

NEWS

Africa

Europe

World

Latin America

Middle East

UK

US

11-year-old boy discovers a woolly mammoth!

A Russian boy has stumbled across a massive prehistoric woolly mammoth!

Scientists say it is the best discovery of its kind since 1901.

Yevgeny Salinder, 11, whose family lives near a polar station in the northern Taymyr Peninsula, discovered the frozen, well-preserved animal when he was strolling along the banks of the Yenisei River. The boy's family told scientists about the find.

"He saw something sticking out of the ground – it was the mammoth's heels," said Alexei Tikhonov, director of a Russian zoological museum, who rushed to the river. He said it was the best-preserved adult mammoth discovered in more than 100 years.

"So far we can say it is the mammoth of the century," Tikhonov said.

The scientists spent five days digging out the huge creature. They said the mammoth had died aged 15–16 around 30,000 years ago, adding that it had one 1.5-metre-long tusk.

"Its skeleton is virtually intact and its heart in the rib cage may be intact, too."

Now scientists will study the one-tonne mammoth and there have been suggestions that they may try to clone it – meaning that woolly mammoths could walk on Earth again!

What do you think about cloning the woolly mammoths? Do you think it's a good idea? Let us know in the comments section below.

Name:

Date:

Read the text, then answer the questions.

1. Find and copy **one** word that tells us this discovery was made by chance.

2. How does the author convey the importance of this find? Give some examples of words and phrases to support your answer.

3. The article makes the discovery feel very exciting. Explain how the author does this.

4. Why do you think the author left the information about cloning until the end of the article?

5. Why does the article ask for your comments about cloning at the end?

6. Complete the table below to show whether the statements from the article are fact or opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
Yevgeny Salinder saw something sticking out of the ground.		
The mammoth's heart may be intact too.		
Mammoths could walk on Earth again.		
The scientists spent five days digging the mammoth out.		