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Level 4 – 14th July 2025

De-extinction company plans to recreate giant moa bird

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/250714-moa-de-extinction-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/250714-moa-de-extinction-4.html>

Dinosaurs could soon be back. Genetic engineering company Colossal claims it is close to bringing back extinct species. The company has plans to resurrect the moa – a 3.6-metre-tall, flightless bird that once lived in New Zealand. However, it was hunted to extinction 600 years ago. Colossal said: "We're bringing back avian dinosaurs." It will mix DNA from a dead moa with the genome of an emu to recreate the extinct bird.

Colossal's "de-extinction" projects are controversial among the scientific community. Colossal defines de-extinction as: "Generating an organism that both resembles and is genetically similar to an extinct species." It says de-extinction will let scientists protect endangered animals. Species will "thrive" amid climate change. However, critics say extinct animals cannot be replicated. Scientists worry about the impact of putting "hybrid" species into the wild.

Sources: <https://www.livescience.com/animals/extinct-species/were-bringing-back-avian-dinosaurs-de-extinction-company-claims-it-will-resurrect-the-giant-moa-in-next-10-years>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/07/09/science/giant-moa-colossal-biosciences>
<https://colossal.com/de-extinction/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/250714-moa-de-extinction-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Dinosaurs could soon | a. an emu |
| 2. genetic | b. extinction |
| 3. The company has plans to | c. bird |
| 4. a 3.6-metre-tall, | d. resurrect the moa |
| 5. it was hunted to | e. engineering |
| 6. It will mix DNA | f. flightless bird |
| 7. the genome of | g. be back |
| 8. recreate the extinct | h. from a dead moa |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Colossal's "de-extinction" projects | a. be replicated |
| 2. among the scientific | b. into the wild |
| 3. is genetically | c. endangered animals |
| 4. let scientists protect | d. about the impact |
| 5. Species will "thrive" amid | e. are controversial |
| 6. critics say extinct animals cannot | f. similar |
| 7. scientists worry | g. community |
| 8. putting "hybrid" species | h. climate change |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/250714-moa-de-extinction-4.html>

Dinosaurs could (1) _____. Genetic engineering company Colossal claims it is (2) _____ back extinct species. The company has (3) _____ the moa – a 3.6-metre-tall, flightless bird that once lived in New Zealand. However, it was (4) _____ 600 years ago. Colossal said: "We're bringing back avian dinosaurs." It (5) _____ from a dead moa with the genome of an emu to (6) _____ bird.

Colossal's "de-extinction" (7) _____ among the scientific community. Colossal (8) _____: "Generating an organism that both resembles and is (9) _____ an extinct species." It says de-extinction will let (10) _____ animals. Species will (11) _____ change. However, critics say extinct animals cannot be replicated. Scientists worry about the impact of putting (12) _____ the wild.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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EXTINCTION SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/250714-moa-de-extinction-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about extinction in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/250714-moa-de-extinction-4.html>

Write about **extinction** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]