Worksheet 2.10.3 Explaining extinction

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1 Researching extinct species >

Work in your usual group for this task.

Agree with the other groups which one of the following extinct creatures you will research. Circle it here.

• great auk • Irish elk • dodo

• woolly mammoth • sabre-toothed tiger.

Research your agreed animal, finding answers to the following questions:

• What kind of environment did the animal live in?

• What was the animal’s main source of food?

• What features did it have that proved a disadvantage?

• What environment changes caused the animals to die?

• Why did those changes happen?

2 Gene banks >>

Work with a partner to complete this task.

Write a short paragraph to explain the use of gene banks to preserve hereditary material before a species becomes extinct.

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3 Extinction of the dinosaurs >>>

Work in a small group to complete this task.

Research possible causes of extinction of the dinosaurs. Analyse and evaluate the different causes argued.