IELTS READING

Complete the sentences below. Write **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

Bringing the mammoth back to life

Mammoths once lived in large numbers across Asia, Africa, North America and Europe. However, over time, their numbers fell until the mammoth became extinct. Scientists think this happened for two reasons. Firstly, the mammoths' natural habitat decreased in size because of climate change. Secondly, many mammoths were killed by people who hunted them. The last population of mammoths lived on Wrangel Island, off north-east Siberia in the Chukchi Sea. These were woolly mammoths that could survive in very cold conditions, but they also died out around 4,000 years ago.

Prehistoric cave paintings show us that people ate the woolly mammoths they killed, but also used their bones and tusks. They used these to make simple animal and human figures, an early kind of art, and also to create some basic tools. We also know a lot about the woolly mammoth because the freezing conditions in Alaska and Siberia have preserved them. Researchers have studied their skeletons, their teeth and even the grass and plants that were still inside their stomachs. We know that their fur was an orange-brown colour, they had a thick layer of fat, and they had long, curved tusks. Their ears were short compared to an African or Asian elephant's we might see today, so they would not lose so much heat or get frostbite.

In recent years, some researchers have suggested that we could bring woolly mammoths back to life. Interestingly, not all scientists believe that bringing the mammoth back to life would be a good thing. They think it would be unfair to create a 'new' mammoth and then keep it in a small space. They think the right thing to do would be to give it a certain amount of freedom, perhaps in a wildlife park. But where would this be? And the mammoth would also be alone, and like elephants, mammoths were probably social in the way they behaved. This does seem to be a strong reason against bringing the mammoth back to life. Perhaps the 'new' mammoth might also develop an 'old' disease – and this might have an effect on the ecosystem that scientists cannot predict. Although the idea of bringing the mammoth back seems like an exciting one at first, there are many issues that we need to consider

1. The number of mammoths started to fall when their _____ got smaller.
2. Humans used mammoths for food, and to make art and _____ .
3. Scientists have examined the contents of mammoths' _____ .
4. Mammoths had smaller _____ than modern elephants.
5. Some scientists think that a 'new' mammoth should have some _____ .
6. Both elephants and mammoths are _____ animals.
7. There is a possibility that a 'new' mammoth could get a _____ .

LIVEWORKSHEETS