

Should we clone the thylacine?

Is cloning an option?

If extinct animals can be cloned, would you use this method?

There are opposing points of view on the economic, scientific and ethical decisions involved in choosing to try to resurrect and extinct species.

The view of some biologists and conservationists is that it is currently not a practical technology to use to resurrect the thylacine and so is not worth pursuing. However there is a project currently under way to explore the possible use of cloning to resurrect a thylacine.

In this activity you will be working in groups to research the problem and present advantages and disadvantages of cloning the thylacine and so come to your own conclusions.

You will need:

- internet access
- web site addresses as given below
- materials for writing and presenting information.

What to do:

1. Form a group of several students.
2. Access one or two of the web sites listed below. Summarise the information or point of view presented. Make sure that the group accesses a variety of sites.
3. Share the information you have discovered with the rest of the group.
4. Consider all the information and points of view discovered by your group and decide on answers to the two questions at the beginning of the activity sheet.

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5. Choose a representative of your group to present the group's answers to the class.

Web sites

Parks and wildlife service of Tasmania

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/wildlife/mammals/thylacin.html>

School of Zoology, University of Tasmania

<http://www.zoo.utas.edu.au/thylacine.html>

ABC

http://www.abc.net.au/btn/scripts/may_09/tastiger.htm

South Australian Museum

<http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/media/cloning.htm>

The Age

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/20000123/A40649-2000Jan22.html>

The Australian Museum

<http://www.austmus.gov.au/thylacine/index2.htm>

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