

WOOLLY MAMMOTHS TO RETURN

Sep 25, 2021

WARM-UP QUESTIONS • *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. What's your favorite animal? What do you like about it?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it's about?

VOCABULARY • *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Trait | a) not existing now |
| 2. Extinct | b) making something no longer extinct |
| 3. Tusk | c) planned, wanted |
| 4. De-extinction | d) a quality or characteristic |
| 5. Intended | e) increase the numbers of something in a place after they have dropped |
| 6. Repopulate | f) a large, flat area with frozen ground and no trees |
| 7. Tundra | g) effect |
| 8. Emission | h) something that comes out of something else |
| 9. Impact | i) one of two long, curved teeth that stick out of the mouths of some animals |

LISTEN • *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words.*

We could soon see woolly mammoths - or at least _____ that are very like them - walking the earth once again. An American company called *Colossal* plans to use _____ engineering to add woolly mammoth traits to Asian elephants. They _____ the resulting hybrid will look and sound like a woolly mammoth. They also say it will be able to live in the same environment under the same conditions that mammoths once did.

Woolly mammoths coexisted with early _____, and they mostly went extinct about 10 000 years ago, with a few _____ until 4000 years ago. They were similar in size to today's African elephants, although they had _____ tusks and a coat of hair.

Colossal claims the de-extinction of the woolly mammoth could help us fight climate change. The _____ home for the mammoths is Pleistocene Park in Siberia, Russia. At Pleistocene Park, scientists are trying to repopulate the area with large animals that, through their natural _____, will change the tundra to grassland. If achieved, this will lead to less emission of greenhouse gases.

However, some _____ think there are better ways to help the environment. For one thing, it will take a long time to raise enough mammoths to have any significant environmental impact. Others compare the _____ to Jurassic Park to point out that genetic engineering can have unexpected results.

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Woolly mammoths coexisted with early humans, and they mostly went extinct about 10 000 years ago, with a few lasting until 4000 years ago. They were similar in size to today's African elephants, although they had long tusks and a coat of hair.

Colossal claims the de-extinction of the woolly mammoth could help us fight climate change. The intended home for the mammoths is Pleistocene Park in Siberia, Russia. At Pleistocene Park, scientists are trying to repopulate the area with large animals that, through their natural activities, will change the tundra to grassland. If achieved, this will lead to less emission of greenhouse gases.

However, some critics think there are better ways to help the environment. For one thing, it will take a long time to raise enough mammoths to have any significant environmental impact. Others compare the project to Jurassic Park to point out that genetic engineering can have unexpected results.

Sources: colossal.com, wikipedia.org, theguardian.com, washingtonpost.com
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION • *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F) and then discuss the answers with your partner(s).*

1. An American company plans to bring back woolly mammoths. (T / F)
2. Mammoths and humans never existed at the same time. (T / F)
3. Woolly mammoths had long horns. (T / F)
4. The woolly mammoths will live in Canada. (T / F)
5. The company hopes bringing back mammoths can increase greenhouse gas emissions. (T / F)

WORD FORMS • *Fill in the different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is uncommon, has a different meaning, or doesn't exist.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
x	Extinct	x	
	Intended		
Repopulate		x	

x	x	x	Emission
		x	Impact

COMPLETE • Complete the following sentences. You may need to add letters, prepositions, articles, and change verbs.

1. genetic engineering / company / american / bring back / use / woolly mammoth

2. siberia / mammoth / live

DISCUSSION • Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.

1. How much do you want to see a Woolly Mammoth?
2. How do you feel about genetic engineering in general?
3. Do you eat genetically modified foods? Why or why not?
4. Bringing back extinct animals - good idea or bad idea?
5. Is animal extinction something we should try to prevent? Or is it a natural process?
6. Do you think bringing back Woolly Mammoths could help the environment?
7. What are some easier ways we could positively affect the environment?
8. Can you imagine living in the past alongside Woolly Mammoths? How would you have felt about them at that time?
9. If you could receive some new traits, what traits would you like to have?
10. If you could visit a place like Jurassic Park, would you?

Vocabulary answers: 1-d, 2-a, 3-i, 4-b, 5-c, 6-e, 7-f, 8-h, 9-g.

Comprehension answers: 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-F, 5-F.

Word Forms answers: extinction, intend, intentionally, intention, repopulated, repopulation, emit, emitted, impact, impacted

Complete answers: 1. An American company is using genetic engineering to bring back woolly mammoths. 2. The mammoths will live in Siberia.