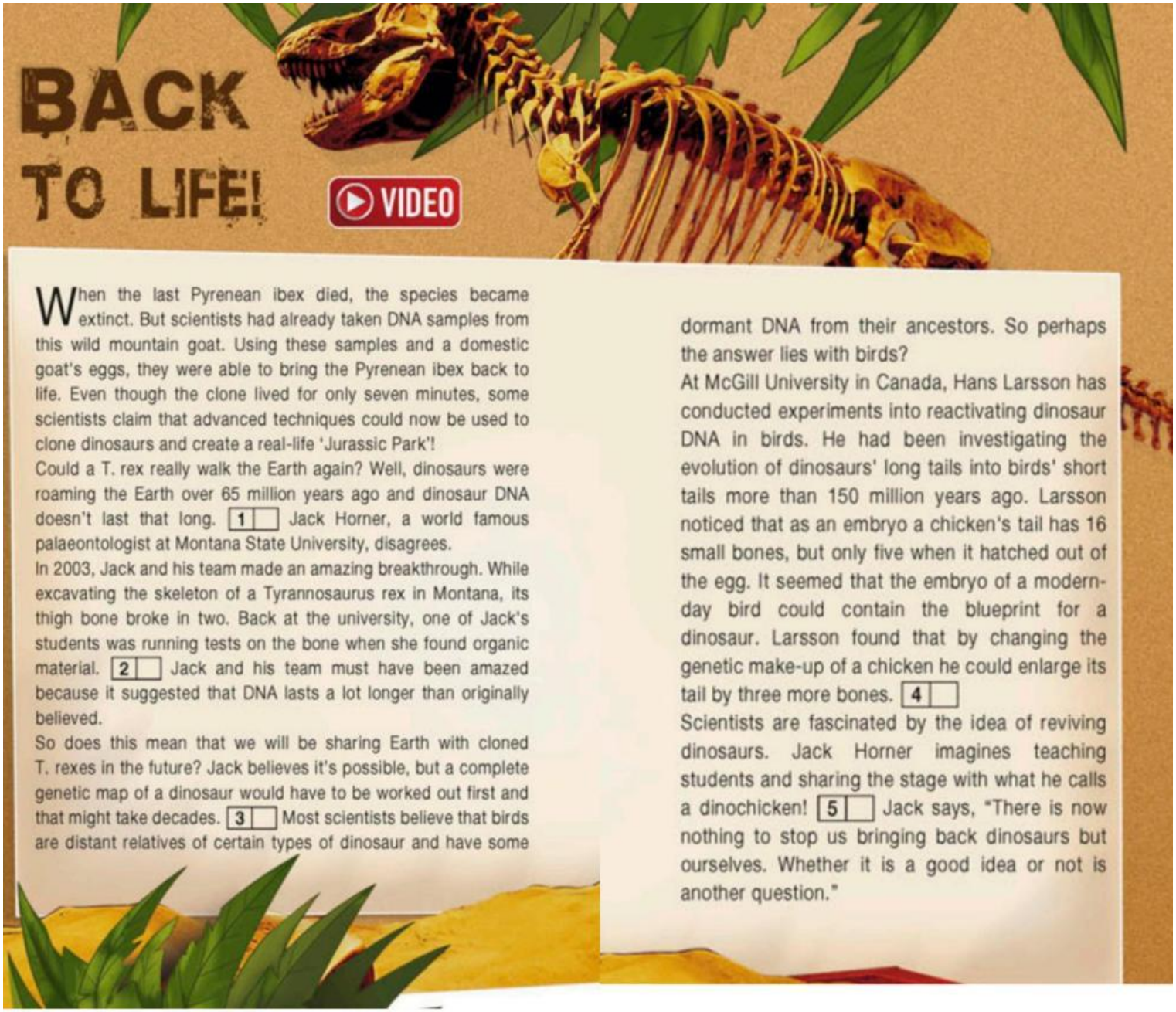

BACK TO LIFE!

VIDEO

When the last Pyrenean ibex died, the species became extinct. But scientists had already taken DNA samples from this wild mountain goat. Using these samples and a domestic goat's 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 create a real-life 'Jurassic Park'!

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. [1] Jack Horner, a world famous palaeontologist at Montana State University, disagrees.

In 2003, Jack and his team made an amazing breakthrough. While excavating the skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus rex in Montana, its thigh bone broke in two. Back at the university, one of Jack's students was running tests on the bone when she found organic material. [2] Jack and his team must have been amazed because it suggested that DNA lasts a lot longer than originally believed.

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. [3] Most scientists believe that birds are distant relatives of certain types of dinosaur and have some dormant DNA from their ancestors. So perhaps the answer lies with birds?

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. It seemed that the embryo of a modern-day bird could contain the blueprint for a dinosaur. Larsson found that by changing the genetic make-up of a chicken he could enlarge its tail by three more bones. [4]

Scientists are fascinated by the idea of reviving dinosaurs. Jack Horner imagines teaching students and sharing the stage with what he calls a dinochicken! [5] Jack says, "There is now nothing to stop us bringing back dinosaurs but ourselves. Whether it is a good idea or not is another question."

Task. Read the text and choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra sentence.

A. It was dinosaur blood vessels ... 68 million years old!

B. He thinks that would be the best lecture he could ever give.

C. Most scientists believe that it can survive 100,000 years at the most.

D. This may not seem so impressive, but a series of alterations could result in a completely new kind of dinosaur!

E. Ignoring what the others said, he carried on with his research.

F. For this reason, he is also looking at other ways to revive dinosaurs.