

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 1

 Listen and fill in the blanks.

The world's first flying car _____
March 18. Its name is the Transition, because
it can switch between the road and the sky. The
car that looks like a _____ car
took off from a small airport in New York. The
“roadable aircraft” is from a Boston based company
called Terrafugia, which means “escape from
land” in Latin. The designer and Terrafugia CEO Carl
Dietrich _____ decade working on
the project. In 2006 he won a \$30,000 design award
from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He
said his inspiration _____
about America's crowded highways and airports.
Dietrich said: “This flight _____
freedom in aviation. It's what enthusiasts have
been striving for since 1918.”

The two-seater Transition _____
airports and drive on any road. The US
government said it is officially a light sport aircraft
and not a car. The flying car has wings
_____ on the road. It is around 5.8
metres long and 2 metres wide. Terrafugia hopes
to start selling the Transition in 2011. The selling
_____ \$150,000 and \$200,000.



There are already more than forty orders for it.
Dietrich is excited about the Transition's future.
He told reporters: “This breakthrough changes
the _____. Travel now becomes a
hassle-free integrated land-air experience.” It is not
yet clear whether traffic police or air traffic
control _____, perhaps hundreds or
thousands, of flying cars.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. transition
2. enthusiasts
3. striving
4. hassle
5. breakthrough

Discussions

1. What do you think of the idea of flying cars?
2. What are the risks and benefits of flying cars?
3. Do you think “Transition” is a good name for the new flying car?
4. Do you think flying car will solve congestion on roads and at airports?
5. Do you like reading about new breakthroughs and inventions?
6. How would a flying car change your lifestyle?
7. What do you think of the expression “roadable aircraft”?
8. Do you think governments would have to rethink power lines?
9. Do you think people would still get angry with other drivers in the sky?
10. Who should regulate the flying cars, the police or air traffic controllers?

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 2

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

New Zealand police are hunting _____ received nearly US\$8 million by mistake from their bank. The couple applied to Westpac Bank for a NZ\$10,000 overdraft. Bank employees _____. They deposited NZ\$10 million into their customers' bank account instead of giving them the loan facility. The couple probably thanked _____. They took the money and ran. The pair, an Asian man and his New Zealand girlfriend, left the country immediately. However, they _____ the money with them. New Zealand police have told Interpol about the couple leaving the country, _____ international manhunt for them. Westpac officials are keeping how much the _____.

The couple live in the town of Rotorua on New Zealand's north island. They _____ had money problems. They applied for the overdraft to help with their financial difficulties. Locals _____ note on the door of the gas station saying it had closed down. A banking lecturer, Claire Matthews from New Zealand's Massey University, told the local Newstalk ZB



radio station that the couple's _____ out. She said: "They've taken funds that they're _____, that are not theirs....They've [really] become thieves." She said it would only be _____ before the police caught them. A Westpac Bank spokesman said the bank and police were _____ criminals.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. manhunt
2. run out
3. hunting
4. deposited
5. funds

