

# SHOULD WE BRING BACK DINOSAURS?



## Definitions

**Extinct:** when all of a certain type of animal or plant disappear forever.

**De-extinction:** a process where scientists bring back animals that have gone extinct by combining DNA from the extinct species with closely related living animals.



## Question:

If dinosaurs are brought back, where should scientists put them?

What if you could see dinosaurs at a zoo the same way you see animals like elephants and lions? Right now, we can view dinosaur bones at the museum. However, we can't experience living dinosaurs in person because they have gone extinct. When an animal goes extinct, it no longer lives on present-day Earth. This can happen when they don't have enough food, their environment changes too much, or people harm their habitat. However, some people think we might be able to clone or replicate dinosaurs, letting scientists learn more about them—and maybe even one day letting you visit them in a zoo!

## YES, SCIENTISTS SHOULD BRING BACK DINOSAURS

Scientists have successfully cloned animals that have gone extinct, a process called de-extinction. In 2003, scientists cloned an extinct wild goat named the bucardo, which suggests they could possibly use the de-extinction process with dinosaurs. If dinosaurs were brought back, scientists could gain new knowledge about dinosaurs and might even learn new things that would help other animals that are threatened with extinction today.

## NO, SCIENTISTS SHOULDN'T BRING BACK DINOSAURS

So far, the bucardo is the only animal to have successfully gone through the de-extinction process, and it only lived for a few minutes. The likelihood of scientists successfully bringing back dinosaurs is small, and the likelihood of those dinosaurs living a healthy life is even smaller. We also don't know if the current temperatures on Earth are hot enough for dinosaurs to survive or what damage dinosaurs might cause to our environment. Some argue money would be better spent improving our current environment for the animals alive today.