BROTHERS AND SISTERS

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We see them every morning. We eat with them every evening. We sometimes even share our bedrooms with them. They're our very best friends and, [0] *from* time to time, our worst enemies.

Very [1] _____ people would claim that they never fall [2] _____ with their brothers or sisters. However, according to research, this sometimes difficult relationship can actually be good for you.

When brothers and sisters quarrel with [3] _____ other, they practise social skills that [4] _____ key in adult life. They learn to understand their own feelings and they become more aware [5] _____ other people's feelings. The youngest child benefits even [6] _____. They develop better language skills for their age, compared [7] _____ other children without older brothers or sisters. Lastly, brothers and sisters are naturally competitive in everything they do. This competition often encourages them to try harder, whether they're doing sport [8] _____ schoolwork.

What are your experiences with your brothers and sisters? What do you think you've learned from them?



COMMENTS (3)

ADAM

I remember being quite mean to my youngest brother. We picked on him all the time because we were so much older than him. For instance, he used to get terrified while watching horror films. One day, while we were watching one, my other brother and I quietly left the room. Soon the film got slightly scary, and he suddenly realised he was all on his own. We'd both gone. He started screaming like a baby!

As the eldest child of three, I think I'm good at identifying with children younger than me. It's also made me more patient with younger kids at school – which means I tend to make a lot of friends.

SARA

My brother takes after my dad in that he has always been good at fixing things. One day (I was 11, he was 13), my parents were really impressed when he fixed the brakes on his bike himself. The next day, I was riding my bike down a steep hill near our house. Once I reached the bottom, I found out how he'd done it. He'd taken the brakes off my bike! Fortunately, I just managed to stop without injuring myself, but I learned something from that day – I always check my bike before I use it!

LUCY

When I was four, my sisters and I had very little money. I can't imagine I really understood what it was. But sometimes we used to get a few coins from relatives, like our grandparents. My eldest sister was 11 and she used to talk me into swapping my old, dirty coins for her new, shiny ones. What I didn't realise, of course, was that the coins she was giving me were worth less than the ones that I was giving her! I learned two things: how to count and never to depend on my eldest sister's honesty!

TALKING POINTS

What are the advantages of coming from a large family?
What are the advantages of being an only child?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING

1 **Read the first part of the article, ignoring the gaps. Choose the best answer to complete the statement.**

The article is positive news for

A all children with brothers or sisters.
B just children who have older brothers or sisters.
C all children without brothers and sisters.

2 **Complete the first part of the article with the words in the box. There are two extra words that you do not need.**

are	at	despite	each	few
more	of	or	out	to

3 **Read the second part of the article. Complete the sentences with names. Then choose the correct words.**

1 _____ has got at least *two* / *three* older sisters.
2 _____ has got one *older* / *younger* brother.
3 _____ has got two younger *brothers* / *sisters.*
4 _____ almost hurt herself because of her *brother* / *sister*.
5 _____ *is more popular* / *gets better marks* because of his *brothers* / *sisters*.
6 _____ got better at *maths* / *English* because of her eldest *sister* / *brother*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

ASTEROID ATTACK

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1 **IT COULD EASILY BE THE** 0 *plot* **FOR A HOLLYWOOD DISASTER MOVIE:** in February 2012, a young dentist called Jaime Nomen was sailing 1_____ the Mediterranean coast of Spain, checking images on his laptop from a telescope 600 kilometres away. Suddenly, he 2_____ a dot of light racing through space. Nomen knew 3_____ what it was. He warned the International Astronomical Union, which 4_____ information about asteroids, and telescopes around the world immediately started following the new asteroid's orbit. They 5_____ a spectacular discovery: on 15th February 2013, 'Asteroid 2012 DA14' would 6_____ the Earth just 27,700 kilometres above our heads. In space terms, that is close – very close. Asteroid 2012 DA14 was 30 metres across, which is enormous, but not quite as large as the asteroid that 7_____ in 1908 over the remote Tunguska region of Siberia, Russia. The Tunguska event destroyed 80 million trees across 2,000 square kilometres and even people over 60 kilometres away were 8_____ over.

