. the Earth formed very        | g. geologists        |
| 8. you wouldn't get much helium | h. than we thought   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-4.html>

The Earth (1) \_\_\_\_\_ about how it formed, and what is at its centre. A recent study has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ what shaped our planet and solar system. Scientists say (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a primordial form of the gas helium may be trapped inside Earth. It is called helium-3. Scientists believe it is from a giant cloud of gas and dust that (4) \_\_\_\_\_ different planets. It has been inside Earth's (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of years. It is occasionally released (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The research is very exciting (7) \_\_\_\_\_. They think the helium-3 could (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the Big Bang. The presence of helium-3 could mean that Earth was created faster than we thought. A (9) \_\_\_\_\_ USA said: "There is evidence that has been (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the Earth formed very slowly, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ years. [However], you wouldn't get much helium deep in the Earth if the Earth (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-4.html>

The Earth contains many mysteries about how it formed, and what is at its centre. A recent study has clues as to what shaped our planet and solar system. Scientists say vast amounts of a primordial form of the gas helium may be trapped inside Earth. It is called helium-3. Scientists believe it is from a giant cloud of gas and dust that gelled to create different planets. It has been inside Earth's core for billions of years. It is occasionally released in volcanic eruptions. This research is very exciting for planetary geologists. They think the helium-3 could unlock secrets of the Big Bang. The presence of helium-3 could mean that Earth was created faster than we thought. A geophysicist in the USA said: "There is evidence that has been interpreted to say the Earth formed very slowly, requiring 100 million years. [However], you wouldn't get much helium deep in the Earth if the Earth formed that slowly."

# THE EARTH SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250317-primordial-helium-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the Earth in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

