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Scientists say cloned mammoth possible

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111205-cloned_mammoth.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

5th December, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111205-cloned_mammoth.html

Scientists think it might be possible to bring a woolly mammoth back to life. Experts from Russian and Japanese universities say they could create a mammoth clone within the next five years. They have well-preserved tissue in a thigh bone found frozen in the ground in Siberia. Many mammoth bones have been uncovered before. Scientists say this bone is special because it has genes that are undamaged. The DNA comes from a mammoth that could have lived around 23,000 years ago.

The scientists say cloning the mammoth is not so difficult. They put the DNA from the mammoth bones inside the egg cells of an elephant. The egg is then placed inside a female elephant until the mammoth is born. The Russian and Japanese teams are very excited about the chance to bring the species back to life. However, other people say it is a bad idea. Many comments on the Internet say it is dangerous to recreate these prehistoric animals. They also say that scientists should not be playing God.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111205-cloned_mammoth.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Scientists think it might | a. back to life |
| 2. bring a woolly mammoth | b. bone |
| 3. within the next | c. years ago |
| 4. well- | d. five years |
| 5. thigh | e. be possible |
| 6. lived around 23,000 | f. preserved |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. not so | a. an elephant |
| 2. the egg cells of | b. playing God |
| 3. The egg is then placed | c. animals |
| 4. very excited | d. difficult |
| 5. prehistoric | e. inside |
| 6. scientists should not be | f. about the chance |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111205-cloned_mammoth.html

Scientists think it _____ to bring a woolly mammoth back to life. Experts from Russian and Japanese universities say _____ a mammoth clone within the next five years. They have well-preserved _____ bone found frozen in the ground in Siberia. Many mammoth bones have _____. Scientists say this bone is special because _____ are undamaged. The _____ mammoth that could have lived around 23,000 years ago.

The _____ the mammoth is not so difficult. They put the DNA from the mammoth bones _____ of an elephant. The egg is _____ a female elephant until the mammoth is born. The Russian and Japanese teams are very excited about the _____ the species back to life. However, other people say it is a bad idea. Many comments on the Internet say it is _____ these prehistoric animals. They also say that scientists should not _____.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111205-cloned_mammoth.html

Scientists think it might be possible to bring a woolly mammoth back to (1) _____. Experts from Russian and Japanese universities say they could create a mammoth clone (2) _____ the next five years. They have well-preserved (3) _____ in a thigh bone found frozen in the ground in Siberia. Many mammoth bones have been uncovered (4) _____. Scientists say this bone is special because it has genes that are (5) _____. The DNA comes from a mammoth that could have lived around 23,000 years (6) _____.

The scientists say (7) _____ the mammoth is not so difficult. They put the DNA from the mammoth bones inside the egg (8) _____ of an elephant. The egg is then (9) _____ inside a female elephant until the mammoth is born. The Russian and Japanese teams are very excited (10) _____ the chance to bring the species back to life. However, other people say it is a bad idea. Many comments (11) _____ the Internet say it is dangerous to recreate these prehistoric animals. They also say that scientists should not be (12) _____ God.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) living | (b) life | (c) lives |
| 2. | (a) within | (b) with | (c) without |
| 3. | (a) Kleenex | (b) issues | (c) tissue |
| 4. | (a) before | (b) ago | (c) past |
| 5. | (a) damaged | (b) undamaged | (c) damaging |
| 6. | (a) past | (b) before | (c) ago |
| 7. | (a) cloning | (b) clones | (c) cloned |
| 8. | (a) cells | (b) wells | (c) bells |
| 9. | (a) pleased | (b) played | (c) placed |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) about | (c) around |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) at |
| 12. | (a) praying | (b) pleasing | (c) playing |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111205-cloned_mammoth.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. it might be ospsbiel
2. eptxser from Russian and Japanese universities
3. cteera a mammoth clone
4. nhiwit the next five years
5. eorzfn in the ground
6. genes that are edndmauag

Paragraph 2

7. not so fitiludcf
8. diesni the egg cells
9. a lfmeea elephant
10. bring the seiecsp back to life
11. octensmm on the Internet
12. scientists should not be gplaiyn God

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111205-cloned_mammoth.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Scientists think it might be possible to bring a woolly mammoth back to life. Experts from
- (**1**) Russian and Japanese universities say they could create a mammoth clone within the
- () next five years. They have well-preserved tissue in a thigh bone found frozen in the ground
- () in Siberia. Many mammoth bones have been uncovered before. Scientists say
- () this bone is special because it has genes that are undamaged. The DNA
- () comes from a mammoth that could have lived around 23,000 years ago.
- () The scientists say cloning the mammoth is not so difficult. They put the DNA from
- () the mammoth bones inside the egg cells of an elephant. The egg is then placed
- () inside a female elephant until the mammoth is born. The Russian and Japanese teams are very
- () excited about the chance to bring the species back to life. However, other people say it is a bad
- () idea. Many comments on the Internet say it is dangerous to recreate these prehistoric
- () animals. They also say that scientists should not be playing God.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. be think might possible Scientists it.

2. a Bring life to back mammoth woolly.

3. a within five Create clone next mammoth the years.

4. A in thigh the bone ground found frozen.

5. mammoth The comes a DNA from.

6. not is mammoth the Cloning difficult so.

7. inside egg a is female then placed The.

8. bad say idea it is Other a people.

9. recreate It these is prehistoric dangerous animals to.

10. not playing should be God Scientists.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1112/111205-cloned_mammoth.html

Write about cloning for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. CLONING: Search the Internet and find more information about cloning. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the cloning of the mammoth. Include an imaginary interview with the scientists. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a cloning expert. Ask him/her three questions about cloning. Give him/her three of your opinions on the mammoth. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.