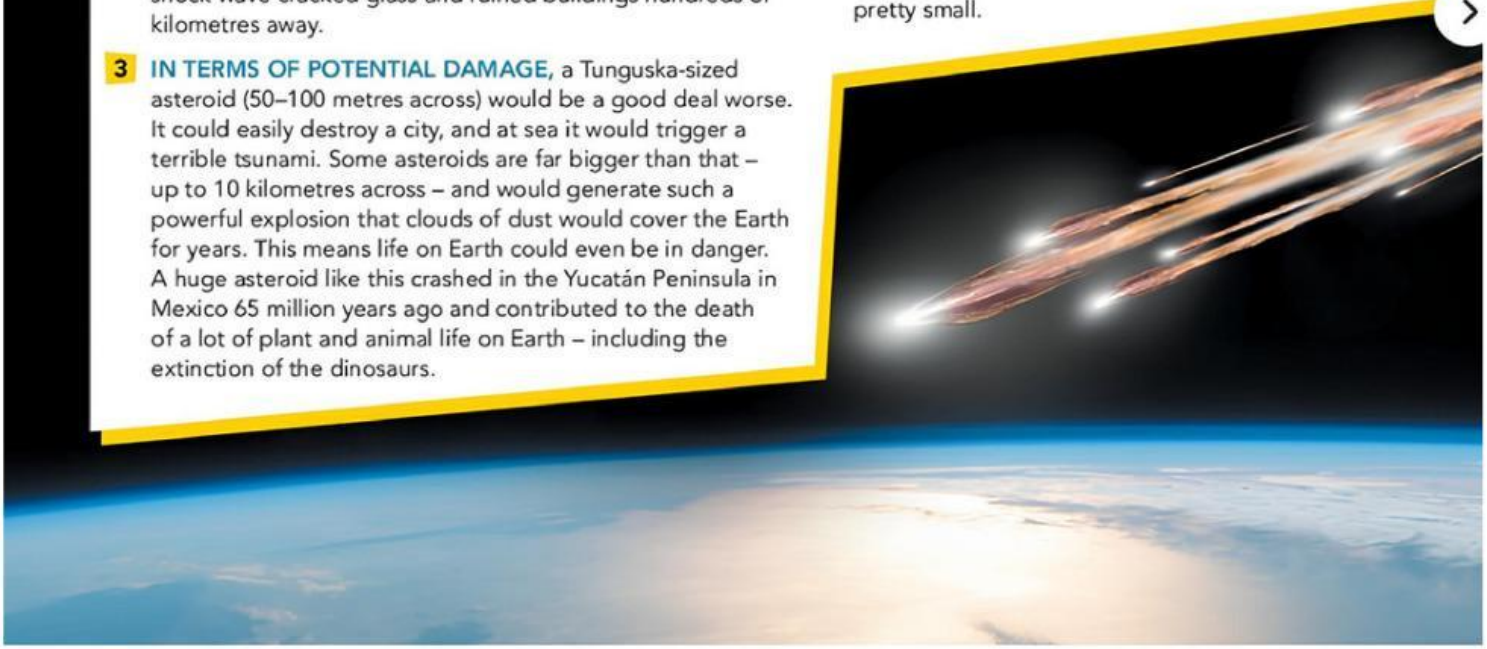
2 **STRANGELY ENOUGH,** on the same day in February 2013 that Asteroid 2012 DA14 passed the Earth, a slightly smaller asteroid suddenly appeared over the Chelyabinsk region of Russia. It was travelling at 70,000 km/h and was apparently almost as bright as the Sun. It was around 17 metres across, easily the largest object to enter the Earth's atmosphere since 1908. It exploded before it hit the Earth, and a massive shock wave cracked glass and ruined buildings hundreds of kilometres away.

3 **IN TERMS OF POTENTIAL DAMAGE,** a Tunguska-sized asteroid (50–100 metres across) would be a good deal worse. It could easily destroy a city, and at sea it would trigger a terrible tsunami. Some asteroids are far bigger than that – up to 10 kilometres across – and would generate such a powerful explosion that clouds of dust would cover the Earth for years. This means life on Earth could even be in danger. A huge asteroid like this crashed in the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico 65 million years ago and contributed to the death of a lot of plant and animal life on Earth – including the extinction of the dinosaurs.

