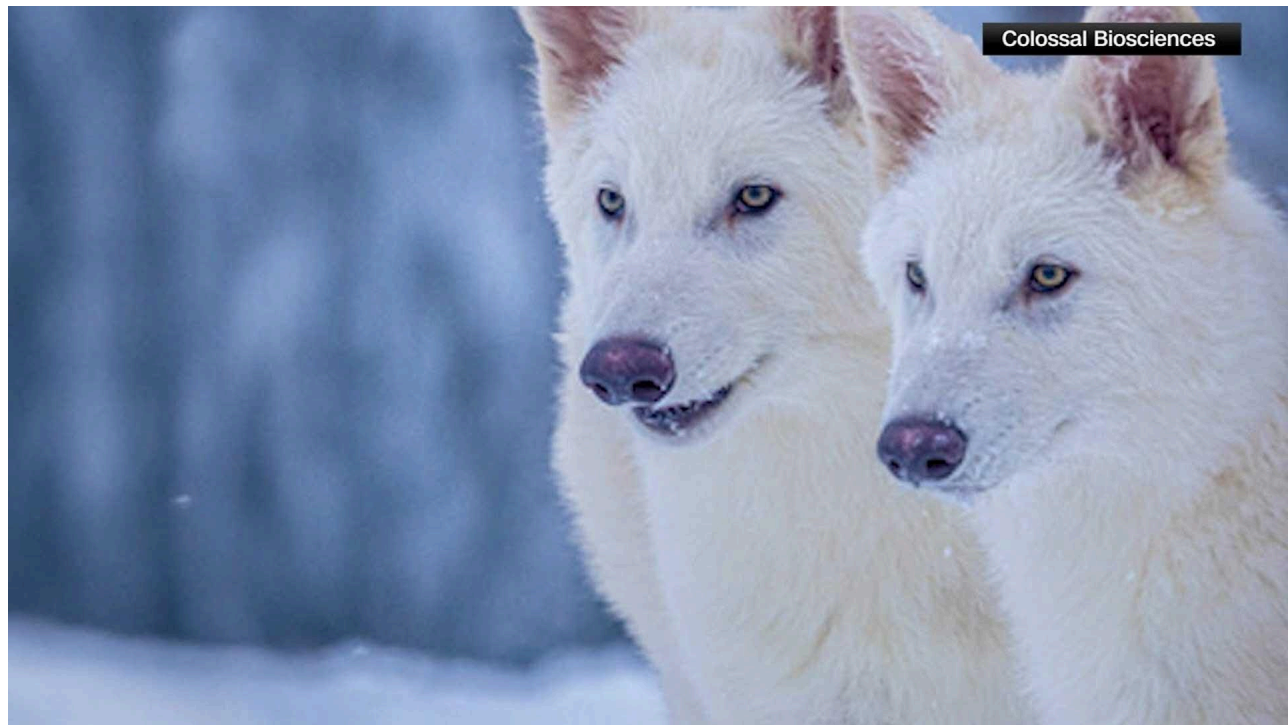




4/09/2025: The World From A to Z with Carl Azuz

8th Grade American History - Mr. Lautzenheiser - Crestview MS (Convoy, Ohio)

Get ready for the Paw Power Challenge! It's a fun run with an obstacle course for people and their dogs. It took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Almost 200 dogs and their owners took part. The person who started the event said it was important to do it before the weather got too hot in the Middle East.

People and their dogs had to go over piles of hay, under low platforms, down a slide, across different types of ground, and through a fountain. It was a 1.5 mile course. It was fun to do and watch!

One person said that the event helped owners and their dogs stay healthy. Everyone finished the challenge. The smaller dogs probably slept really well that night.

An American company says they have brought back an animal that was extinct. This means the animal doesn't exist anymore. They say it's the first time this has ever been done. But some scientists don't agree with this.

The company is called Colossal Biosciences and it is in Texas. They are trying to bring back animals that have been gone for a long time, like the dodo bird, Tasmanian tiger, and woolly mammoth. Colossal says they have brought back the dire wolf.