Discussions

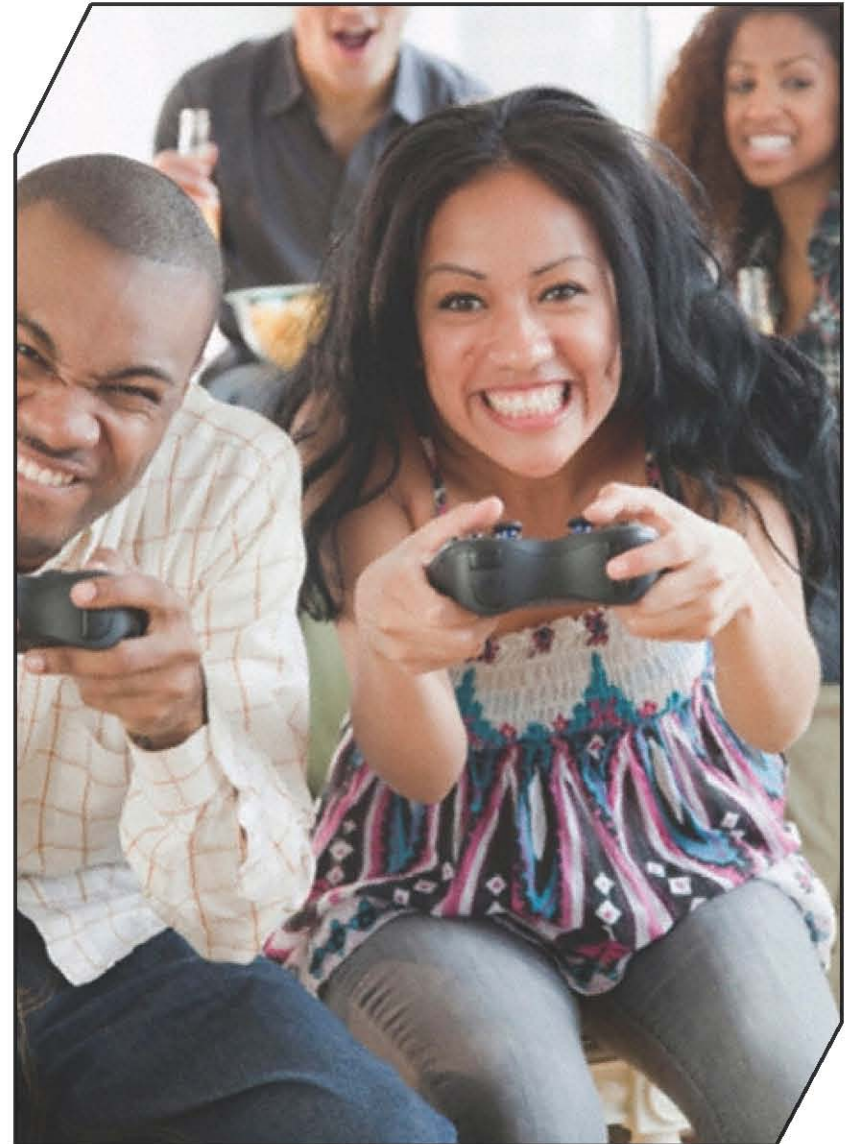
1. What do you think of the mistake in the article?
2. What do you think will happen to the person who made the mistake?
3. Do you think this mistake will damage Westpac Bank's reputation?
4. Do you think the couple in this story are really thieves?
5. Has your bank ever made a mistake with your account?
6. What would you do if you saw \$10, 0000, 0000 in your bank account?
7. How often do you have money problems or experience financial difficulties?
8. What's the biggest mistake you've ever made in your life?
9. Are you lucky or unlucky with money? Why do you think so?
10. Have you ever had a loan or overdraft?

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 3

 Listen and fill in the blanks.

Britain will _____ new ratings system for video games. Government officials have decided to use the PEGI (Pan-European Game Information) warning symbols so parents _____ buy their kids. There are eight easily recognizable icons, in addition to coloured _____ 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18 and over. The symbols will show if the game contains any bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, horror, sex, and dating. There _____ show the game is only online. Dr. Richard Wilson, an industry expert, said: "Game developers _____ PEGI system, as it makes classification easier." The PEGI website says companies like Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo _____.

TIGA, the video _____, created the PEGI system. Its website says: "Interactive computer game playing is now a mass-market leisure activity, with millions _____ Europe. While most games are suitable for players of all ages there _____ suitable for older children and younger teenagers." Alongside the new symbols PEGI will also _____ to parents. This will help to _____ of violence in games. Examples include "extreme violence," the showing of "criminal techniques" and the "_____". The system is now used throughout Europe. It is a model that shows how Europe can work together to protect children.



Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. recognizable
2. suitable
3. leisure
4. officials
5. throughout

Discussions

1. Do you think the new ratings symbols are a good idea?
2. Are there any symbols missing from the eight made by PEGI?
3. Why do you think Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo support the symbols?
4. What do you think of the idea of video games that show criminal techniques?
5. Do you think this is a good example of Europe acting together?
6. Are you concerned about the dangers of video games?
7. Do you think video games are good for kids?
8. Do you think playing video games is a good leisure activity?
9. Should games that have extreme violence or glamorize crimes be banned?
10. How long should people play video games each day?

