**Exercise 1.** Match the words with the definitions.

| a population | a skeleton | an ecosystem | to become extinct | to decrease |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| to hunt | to preserve | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. This happens when a type of bird, animal or plant doesn't exist any more: | |
| 2. to become smaller in size or number: | |
| 3. to follow and kill an animal for food or for sport: | |
| 4. to put something (e.g. food) in ice, salt, sugar or chemicals, so it can stay in good condition: | |
| 5. all the people or animals that live in one place or area: | |
| 6. all the living things in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment: | |
| 7. the frame of bones supporting a human or animal body: | |

**Exercise 2.** Complete the sentences about the natural world. Use the words in the box.

| Decrease | ecosystem | extinct | hunt | population | preserve | skeleton |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

1. Pollution harms all the plants, fish and animals in the _____ .
2. The tutor showed the _____ to the medical students and asked which small bones were missing.
3. We expect the number of people living in the countryside will _____ as families move to the cities.
4. There are so few polar bears left that it is possible they will soon become _____ .
5. The _____ of my city has risen to 8 million people.
6. Lions often _____ other animals at night.
7. Nowadays, most people use fridges to _____ their food.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**Exercise 3** 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 _____ .

**Exercise 4: True / False / Not Given**

**1.** Mammoths lived in Africa, Europe, and South America.
**2.** One reason mammoths became extinct was climate change.
**3.** People used mammoth tusks to make early tools and art.
**4.** Mammoths had longer ears than modern elephants.
**5.** Mammoths' bodies have been preserved in very dry desert conditions.
**6.** All scientists support the idea of bringing the mammoth back to life.
**7.** Some scientists are worried the mammoth might not have enough space to live.
**8.** Researchers are planning to release mammoths into African wildlife parks
**9.** Mammoths may have lived in groups, like modern elephants.
**10.** Scientists are sure that bringing back the mammoth will not affect the ecosystem.

**Exercise 5: Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage** for each answer.

Mammoths used to live in many parts of the world, but they eventually became 1 _____. Climate change reduced their 2 _____, and humans also hunted them. The last group of woolly mammoths lived on Wrangel Island, where they survived cold weather but disappeared around 4,000 years ago.

Evidence from 3 _____ shows that people not only ate mammoths but also used parts of their bodies to make art and tools. Many mammoth remains were found in cold places like 4 _____, which helped preserve them well. Scientists have even found 5 _____ in their stomachs.

Some scientists believe we could bring mammoths back, but others are worried. One concern is that a mammoth kept in a small space would not have enough 6 _____. Another problem is that it would be 7 _____ and might suffer, because mammoths were probably social animals. Scientists are also afraid that the mammoth could bring back 8 _____ that might affect nature in unpredictable ways.

LIVEWORKSHEETS