Spotlight 9

Reading

Task 9325

1. Read the text and choose from the sentences 1-8 the one which fits each gap A-G. There is one extra sentence.

Back to Life

When the last Pyrenean ibex died, killed by a falling tree, the species officially became extinct. But scientists had already taken and carefully preserved DNA samples from this wild mountain goat. Using these samples and a domestic goat's ovary eggs, they were able to bring the Pyrenean ibex back to life. Even though the clone lived for only seven minutes, some scientists claim that advanced techniques could now be used to clone dinosaurs and unleash a real-life 'Jurassic Park' on the world!

Could a T-rex really walk the Earth again? Well, dinosaurs were roaming the Earth over 65 million years ago and dinosaur DNA doesn't last that long, even in teeth or bones. **A**_____ Jack Homer, a world-famous palaeontologist at Montana State University, however, disagrees. "Of course, we can bring them back to life," he says. "The science is there." In fact, in 2003, Jack and his team made a breakthrough that amazed scientists. While excavating the skeleton of a Tyrannosaitrus rex at a remote site in Montana, its thigh bone broke in two as they were lifting it by helicopter. Back at the university, one of Jack's students was running tests on the bone when she suddenly found organic material. **B**_____ it was an astonishing finding that suggests that DNA might last a lot longer than originally believed after all. So, does this mean that we will be sharing Earth with cloned T-rexes in the future? Jack believes it's possible, but a complete genetic map of a dinosaur would have to be worked out first and that might take decades, **C**_____. Most scientists believe that birds are distant relatives of certain types of dinosaurs and have some dormant DNA from their ancestors. So perhaps the answer lies with birds?

Jack is not the only one following this line of research. At McGill University in Canada, Hans Larsson has conducted experiments into reactivating dinosaur DNA in birds. He had been investigating the evolution of dinosaurs' long tails into birds' short tails more than 150 million years ago. Larsson noticed that as an embryo a chicken's tail has 16 small bones, but only five when it hatched out of the egg. **D**_____ Larsson found that by changing the genetic make-up of a chicken he could enlarge its tad by three more bones. **E**_____ Larsson is convinced that this "reverse evolution[1]' means that we could see a type of dinosaur within the next hundred years! **F**_____. The Tokyo researchers believe that they can bring the woolly mammoth back from the dead very soon. This distant ancestor of an elephant died out 8,000 years ago, so the chances of finding usable DNA are much higher. They intend to go on an expedition to frozen Siberia where they are optimistic that they will find the necessary organic material. Scientists like Jack Homer are fascinated by the idea of unlocking the mysteries of a lost prehistoric world! He imagines himself teaching students on stage accompanied by what he calls a dino-chicken on a lead! **G**_____ Jack says, "There is now nothing to stop us bringing back dinosaurs but ourselves." He continues, though, "Whether it is a good idea or not is another question,"

1. Ignoring what the others said, he carried on with his research.
2. He thinks that would be the most satisfying lecture he could ever give.
3. For this reason, he is also looking at other ways to revive dinosaurs.
4. It seemed that the embryo of a modern-day bird could contain the blueprint for a dinosaur.
5. It is generally accepted that it can survive 100,000 years at the most.
6. This may not seem so impressive, but a series of alterations could result in a completely new kind of dinosaur.
7. After it was placed under a microscope and magnified 4,000 times, she realised she was looking at dinosaur blood vessels ... 68 million years old!
8. That seems a long time to wait, but some Japanese scientists are more ambitious.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G

LIVEWORKSHEETS