

ARCTIC DISCOVERY

1. Read the following news story about an archaeological finding in the Arctic and answer the questions.

Woolly mammoth skeleton found in lake in Russia's Arctic

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian scientists are poring over the stunningly well-preserved bones of an adult woolly mammoth that roamed the earth at least 10,000 years ago, after local inhabitants discovered its remains in the shallows of a north Siberian lake.

Part of its skull, several ribs and foreleg bones, some with soft tissue still attached to them, were retrieved from Russia's remote Yamal peninsula above the Arctic circle on July 23. Scientists are still searching the site for other bones.

Similar finds in Russia's vast Siberian region have happened with increasing regularity as climate change warming the Arctic at a faster pace than the rest of the world has thawed the ground in some areas long locked in permafrost. Scientists circulated images in December of a prehistoric puppy, thought to be 18,000 years old, that was found in the permafrost region of Russia's Far East in 2018.

The mammoth remains are at least 10,000 years old, although researchers don't yet know exactly when it walked the earth or how old it was when it died, said Dmitry Frolov, director of the Scientific Centre for Arctic studies. Researchers have found mammoth fossils dating from up to 30,000 years ago in Russia, he said.



Yevgeniya Khozyainova, a scientist from a local museum, said it was unusual to find so many bones belonging to a single species and to know where they came from. "Of course, we'd like to find the remaining parts, to understand how complete a find it is. Whenever there is soft tissue left behind, it is valuable material to study," she said.

Reporting by Dmitriy Turlyun; Writing by Tom Balmforth; Editing by Raissa Kasolowsky

- **What parts of the mammoth skeleton did the scientists find?**

- **Why are these finds happening more often nowadays?**

- **Do the researchers know exactly how old the remains are?**

- **What is unusual about the finding?**

- **What other material is available for study?**

2. Find words in the text which relate to these meanings:

| | |
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| | the cells in the body that form muscles and skin |
| | to move about or travel, especially without a fixed destination |
| | to defreeze, to change from a solid state to liquid or soft |
| | to look at something very carefully |
| | an area of land which is permanently frozen below the surface |
| | an area where water is not very deep |

The text of the article was taken from:

[https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-permafrost-mammoth/woolly-mammoth-skeletonfound-in-lake-in-russias-arctic-idUSKCN24T1RX#:~:text=MOSCOW%20\(Reuters\)%20%2D%20Russian%20scientists,of%20a%20north%20Siberian%20lake.](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-permafrost-mammoth/woolly-mammoth-skeletonfound-in-lake-in-russias-arctic-idUSKCN24T1RX#:~:text=MOSCOW%20(Reuters)%20%2D%20Russian%20scientists,of%20a%20north%20Siberian%20lake.)

and belongs to Reuters. Its authors are Dmitriy Turlyun, Tom Balmforth and Raissa Kasolowsky.

ANSWER KEY

- They found the skull, some ribs and foreleg bones.
- These finds are more frequent because the permafrost regions are melting. The climate change is warming the Arctic faster than other regions in the world.
- They know they are at least 10,000 years old, but they might be older.
- It is unusual that they found so many bones at the same time.
- The soft tissue found on the bones is a valuable material to study.

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|-------------|---|
| SOFT TISSUE | the cells in the body that form muscles and skin |
| ROAM | to move about or travel, especially without a fixed destination |
| THAW | to defreeze, to change from a solid state to liquid or soft |
| PORE OVER | to look at something very carefully |
| PERMAFROST | an area of land which is permanently frozen below the surface |
| SHALLOWS | an area where water is not very deep |