

# Disclaimer

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## Scientists Aim to Bring Back Extinct Tasmanian Tiger

Scientists are hoping to **resurrect** an animal that has been extinct for over eight decades.

Scientists from a company called Colossal Biosciences are working with the University of Melbourne. They are trying to bring back the thylacine.

The thylacine was a small **marsupial** that was a little larger than a fox. It was



Photo: Thylacine.

yellowish-brown or grey and had stripes on its back. It is often called a Tasmanian wolf or a Tasmanian tiger.

Considered a pest, they were hunted by humans until no more survived. The last known Tasmanian tiger died in captivity in 1936.

However, work has begun on trying to bring the species back to life.

The team plan to take **cells** from a living species that has similar DNA. They'll then edit these cells to bring back thylacines.

Professor Andrew Pask is the project research leader from the University of Melbourne. He said: "I now believe that in 10 years' time we could have our first living baby thylacine since they were hunted to extinction".

### What is DNA?

- DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid. It's found inside all cells.
- DNA carries all the information about what a living thing will look like or how it will grow. For example, DNA is responsible for a bird having wings, an elephant having a long trunk and the colour of your eyes.

The Tasmanian tiger isn't the only animal Colossal Biosciences hopes to bring back to life.

Last year, they revealed they are trying to bring back the woolly mammoth!

### Glossary

**resurrect** Bring back something that has disappeared.

**marsupial** Animals that carry and raise their young in a pouch.

**cells** The smallest living parts of a plant or animal.

### Reflect

If you could choose one animal to bring back what would it be and why?



# Questions

1. What type of animal was the Tasmanian tiger?

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2. The main idea of the article is... **(tick one)**

Woolly mammoths are coming back.

Humans hunted thylacine to extinction.

Scientists are working on bringing some extinct animals back to life.

Scientists have brought tigers and elephants back to life.

3. Find and copy a word which means the same as 'an animal that damages food supplies or crops'.

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4. Tick to show whether the statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
People hunted thylacines.		
Bringing back extinct animals is a great idea.		
Thylacines became extinct over 80 years ago.		
DNA is fascinating.		