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New SpongeBob SquarePants mushroom

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

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110624-spongebob_squarepants.html

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24th June, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110624-spongebob_squarepants.html

Researchers who found a new species of mushroom have named it after the cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants. The team of scientists from San Francisco State University discovered the new fungus when they were exploring forests in Borneo. They decided it looked like SpongeBob and named it *Spongiforma squarepantsii*. Co-author of the research paper professor Dennis Desjardin said: "We go to under-explored forests around the world...collecting all the mushrooms and focusing on various groups."

SpongeBob shot to fame as a TV series in 1999. He is a very energetic and optimistic, square-shaped sea sponge who lives in a pineapple in the underwater city of "Bikini Bottom". He has a pet snail called Gary, who meows like a cat. SpongeBob is the creation of marine biologist and animator Stephen Hillenburg. He came up with the idea while he was teaching marine biology in 1984. The cartoon series is the highest rated show on the Nickelodeon TV channel. It is also the most widely-shared media on MTV.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110624-spongebob_squarepants.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Researchers who found a new species | a. around the world |
| 2. cartoon | b. forests in Borneo |
| 3. exploring | c. character |
| 4. Co-author of the | d. on various groups |
| 5. under-explored forests | e. of mushroom |
| 6. focusing | f. research paper |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. shot to | a. city |
| 2. very energetic | b. like a cat |
| 3. underwater | c. fame |
| 4. meows | d. series |
| 5. cartoon | e. shared media on MTV |
| 6. the most widely- | f. and optimistic |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110624-spongebob_squarepants.html

Researchers who _____ of mushroom have named it after the _____ SpongeBob SquarePants. The _____ from San Francisco State University discovered the new fungus when _____ forests in Borneo. They decided it looked like SpongeBob and named it *Spongiforma squarepantsii*. _____ research paper professor Dennis Desjardin said: "We go to under-explored forests around the world...collecting all the mushrooms and _____ groups."

SpongeBob _____ a TV series in 1999. He is a very energetic and optimistic, _____ sea sponge who lives in a pineapple in the underwater city of "Bikini Bottom". He has a pet snail called Gary, who _____ cat. SpongeBob is the creation of marine biologist and animator Stephen Hillenburg. _____ the idea while he was teaching _____ 1984. The cartoon series is the highest rated show on the Nickelodeon TV channel. It is also the _____ media on MTV.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110624-spongebob_squarepants.html

Researchers who found a new (1) _____ of mushroom have named it after the cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants. The team of scientists from San Francisco State University discovered the new fungus when they were (2) _____ forests in Borneo. They decided it looked like SpongeBob and (3) _____ it *Spongiforma squarepantsii*. Co-author of the research (4) _____ professor Dennis Desjardin said: "We go to (5) _____-explored forests around the world...collecting all the mushrooms and focusing (6) _____ various groups."

SpongeBob shot (7) _____ fame as a TV series in 1999. He is a very energetic and (8) _____, square-shaped sea sponge who lives in a pineapple in the underwater city of "Bikini Bottom". He has a pet snail called Gary, who meows (9) _____ a cat. SpongeBob is the (10) _____ of marine biologist and animator Stephen Hillenburg. He came up with the idea (11) _____ he was teaching marine biology in 1984. The cartoon series is the highest rated show on the Nickelodeon TV channel. It is also the most (12) _____-shared media on MTV.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. | (a) special | (b) specific | (c) species |
| 2. | (a) exploring | (b) explored | (c) exploration |
| 3. | (a) signed | (b) named | (c) autographed |
| 4. | (a) cloth | (b) cardboard | (c) paper |
| 5. | (a) below | (b) under | (c) inside |
| 6. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) on |
| 7. | (a) to | (b) by | (c) as |
| 8. | (a) optimistic | (b) optimism | (c) optimistically |
| 9. | (a) more | (b) like | (c) who |
| 10. | (a) creative | (b) create | (c) creation |
| 11. | (a) while | (b) why | (c) how |
| 12. | (a) width | (b) widely | (c) wider |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110624-spongebob_squarepants.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. a new seespci of mushroom
2. cartoon hcracrtae
3. team of siiscttnes
4. nedma it Spongiforma squarepantsii
5. the aeechsrr paper
6. focusing on rasuoiv groups

Paragraph 2

7. a TV sriese
8. very ncrtgeiee
9. square-dhspae
10. esmwo like a cat
11. mnaire biologist
12. the most widely-shared eimad on MTV

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110624-spongebob_squarepants.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () of marine biologist and animator Stephen Hillenburg. He came up with the idea
- () University discovered the new fungus when they were exploring forests in Borneo. They decided it looked
- () on the Nickelodeon TV channel. It is also the most widely-shared media on MTV.
- () SpongeBob shot to fame as a TV series in 1999. He is a very energetic
- () city of "Bikini Bottom". He has a pet snail called Gary, who meows like a cat. SpongeBob is the creation
- () character SpongeBob SquarePants. The team of scientists from San Francisco State
- () paper professor Dennis Desjardin said: "We go to under-explored forests around
- () the world...collecting all the mushrooms and focusing on various groups."
- (**1**) Researchers who found a new species of mushroom have named it after the cartoon
- () while he was teaching marine biology in 1984. The cartoon series is the highest rated show
- () and optimistic, square-shaped sea sponge who lives in a pineapple in the underwater
- () like SpongeBob and named it *Spongiforma squarepantsii*. Co-author of the research

WORD JUMBLE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1106/110624-spongebob_squarepants.html

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

1. who of found mushroom a new Researchers species.

2. cartoon the after it Named SpongeBob character.

3. exploring were they When Borneo in forests.

4. decided looked SpongeBob They it like.

5. - explored forests around the world We go to under.

6. 1999 SpongeBob shot to fame as a TV series in.

7. pineapple underwater Bikini A the of in city Bottom.

8. pet has Gary snail a He called.

9. with idea He up the came.

10. media most on widely MTV - shared 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. _____

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

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about SpongeBob SquarePants. Include imaginary interviews with him and his creator. 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 SpongeBob SquarePants. Ask him three questions about life in Bikini Bottom. Give him three of your opinions on mushrooms. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.