

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

NEW LIFE FOR WILDLIFE?

- I In the 1993 film *Jurassic Park*, scientists recreated dinosaurs from their DNA, or genetic material. Now, this fictitious idea is becoming a reality. Using DNA from frozen bones that were found in Siberia, researchers are identifying the components of the genome of the woolly mammoth. This long-haired elephant ancestor died out 11,000 years ago, but when the genome research is complete, it could, at least theoretically, be cloned (genetically replicated).
- II This is an extreme example of what ecologists call “rewilding”. The main goal of rewilding is to repair damaged ecosystems by returning living species to regions they used to inhabit. But some scientists want to go further, and recreate extinct species. Although most agree that there’s little chance of recreating an ancient creature like the mammoth, some feel differently about more recently extinct animals. For example, researchers are trying to clone the Tasmanian tiger, which has been extinct since 1986.
- III But the main purpose of rewilding is “repopulation”, or returning animals to regions they once inhabited, in order to help the environment. This is being done in Europe with beavers, dam-building animals that disappeared from the continent long ago but survived in North and South America. Their dams reduce flooding and create ponds where water organisms flourish. These benefit the fish, birds and plant life.
- IV Another idea which was recently proposed, is to reintroduce cheetahs in North America, where they lived until 13,000 years ago, so that they would control the increasing population of deer. In some places, deer suffer from lack of food and space to roam; in others, they eat so much of the vegetation that other creatures’ habitats are threatened. Repopulating the continent with cheetahs could both improve the ecological balance and protect this endangered animal from extinction.
- V This new science is in its infancy, but if rewilding is carefully implemented, the natural world can only benefit.

1 Choose the correct answer.

- The woolly mammoth
 - is a fictitious animal.
 - disappeared 11,000 years ago.
 - is an elephant clone.
- The most important part of “rewilding” is
 - cloning extinct animals.
 - creating new animals.
 - returning animals to places they used to live.
- Beavers
 - never inhabited Europe.
 - are being reintroduced in Europe.
 - disappeared from South America centuries ago.

2 Are the following statements T (true) or F (false)? Find evidence in the text to support your answers.

- 1. Some scientists think that there’s a greater possibility of recreating recently extinct animals.
.....
- 2. Beavers affect only fish.
.....
- 3. Reintroducing cheetahs will increase the deer population.
.....

3 Complete the sentences using the information given in the text. Use your own words as far as possible.

- In *Jurassic Park*, dinosaurs.....
.....
- The Tasmanian tiger has not
.....
- By eating so much vegetation, deer.....
.....

4 Find words or phrases in the text that mean:

- small bodies of water
(paragraph III)
- individual life forms
(paragraph III)
- move around with no destination
(paragraph IV)
- plant life (paragraph IV)

5 Write a composition of about 100-120 words. Choose one option.

- In your opinion, would it be a good idea to bring ancient creatures back to life through cloning?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of cloning animals?