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 4

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

Engineers at a U.S. laboratory may have discovered _____ problem of global warming. They have made a machine that can suck carbon dioxide from the air _____ liquid fuel. Researchers at the Sandia National Labs believe their creation can provide a sustainable form of renewable energy. _____ something from science fiction. In fact, the name _____ the most difficult thing to understand. It is the Counter-Rotating-Ring Receiver Reactor Recuperator, _____. Lead developer Rich Diver is excited about his project. He said sucking CO₂ from the _____ environment could be an alternative to carbon sequestration. This _____ CO₂ deep underground.

Sandia calls the _____ by CR5 “Sunshine to Petrol”. The researchers say their invention is still 15 to 20 years away from _____. It is currently just a prototype - a small model of the real thing. A Sandia spokeswoman said it “_____ of being able to reduce carbon dioxide emissions”. She added it would allow us “to keep using fuels



_____”. It is possible that by 2030, cars and airplanes _____ converted fuel. It will produce fuels such as methanol and gasoline. It will be interesting to see if this machine can actually lower our carbon footprint. Yes, it reduces carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, but _____ causes pollution when it burns.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. convert
2. alternative
3. process
4. discovered
5. full

Discussions

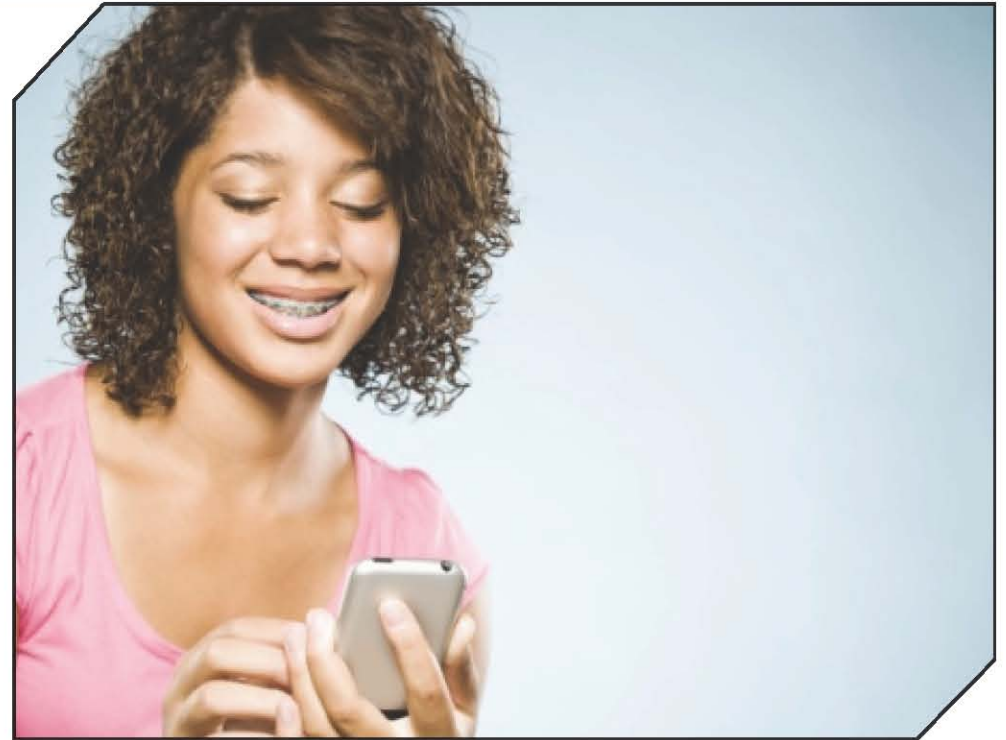
1. What do you think of this article?
2. How does CO2 damage the Earth?
3. Do you think the CR5 machine will save the planet?
4. What do you think of the name of the new machine?
5. Do you think governments should invest money on CR5?
6. What do you think is the answer to the problem of global warming?
7. Do you think science fiction always comes true?
8. What is the government doing to help your environment?
9. What do you think about your carbon footprint?
10. What do you think of the “Sunshine to Petrol” slogan?

