

KS2 Debate Club Pack: Should We Bring Back Extinct Animals?

Debate Question:

“Should scientists bring back extinct animals like mammoths and dodos?”

Arguments FOR bringing back extinct animals

1. Scientists could fix past mistakes caused by humans.
 2. It could help restore natural ecosystems.
 3. It would be exciting for science and discovery.
 4. We could learn more about extinct species.
 5. It may help endangered animals survive in the future.
 6. It could boost tourism and education.
 7. Genetic technology is improving quickly.
 8. It might help repair damaged environments.
 9. Some extinct animals could help nature balance again.
 10. It shows how clever human science has become.
-

Arguments AGAINST bringing back extinct animals

1. We don't know how they would survive today.
2. It could be very expensive.
3. It might harm existing animals and ecosystems.
4. The animals could suffer in modern environments.
5. Scientists might be better off protecting current endangered animals.
6. We could accidentally create new problems.
7. It may be impossible to recreate exact species.
8. It could be dangerous if animals behave unpredictably.
9. Natural balance may already have changed too much.
10. Resources could be used for more important issues.

Useful Sentence Starters

- “I strongly believe that...”
- “I completely disagree because...”
- “One important reason is...”
- “Have you considered that...?”
- “In my opinion...”
- “I would like to challenge that idea by saying...”
- “That’s interesting, however...”
- “The evidence suggests that...”
- “I see your point, but I think...”
- “To add to that argument...”

Host Guidance (for teacher / club leader)

- Keep both sides balanced (don’t let one side dominate).
- Encourage quieter children to speak first in smaller groups.
- Ask follow-up questions to deepen thinking.
- Remind children to listen respectfully and not interrupt.
- Keep energy high but structured.

Host Questions to Ask

- “What evidence supports your argument?”
- “How would this affect the world today?”
- “Can you give an example to explain your point?”
- “What might go wrong with that idea?”
- “Do you think there are any risks?”
- “How would animals feel in this situation?”
- “Is there a better alternative solution?”
- “Why do you think that is the most important point?”

Optional Scoring Ideas

- Clear speaking = 1 point
 - Good reasoning = 2 points
 - Respectful listening = 1 point
 - Strong rebuttal = 2 points
-

Debrief Question

- “If you had the power, would YOU bring back an extinct animal? Why?”

Extension Debate Challenge (If Groups Finish Early)

New Debate Question:

“Should zoos exist in the future?”

Things to think about

- Animal welfare
 - Conservation of endangered species
 - Education for humans
 - Freedom of animals
 - Scientific research
 - Entertainment vs protection
-

Bonus Sentence Starters

- “Another way to look at this is...”
- “The real issue here is...”
- “This could lead to...”
- “I want to build on that idea by saying...”
- “A different perspective is...”

 **Extra Host Prompts**

- “Should animals ever be kept in captivity?”
- “Do zoos help more than they harm?”
- “What would happen if all zoos closed?”
- “Can technology replace zoos in the future?”

 **Quick Reflection**

- “Has your opinion changed during the debate?”
- “What was the strongest argument you heard today?”