The dire wolf used to live in North and South America thousands of years ago before it died out. Colossal says they used DNA from a tooth and a 72,000-year-old skull to make healthy dire wolf puppies. Time Magazine says these are the first animals of their kind in over 10,000 years.

But some people disagree that this is really bringing back the dire wolf. Colossal says they used

the dire wolf's genetic information to change the cells of gray wolves. Gray wolves are the dire wolf's closest living relatives. Researchers put the changed information into eggs and used large dogs to carry them. Two puppies were born in October and one in January.

A professor told CNN that the puppies are 99.9% gray wolf, but they have genes from the dire wolf. A scientist told the BBC that the new animal is a mix, a gray wolf with a bigger skull and white fur. They said that extinction is still forever because the old DNA is too damaged to copy completely. This means that bringing back an extinct species is hard to define. Is it bringing back an animal that is gone forever, or is it making new animals with similar features to extinct animals?

Let's learn about Iraq! It is a country in the Middle East with 47 million people. It used to be a kingdom, but now it's a republic. The capital is Baghdad.

On April 9, 2003, US Marines and Iraqis knocked down a statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad. This showed the end of his government. On that day in 1865, Robert E. Lee, who was a general for the Confederate army, surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant, who was a general for the Union army, in Appomattox, Virginia. This was the start of the end of the American Civil War. On April 9, 1860, a man named Edouard-Leon Scott de Martinville used a phonograph to record himself singing a folk song. It was the first time vibrations of sound were recorded on a surface.

Shipping containers are important to the world. 80% of goods are transported on the water at some point. The large containers are easy to pack and put on ships. However, containers can get lost. In 2023, 221 containers were lost at sea. About a third of them were found. Because ship capacities have doubled in the last 20 years, bigger ships have bigger risks.

When containers fall overboard, they change the water flow and the sediment where they land. Sometimes, things from a container wash up on the beach. This is how Russ Lewis found bicycle helmets, balls, and Crocs on a beach in Washington. These items came from a container that fell off a ship near Hawaii in 2020. Sea currents can carry the items to other places. There are no penalties for shipping companies if they don't report lost containers. So, it's not known if these companies will be held responsible.

Bryne FK is a soccer team in Norway. It has a unique tradition, as many of the team members come from the local community. They award their players of the match with eggs and milk. They also have a parking lot for tractors! It is located in an agricultural community of southwestern Norway with a population of 13,000. The team has been nicknamed "The Farmer's League".

Reading Summary

- The Paw Power Challenge is a fun run with an obstacle course for people and their dogs that took place in Dubai.
- Colossal Biosciences, a company in Texas, claims to have brought back the dire wolf by using DNA from a tooth and skull to change the cells of gray wolves.
- Shipping containers are important for transporting goods, but they can get lost at sea, causing environmental problems and raising questions about responsibility.

Vocabulary

Term	Definition	Example Sentence
extinct (adjective)	No longer existing; having died out completely.	The dinosaurs became extinct millions of years ago.
surrendered (verb)	To give up or yield to an enemy or opponent.	The general surrendered his army after a long battle.
vibrations (noun)	Rapid movements or oscillations back and forth.	The vibrations from the earthquake caused the building to shake.
sediment (noun)	Solid material that settles to the bottom of a liquid.	The riverbed was covered in sediment from the flood.
capacities (noun)	The ability to hold or contain something; the maximum amount that can be held.	The stadium has a capacity of 50,000 people.

Multiple Choice Questions

Question #1	Question #2	Question #3
What was the main reason for holding the Paw Power Challenge in Dubai before the weather got too hot?	What is the main difference between the dire wolf puppies created by Colossal Biosciences and actual dire wolves?	What is the unique tradition of the Bryne FK soccer team in Norway?
A. To avoid the extreme heat of the Middle East. B. To promote dog health and fitness. C. To raise money for animal charities. D. To showcase the athletic abilities of dogs.	A. The puppies are smaller than actual dire wolves. B. The puppies have different fur colors. C. The puppies are a mix of gray wolf and dire wolf DNA. D. The puppies are not able to reproduce.	A. They award their players of the match with eggs and milk. B. They have a special training program for farmers. C. They play their games on a farm. D. They only allow players from the local community to join.