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 5

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

A U.S. university has _____ the Apple iPhone - as a musical instrument. Academics from the University of Michigan have joined _____ they call a 21st century orchestra. There are no traditional instruments, only 20 of Apple's best-selling mobile telephones. The project is _____ the university's music, computer science and engineering departments. They call themselves the Michigan Mobile Phone Ensemble and _____ "new, crazy, electronic ensemble music". They _____ concert on Wednesday, December the 9th. Each 'musician' will 'play' the notes and tunes that they programmed into their handset. The result will _____ of... music.

_____ iPhone orchestra is assistant professor Georg Essl. He is a musician and an engineer. On his course, he encouraged students to experiment with the iPhone's _____. They wrote special applications that used wireless radios, motion sensors and the touch screen to produce different noises. The _____ sound of the experimental new orchestra. Professor Essl was excited about _____



of music. He said: "We can do interesting, weird and unusual things. This kind of technology _____, but it's a hot and growing area to use iPhones for artistic expression." He called the iPhone "a _____ for exploring new forms of musical performance". He didn't say when the orchestra would record its first CD.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. academics
2. joined forces
3. handset
4. innovative
5. infancy

Discussions

1. What do you think of the i-Phone being a musical instrument?
2. Do you think this is a worthwhile thing to do at a university?
3. Do you think I-phone can really be used for artistic expression?
4. What new function would you like someone to invent for your mobile?
5. How important are mobiles in the world?
6. Do you think mobile phones will replace laptop and desktop computers?
7. What things about mobile phones annoy you?
8. Do you think iPhone as a musical instrument will become popular?
9. Would you like to learn how to play the iPhone?

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 6

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

Apple has (1) _____ Google to become the most valuable brand in the world. This is (2) _____ to the analysts Brandz, who (3) _____ their annual Top 100 ranking of the world's most valuable brands. Apple's brand is (4) _____ to be worth more than \$153 billion. The tech company knocked Google off the number one (5) _____. Google had occupied the top spot for the previous four years. Apple's new ranking consolidates its position as the top-(6) _____ technology company on the stock market. Apple's success is due to the (7) _____ of its pioneering and market-leading products. It released its iPad in 2008 and the tablet has become one of the most popular (8) _____ on the planet.

The Brandz ranking (9) _____ companies across the world, making everything from baby food to power plants, as well as (10) _____ services and telecommunications. It calculates its brand value by analyzing several factors, including the (11) _____ of a company's balance sheet, the (12) _____ of customers, and prospects for future (13) _____.



Apple has grown remarkably in the past decade with a series of hugely (14) _____ and popular products. Its brand value has increased by 859 per cent since 2006. Peter Walsh, a director at Brandz, said Apple's success was due to the (15) _____ of its products. He said Apple had succeeded in becoming a luxury goods brand, making its products more desirable by increasing quality, (16) _____ and price.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. analysts –
2. compile –
3. consolidates –
4. prospects –
5. reliability -

Discussions

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Apple'?
3. What do you think are the world's top brands?
4. What do you think of the Apple brand?
5. Are you surprised Apple is the number one brand?
6. What do you know about Apple?
7. Which of Apple's products would you like to receive as a gift? Why?
8. Do you think Apple is a cool brand? Why (not)?
9. What does it take to be the number one brand?
10. What will the Internet be like in 10, 20, 50 years from now?

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 7

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon showed the world _____ green transport on September 12 when he used a solar-powered taxi _____.

The Solartaxi is the invention of Swiss engineer Louis Palmer. Mr Ban hoped his zero-emission commute would _____ alternative energy sources in our day-to-day life. He was very excited and positive about his carbon-neutral journey to work, saying: “_____ Solartaxi, one of the alternative sources of energy, can give some good messages to the people around the world that we need _____ to be creative; we need to be practical; we _____ address these energy _____ issues and also address the climate change issues.” The Secretary General added: “This is a fantastic experience. _____ another ride.”