4 **SO HOW CAN WE PREDICT FUTURE ASTEROID CRASHES** and, more importantly, can we prevent them? Asteroid scientists believe they have identified 90% of the giant space rocks with the potential to hit the Earth, but the smaller the asteroids are, the harder it is to spot them. However, smaller asteroids are likely to cause less destruction if they hit the Earth.

5 **TO PREVENT A MAJOR DISASTER LIKE YUCATÁN,** it would be far too risky to blow up an asteroid with a bomb. This would break it into millions of pieces, but thousands of smaller rocks would still hit the Earth. In the long term, the best way to avoid a serious incident is to use a spacecraft to push an asteroid in a different direction, over a period of five to ten years. But the pushing technique is so slow that an asteroid might hit the Earth before its orbit has moved far enough away. Scientists need more time to find faster ways of protecting Earth from asteroids, which is why, in the short term, it is so vital that we keep an eye on every single asteroid heading for the Earth.

6 **IF THIS ALL SOUNDS RATHER TERRIFYING, RELAX.** There are no confirmed reports of human death being caused by rocks from space. The vast majority of the Earth's surface is unpopulated, so the chances of something landing on your head are pretty small.



0	A concept	(B) plot	C review	D report
1	A along	B amongst	C beneath	D throughout
2	A blinked	B displayed	C searched	D spotted
3	A absolutely	B actually	C completely	D exactly
4	A browses	B broadcasts	C collects	D observes
5	A did	B got	C had	D made
6	A cover	B pass	C travel	D tour
7	A burned	B exploded	C erupted	D smashed
8	A fallen	B knocked	C run	D taken

TALKING POINTS

Do you think we should be worried about asteroids crashing into Earth? Why? / Why not?

What warning systems have you heard of for other natural disasters?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING

1 **Read the article quickly, ignoring the gaps. Choose the best answer.**

The purpose of the article is to

A explain the science behind objects that enter the atmosphere.

B inform readers about the danger of asteroids crashing into Earth.

C ask readers to join in the search for dangerous asteroids.

2 **Look at the gaps in paragraph 1 and at the options at the bottom of page 25. Decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.**

3 **Read the article again. Then discuss the questions.**

1 Why do you think Jaime Nomen was looking at telescope images?

2 Whose telescopes do you think started following Asteroid 2012 DA14?

3 What are the pros and cons of destroying an asteroid rather than pushing it away?

4 How dangerous are asteroids to the average person? Why?

4 **Find information in the article about four different asteroids. Then compare them.**

Talk about

1 their size.

2 when they hit the Earth or passed close by.

3 where they hit or nearly hit the Earth.

4 their effects.

5 **Find an adjective in each paragraph that means *extremely big*.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Informal Email

Hi!
I need some help with a school project. I have to write about activities that families from different countries enjoy doing together and why they do them. Can you tell me about any activities that you and your family enjoy doing together?
How do you think they help to improve your relationship with your family?
Hope you can help!
Seb

Direction: Complete the email using the phrases in the yellow boxes. Make sure the message flows naturally.

Hope this gives you some good ideas | It's great to hear from you! | Hey Seb,

Let me know | I'd be happy to help with your project | Take care,

my mum makes the soup | I think these activities help improve our relationship

[ ] [ ] [ ] –
it sounds really interesting.
In my family, one of the activities we enjoy the most is cooking together. Every Sunday, we prepare a big meal as a family. Everyone has their own role – my dad grills the meat, [ ], and I usually help with desserts. It's a fun way to bond, and we always laugh a lot while we cook.

We also love playing board games in the evening. It might sound old-fashioned, but games like Uno or Monopoly bring out everyone's competitive side and make us talk and joke around more. It's great quality time without screens!
[ ] because they give us time to communicate and enjoy each other's company. We're usually so busy with school and work, so it's nice to slow down and do something fun together.
[ ] for your project! [ ] how it goes.

[ ]
[Your Name]

LIVEWORKSHEETS