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Vocabulary: Genetics 遗传学, 基因学

A team of international scientists has published the complete **genome** of the **woolly mammoth** – a creature which became **extinct** thousands of years ago.

The study, published in the Journal Current Biology, will probably cheer up a team of Harvard University researchers who've been planning to add mammoth **genes** to the **stem cells** of elephants. Their aim is to find out how the mammoth's **adaptations** helped them survive the ice ages.



Will this be a future sight in North America?

The Long Now Foundation, based in San Francisco, is financing the Harvard team and has **daring** plans for the future if the species is **resurrected**. It says on its website that its goal is "to produce new mammoths that are capable of repopulating the vast **tracts** of tundra and boreal forest in **Eurasia** and North America."

They say: "The goal is not to make perfect copies of extinct woolly mammoths, but to focus on the mammoth adaptations needed for Asian elephants to live in the cold climate of the tundra."

But how close are we from a Jurassic-Park-like scenario in which extinct animals are brought back to life? Very far, according to some experts. Professor Beth Shapiro, of the University of California, Santa Cruz, wrote a book called How to **Clone** a Mammoth. She is sceptical and believes there is an enormous difference between an **embryo** in a **lab dish** and a living animal with some of the characteristics of a mammoth. And we can't even be sure if the elephant's **surrogate** pregnancy would be successful.

Woolly mammoths died out some 4,000 years ago. It might take a long time before the fantasy of the Steven Spielberg movies is turned into reality. And that's fine for those of us who can remember that the resurrected dinosaurs on the screen gave the humans a pretty hard time. If mammoths come back, maybe it would be a good idea to start running...

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. In what way do the Harvard University team plan to revive the mammoth?
2. Which organisation wants to see mammoths back in the wild?
3. True or false? *It's easy to clone a mammoth because elephants are their 'relatives'.*
4. Which movie by US director Steven Spielberg shows resurrected dinosaurs?
5. Which noun in the article means something which is not real?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Twins develop from two different _____.

embryos	genes	pregnancies	clones
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2. Getting men to walk on the Moon was a very _____ feat.

fantasy	daring	sceptical	pretty
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3. The farmers are fighting for a huge _____ of land west of the river Nile. The case will end up in the high court!

tundra	forest	tract	ice age
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4. My neighbour agreed to act as a _____ mother for her aunt and uncle.

pregnancy	relative	stem cell	surrogate
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5. I've missed so many classes I'm having a _____ time preparing for tomorrow's exam.

pretty	cheer up	hard	daring
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. In what way do the Harvard University team plan to revive the mammoth? **They plan to add mammoth genes to the stem cells of elephants.**
2. Which organisation wants to see mammoths back in the wild? **The Long Now Foundation, which is based in San Francisco.**
3. True or false? *It's easy to clone a mammoth because elephants are their 'relatives'.* **False. Professor Beth Shapiro says we can't be sure the elephant's pregnancy would be successful.**
4. Which movie by US director Steven Spielberg shows resurrected dinosaurs? **Jurassic Park.**
5. Which noun in the article means something which is not real? **Fantasy.**

Exercise 练习

1. Twins develop from two different **embryos**.
2. Getting men to walk on the Moon was a very **daring** feat.
3. The farmers are fighting for a huge **tract** of land west of the river Nile. The case will end up in the high court!
4. My neighbour agreed to act as a **surrogate** mother for her aunt and uncle.
5. I've missed so many classes so I'm having a **hard** time preparing for tomorrow's exam.

Glossary 词汇表

genome	染色体组, 基因组
woolly mammoth	长毛象
extinct	灭绝的, 绝种的
gene	基因
stem cell	干细胞
adaptation	为适应环境而做出的改变
daring	大胆创新的
to resurrect	使复活, 使重新出现
tract	大片土地
Eurasia	欧亚大陆
to clone	克隆
embryo	胎儿
lab dish	实验室用的细菌培养皿
surrogate	代孕