

Unit 13: What might have been

Reading Practice

Messages from **Outer Space**, or a Leaking Pipe?

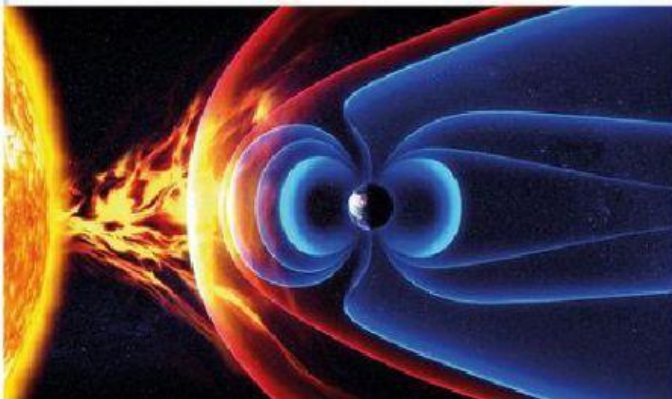
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Even though we know so much about the world around us, unexplained events still take place. Read about these two events. What do you think may have happened?

Since 2008, people around the world have been reporting a mysterious sound that seems to come from the sky. Some people say it sounds like trumpets playing. Others say it is like sound effects from sci-fi movies. The phenomenon has caused both fear and fascination, and many people have been looking for explanations. One popular idea is that the sound is an announcement of the end of the world, and another

suggests that it's the sound of spaceships. But there may be a more scientific explanation. It involves flares from the sun and energy from the center of the earth. Which explanation do you think might be right?

Of course, there are some strange events that still baffle both the general public and experts. Take the high-pitched noise that has been driving people crazy in Forest Grove, Oregon. To some people, it sounds like a giant flute being played very badly, and to others, it sounds like a train slowing down or truck brakes squealing. The sound is coming from under the street, but gas, water, and sewer inspectors have said there is nothing wrong down there. One resident was so sure it was a serious gas leak that he was ready to flee. However, experts say that a leak would make a different sound, and people would definitely smell gas. How would you explain this mysterious and annoying event?



Exercise 1 –

Which of these statements are facts? Which are opinions? Check (✓) Fact or Opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
1. Science has not explained everything that happens.	☐	☐
2. Some sounds mean the end of the world is coming.	☐	☐
3. The first sound is caused by energy from planets.	☐	☐
4. The sound in Forest Grove is very annoying.	☐	☐
5. The Forest Grove sound comes from under the street.	☐	☐
6. Gas lines and other systems in Forest Grove have no problems.	☐	☐
7. No local problems can explain the Forest Grove noise.	☐	☐

Exercise 2 – Match the word with the correct definition



_____ happen



_____ a metal musical instrument that you play by blowing into it and pressing buttons to make different notes



_____ short for science fiction



_____ a vehicle that can travel outside the Earth and into space, especially one which is carrying people



_____ a burst of bright light or energy, usually lasting a short time



_____ If something baffles you, you cannot understand it at all.



_____ describes a noise that is high and sometimes also loud or unpleasant



_____ make a loud, high sound



_____ a large underground system of pipes that carries away sewage



_____ leave a place quickly because you are in danger or are afraid



_____ a hole or crack that allows liquid or gas to come out when it should not