

The Dodo Bird (A2)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about the dodo? (*What was it like? Where/When did it live? etc.*)
2. Can you name any other extinct animals?
3. Do you know when and why they became extinct?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The dodo was an aggressive bird.
2. It was the same size as a turkey.
3. It became extinct in the 17th century.
4. Colossal Biosciences is a British company which wants to try to bring the dodo back.
5. At present, it is trying to sequence the dodo's DNA.
6. The article mentions some ethical questions regarding these experiments.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What couldn't the dodo do? Why?
2. What did it look like?
3. Why did it become extinct?
4. Why do scientists think they could use the Nicobar pigeon to produce dodo eggs?
5. Why would it probably be more difficult to revive a bird than a mammal?
6. What problems might dodos have in today's world if they were brought back?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. Once there were lots of blue whales in the Earth's oceans. Now they are an _____ species.
2. The boy _____ badly at the dinner table, so his mother made him go upstairs to his room.
3. Last spring there was a _____ in that tree with four tiny eggs in it.
4. The two drivers involved in the car accident gave different _____ of what had happened.
5. Anna promised to phone us from the USA, but we haven't heard from her _____.
6. Don't go near that parrot! It has a very sharp _____ and it often tries to bite visitors.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4)

Choose the best word for each space.

Colossal Biosciences is a biotechnology and genetic engineering company which aims, ¹ _____ (*among/between/above*) other things, to resurrect the woolly mammoth. It expects the first hybrid mammoths ² _____ (*being/to be/will*) born by 2027.

The last woolly mammoths lived in the Arctic around 10,000 years ago, during the Ice Age. Hunting ³ _____ (*of/by/from*) humans helped to make them extinct. Colossal Biosciences intends to revive them using the Asian Elephant, their closest living ⁴ _____ (*parent/family/relative*), and return them to the Arctic to fight climate change.

When the mammoth and other arctic animals disappeared, the area became covered in forests, which ⁵ _____ (*bring/hold/keep*) the earth warmer. If mammoths returned, they

⁶ _____ (*would/will/can*) destroy the trees and bushes and expose the earth to the extreme cold of the Arctic and therefore help to stop the melting of the arctic ice.

F – Check your pronunciation

Underline the stressed syllable in each of these words.

temperament perform kilograms predators behave
scientists scientific environment docile ancestor

G – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Are there any endangered species living in your country? If so, what are they?
2. Some people say it's useless to try to preserve endangered species. Do you agree?
3. Do you think it's right to bring back species that have been extinct for a long time? Why (not)?
4. Are there any extinct species that you would like to see brought back to life? Which ones?

Answers

B – Listen and answer

1. F – It had a friendly temperament. 2. F – It was bigger than a turkey. 3. T 4. F – It's a US company. 5. F – It has already managed to sequence the dodo's DNA. 6. T

C – Read and answer

1. It couldn't fly because it had lost the ability through evolution. In fact its wings were tiny. 2. It was plump and it had blue-grey plumage and a long hooked beak. 3. Because the Dutch sailors who arrived in the 16th century hunted it and the animals they brought with them destroyed its nests and ate the eggs. 4. Because it's the closest living relative of the dodo. 5. Because less genomic research has been performed on birds than on mammals. 6. It's not known where they would live or how they could adapt to today's environment. It's also not known who could teach them to live and behave like their ancestors.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. endangered 2. behaved 3. nest 4. accounts 5. so far 6. beak

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. among 2. to be 3. by 4. relative 5. keep 6. would

F – Check your pronunciation

temperament perform kilograms predators behave
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