The Solartaxi is currently on a worldwide tour to highlight _____ environmentally-friendly technologies. The tour’s climax will be in December, when the energy-saving _____ Poznan, Poland. The Polish city is hosting a conference on climate change. This gathering _____ preparations for a bigger meeting in Copenhagen in 2009, which will attempt _____ Kyoto



Protocol. Mr Palmer was very enthusiastic about Mr Ban’s trip in his Solartaxi. He said his taxi showed that there are solutions to reversing the damage humankind _____ planet. He congratulated the UN for its efforts: “As climate change doesn’t stop at borders, it’s a global problem and the UN is playing _____ the fight to stop global warming,” he said.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. transport
2. invention
3. commute
4. alternative
5. practical

Discussions

1. What do you think the future of green transport is?
2. Do you think Ban Ki-moon's commute will raise awareness of alternative energies?
3. What do you know about the term "carbon neutral"?
4. What are the most serious climate change issues we need to address?
5. Do you think it would feel different riding in a solartaxi?
6. What other environmentally - friendly technologies do you know about?
7. What do you know about Kyoto Protocol? Has it worked?
8. What is the UN doing to fight global warming?
9. Has global warming affected your country and your life?
10. What is the most promising alternative energy?

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 8

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

Many people believe that when an organ transplant _____ the donor's personality travels with the organ. This is according to new research _____ organ donation. Professor Bruce Hood from the UK's Bristol University told a neuro-science conference that most people _____ receiving an organ from a killer. His test volunteers said they'd be very happy to receive an organ from a "good" person. Professor Hood said some of his patients _____ a part of the personality of their _____ organ donors. He said this even included _____ and experiences of the donor. Other research has found that one in three organ transplant patients believe they have _____ donor's personality.

Britons generally have a _____ to organ donation. However, Professor Hood says his findings show many people are superstitious about transplants. He said this is _____ most logical people have many kinds of superstitions. He described a British teenager who was given a heart transplant _____. She was afraid that she would be "different with someone else's heart". Professor Hood said: "Most people _____ the thought of receiving a transplant from a murderer." He added: "Essentially _____ somehow take on the characteristics of the donor." Scientists say there is no _____ travels with a donated organ.



Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. transplant
2. personality
3. organ
4. superstitious
5. donor

Discussions

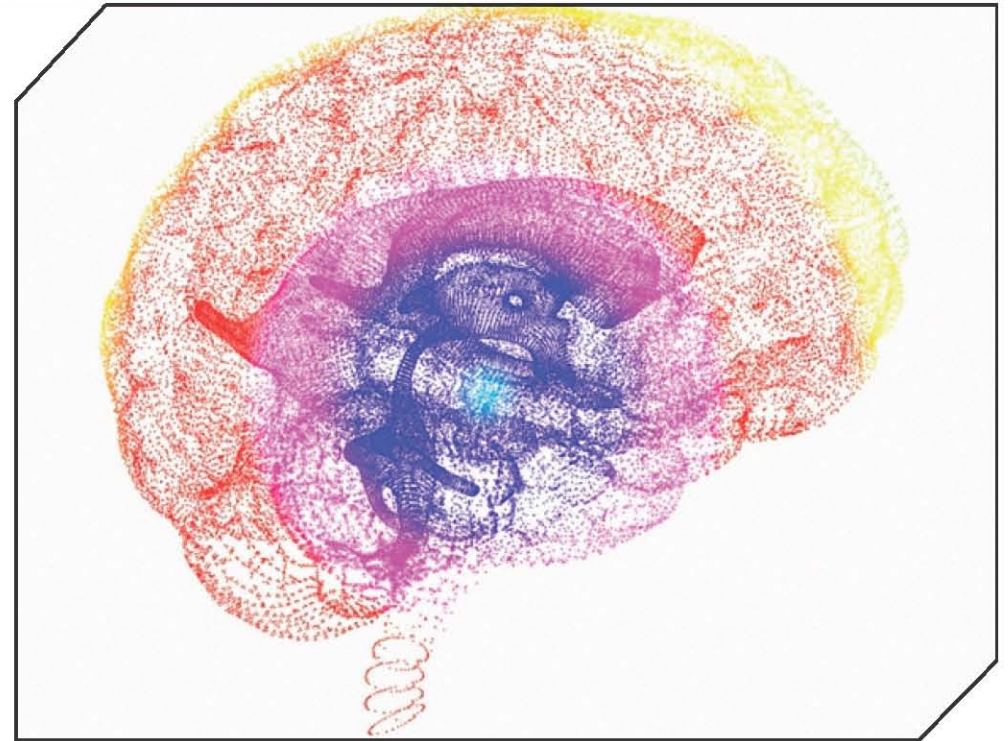
1. Do you think parts of a donor's personality is transplanted along with the organ?
2. Do you think organ donation is a good thing?
3. Do you think people should be able to choose the donor if they need a transplant?
4. Do you have any superstitions about transplants?
5. Would you be willing to donate your organs after you die?
6. What do you think of giving someone transplant against their will?
7. Would you like a personality transplant?
8. Would you accept a killers heart if you need a heart transplant?
9. Do you think its possible for memories of the dead donor if they need a transplant?
10. Would you have a transplanted animal organ if it saved your life?

