



Texts by TALITHA LINEHAN



air

➤ senden, ausstrahlen

castaway

➤ Schiffbrüchige(r)

context

➤ Zusammenhang

descendant [di'sendənt]

➤ Nachkomme

desert island ['dezət]

➤ einsame Insel

formula

➤ Formel; hier: Konzept

Native American

➤ Ureinwohner Nordamerikas (Indianer, Inuit, Eskimos)

panel

➤ Gremium

remains

➤ hier: sterbliche Überreste

ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT EXACTLY IS... *DESERT ISLAND DISCS*?

MEDIUM AUDIO

It's basically so human." That's how Cathy Drysdale described *Desert Island Discs* to *The Guardian* while discussing the BBC Radio 4 show she worked on as series producer for eight years.

First aired on 29 January 1942, the show features a special guest in each episode, known as a "castaway", who must choose eight recordings – normally music – a book and a luxury item they would take to a desert island. Castaways have included Peter Ustinov, Yoko Ono, Ricky Gervais, Margaret Atwood, Yehudi Menuhin, Zadie Smith, Ed Sheeran, Desmond Tutu and Boris Johnson.

"They have to really think about music in the context of their life," said Drysdale, explaining that the show's formula is the key to its success. "It accesses parts of their story and what's important to them that other interview formats and programmes just don't."

In 2019, *Desert Island Discs* was named the greatest radio show of all time by a panel of experts in Britain. This year marks its 80th anniversary. You can listen to more than 2,300 episodes here: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qnmr



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SCIENCE

DNA FROM SITTING BULL

ADVANCED



Author Ernie LaPointe, 73, grew up telling people he was the great-grandson of famous Native American chief Sitting Bull, but not everyone believed him. Now, DNA experts from the University of Cambridge have used a new form of sequencing to confirm his claim. By testing the ancestor's

remains, the new method can confirm whether someone is a descendant of a person who has been dead for a long time. The experts confirmed LaPointe's identity by comparing his DNA with DNA from a sample of hair removed from Sitting Bull's body when he died in 1890.



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