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## **Level 5 – 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-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/250714-moa-de-extinction-5.html>

It could only be a matter of time before dinosaurs are back among us. Genetic engineering company Colossal Biosciences claims it is on the cusp of bringing back extinct species. The company announced its plan to resurrect the moa – a 3.6-metre-tall, flightless bird. The giant moa once roamed around New Zealand. However, it was hunted to extinction 600 years ago. Colossal's chief scientist said: "We're bringing back avian dinosaurs." Her team will try to recreate the extinct bird by taking DNA from the bones of deceased moa. This DNA will be used to modify the genome of an emu.

Colossal has many "de-extinction" projects. These 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 engineer natural resistances in endangered animals. It will also mean species will "thrive" amid climate change, disappearing resources, disease and human interference. However, critics say extinct animals cannot be replicated. Many scientists worry about the unforeseen impact of inserting "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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. It could only be a matter    | a. moa            |
| 2. it is on the                 | b. from the bones |
| 3. bringing back extinct        | c. of an emu      |
| 4. its plan to resurrect the    | d. 600 years ago  |
| 5. a 3.6-metre-tall, flightless | e. species        |
| 6. it was hunted to extinction  | f. of time        |
| 7. taking DNA                   | g. bird           |
| 8. modify the genome            | h. cusp           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Colossal has many "de-extinction"  | a. interference       |
| 2. among the scientific               | b. into the wild      |
| 3. genetically similar to             | c. unforeseen impact  |
| 4. species will "thrive" amid         | d. community          |
| 5. human                              | e. climate change     |
| 6. critics say extinct animals cannot | f. projects           |
| 7. scientists worry about the         | g. an extinct species |
| 8. inserting "hybrid" species         | h. be replicated      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/250714-moa-de-extinction-5.html>

It could only be a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ before dinosaurs are back among us. Genetic engineering company Colossal Biosciences claims it is on (2) \_\_\_\_\_ bringing back extinct species. The company announced its (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the moa – a 3.6-metre-tall, flightless bird. The giant moa (4) \_\_\_\_\_ New Zealand. However, it was hunted to extinction 600 years ago. Colossal's chief scientist said: "We're bringing back avian dinosaurs." Her team will try to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ bird by taking DNA from the bones of deceased moa. This DNA will be used to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of an emu.

Colossal has many "de-extinction" projects. These are controversial among (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Colossal defines de-extinction as: "Generating (8) \_\_\_\_\_ both resembles and is genetically similar to an extinct species." It says de-extinction will let scientists (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in endangered animals. It will also mean (10) \_\_\_\_\_ amid climate change, disappearing resources, disease and human interference. However, critics say extinct animals (11) \_\_\_\_\_. Many scientists worry about the unforeseen impact of inserting "hybrid" species (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2407/250714-moa-de-extinction-5.html>

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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-5.html>

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

[illegible]