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 9

 Listen and fill in the blanks.

A top British professor _____-edge ideas conference he is _____ a replica human brain. Professor Henry Markham told the annual Technology, Entertainment, Design global conference that a working synthetic brain _____ next decade. He told his audience: "It is not impossible to build a human brain and we can do it in 10 years." He set himself a challenge _____ he succeeded, he would "send a hologram to T.E.D. to talk." Professor Markham is director of the Blue Brain project, which _____ mammals brains from laboratory data. He has already had success with creating parts of a rat's brain. Markham said the human brain _____ was an "almost frightening organ".

Professor Markham hoped his research _____ treatments for mental illnesses. He said: "There are two billion people on the planet _____ disorder." Markham believes synthetic brain technology will reduce the need for experiments on animals. "We cannot _____ animal experiments forever," he said. This will please many animal rights activists,



who _____ is cruel. He hopes to create a kind of "Noah's Ark" of animal brain models. Professor Markham provided a simple explanation of his work: "_____ going and cataloguing a bit of the rainforest....But it is a bit more than cataloguing because you have to describe and discover _____ communication, the rules of connectivity."

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. replica
2. synthetic
3. decade
4. cruel
5. cataloging

Discussions

1. Are you concerned about research in artificial body parts?
2. What could scientist do with an artificial brain?
3. Do you think brain transplant is a good idea?
4. How do you think personality and intelligence can be created in an artificial brain?
5. Do you think artificial brain will perform as well as a real brain?
6. Would you have a treatment to make your brainier?
7. Do you think the professor's research will lead to cures and treatments for those suffering from mental disorder?
8. Do you think research on animals is cruel and needs to be stopped?
9. Do you think professor Markham is creating a kind of monster?
10. What did professor mean when he called the brain “ an almost frightening organ”?

TECHNOLOGY: NEWS ARTICLE 10

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

Scientists in the USA say they are _____ developing materials that could make people invisible. Researchers at the University of California have found _____ humans and objects using special materials _____ around things. The findings, led by professor Xiang Zhang, were published in the journals 'Nature' and 'Science'. Zhang works at the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centre at the university. His team developed _____ artificial "meta-materials" on a microscopic _____ measured in billionths _____. The researchers said the special "fishnet structure" of the nano-sized objects do not absorb or reflect light, which makes them seem invisible. They compared the light to "water _____ rock".

The new discovery _____ forward from earlier technology that only allowed _____ two-dimensional objects. In the future, scientists could make "invisibility clothing" to hide people _____. However, scientists are still a long way from designing and manufacturing invisibility cloaks. The U.S. military is _____ in developing this _____ technology to the



battlefield. The U.S. Army Research Office funded part of Dr. Zhang's research. The technology could also lead to more powerful microscopes that are able to _____ at living cells and even tinier objects. This means scientists could look at how _____ and how they grow.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. artificial
2. concealing
3. extremely
4. funded
5. cloak

Discussions

1. What do you think of Professor Zhang's research?
2. Do you think invisibility is something only from science fiction?
3. What do you think of the idea of a two-hour invisibility pill?
4. What would you do if you could be invisible?
5. What uses could an invisibility cloak have?
6. How much would you pay for an invisibility cloak?
7. What kind of large objects might people want to hide?
8. Do you think this new discovery will help fight diseases?
9. Do you think other countries will worry about America's invisibility technology?
10. What other huge steps forward have you read about recently?