

Read **Text B**, and then answer.

Text B: Waking the Baby Mammoth

This text is a review of a television programme called 'Waking the Baby Mammoth'.

Only a handful have been found before. But none like her. Her name is Lyuba. A one-month-old baby mammoth, she walked the tundra about 40 000 years ago, then died mysteriously. Discovered on a riverbank in Siberia, she's the most perfectly preserved woolly mammoth ever discovered. Lyuba has mesmerised the scientific world with her arrival – creating headlines across the globe.

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'Waking the Baby Mammoth', a new television programme, tells the tale of this single accidental discovery of a frozen baby mammoth in the Siberian tundra and how the discovery has enriched our understanding of these extinct magnificent beasts.

The programme begins with the incredibly fortunate discovery of Lyuba by a reindeer herder who feared that disturbing the remains of the dead might lead to a curse. Too often with such findings, the preserved creature would be dug up and sold, leading to irreversible decomposition and the loss of a treasure trove of valuable information. However, the herder had enough foresight to contact authorities, and scientists began the careful retrieval process. Everyone wanted to know how Lyuba had died. What could she tell us about life during the Ice Age and the Earth's changing climate?

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The programme follows the scientific process and the hurdles in understanding where Lyuba came from and what she can tell us about her Pleistocene¹ life. That being said, apart from specific experiments involving high-tech bone scans, tissue extraction and dental examinations, the programme does not delve too far into the intricate data. We are left wondering whether scientists will be able to extract her DNA, and what secrets that might uncover. It's impossible to watch the work on Lyuba without sharing the anxiety the scientists must have felt to get it right.

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The programme succeeds brilliantly in bringing drama to a quite amazing story. We are presented with stunning 3D animations of Lyuba and her mother. In cinematic form, Lyuba is brought to life as an active furry baby mammoth, bouncing along next to scientists as they contemplate the frozen carcass's secrets. The visuals are beautiful – light shines off the baby's fur and her shadows dance in just the right way to really make her come alive.

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The programme has truly woken the baby mammoth within our minds and hearts.

¹ **Pleistocene:** the Ice Age, which lasted over 2.5 million years and ended about 12 000 years ago