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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## News Review

### Ancient stellar collision makes waves

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#### **BBC World Service report**

Broadcast 16 October 2017

#### **The story**

The collision of two dead stars has been watched for the first time by an international team of researchers. The event gave off gravitational waves, ripples in space and time that were first predicted by Albert Einstein.

The collision happened 130 million years ago when dinosaurs roamed the earth, but its light and waves have only now reached us. One researcher described it as the first full picture of one of the most violent, cataclysmic events in the universe.

#### **Vocabulary**

##### **sparking**

causing to begin

##### **ripple**

small wave(s) of something

##### **comb through**

examine thoroughly

#### **Language challenge**

Two stars hitting each other has been described as 'cataclysmic', but what does that mean?

- a) extremely destructive
- b) extremely beneficial
- c) extremely catty

**Answer**

- a) extremely destructive