### **De-extinction company plans to recreate giant moa bird**

It may only be a matter of time before dinosaurs are back among us. Biotechnology and genetic engineering company Colossal Biosciences claims it is on the cusp of successfully bringing back extinct species. On Tuesday, the company announced its plan to resurrect the moa – a 3.6-metre-tall, flightless bird. The giant moa once roamed New Zealand's South Island. It was hunted to extinction 600 years ago. Colossal's chief scientist Beth Shapiro said: "We're bringing back avian dinosaurs." Her colleagues will try to recreate the extinct bird by extracting DNA from the bones of long-deceased moa. Scientists will use this DNA to modify the genome of an emu, which is the closest living relative of the moa.

Colossal is embarking on many "de-extinction" projects. These have created controversy among the scientific community. Colossal defines de-extinction as: "The process of generating an organism that both resembles and is genetically similar to an extinct species." It claims de-extinction will allow scientists to engineer natural resistances in endangered animals today. It would also enhance the adaptability of species to "thrive" amid climate change, dwindling resources, disease and human interference. However, critics contend that extinct animals cannot be replicated. Many scientists are concerned about the unforeseen and detrimental impacts of inserting "hybrid" species into the wild.

**Homework:**

1. Write a full sentence answer for each question below.
2. What is it only a matter of time that we might see the return of?
3. How tall is the moa?
4. How long ago did the moa disappear?
5. What did a chief scientist say her company was bringing back?
6. Which bird is the closest living relative of the moa?
7. What has the company created among the scientific community?
8. What did the company say could benefit from new natural resistances?
9. What would de-extinction enhance the adaptability of species to do?
10. What did critics say could not happen to extinct species?
11. Where might "hybrid" species be released?

**Free Writing**

* Write about moa de-extinction for 10 minutes.