



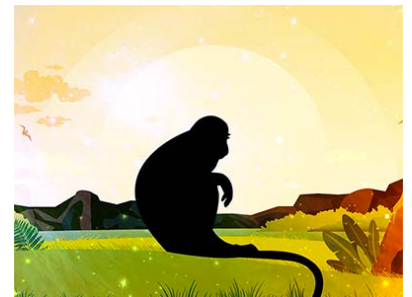
第八十九期

Invasive Species in Australia

澳洲的入侵物種

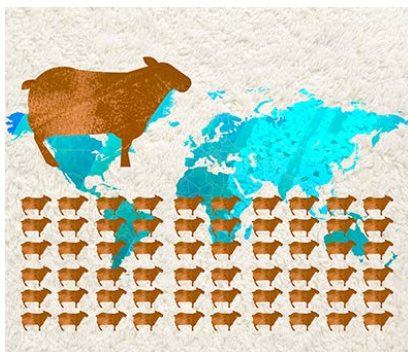
Australia has some of the strictest border controls in the world when it comes to what items you can bring into the country, especially related to animals and plants. That's because the country has a very **fragile ecosystem** that has been **adversely** affected by the introduction of a number of species in the past.

澳洲有一些世界上最嚴格的邊境管制，涉及到哪些物品可以進入該國，特別是與動植物有關的物品。這是因為該國有一個非常脆弱的生態系統，因為過去引進了許多物種而受到不利影響。



Australia's wildlife is unique because it has developed in **isolation** from other parts of the world for so long. When the British **colonized** Australia, they tried to introduce several animal species, many of which caused great harm to the local environment. Some of them had no natural **predators**, so they reproduced out of control, or they ate local plants to the point of extinction. Examples include sheep, camels, foxes, rabbits, and cane toads.

澳洲的野生動物是獨一無二的，因為澳洲與世界其他地區隔絕了很長時間。當英國殖民澳洲時，他們試圖引進幾種動物，其中許多物種對當地的環境造成極大的傷害。這些物種其中一些沒有天敵，所以失控地繁殖，或者吃了當地的植物造成絕種。例子包括綿羊、駱駝、狐狸、兔子和海蟾蜍。



Introduced plant species have also wreaked havoc on Australia's ecosystem. The British wanted to grow trees and flowers that they were familiar to them from home, but some of them spread wildly, invading natural landscapes and agricultural land. Today

there are 32 recognized **weeds** in Australia, and the government spends \$4 billion per year trying to control them.

澳洲引進的植物物種也肆虐當地的生態系統。英國人想在家裡種一些他們熟悉的樹木和花卉，但其中一些卻四處蔓延，侵入自然景觀及農田。如今澳洲有32種公認的雜草，政府每年花費40億澳元試圖控制它們。

So now you can understand why passengers landing in Australia have to answer so many questions about what they are carrying. Even a little mud containing plant seeds stuck to your tent, for example, could result in a disaster for the country.

所以現在你可以明白為什麼在澳洲登陸的乘客必須回答這麼多關於他們攜帶的物品。例如，即使是一小塊沾有植物種子的泥土黏在你的帳篷，也可能會導致國家的災難。

Vocabulary 好字精選

1. fragile (adj) easily broken or damaged 易碎的

Don't shake this box. The contents are fragile.

不要搖這個盒子。內容物易碎。

2. ecosystem (n) a specific environment and all the living things in it 生態系統

This swamp is an entire ecosystem of its own.

這個沼澤有自己的一個完整生態系統。

3. adversely (adv) in a negative way 不利的

Many workers were adversely impacted by the merger of the two companies.

許多工作人員受到兩家公司合併後的不利影響。

4. isolation (n) far away from anything else 孤立，隔離

The old man lived a life of isolation up in the mountains by himself.

老人獨自在山裡過著與世隔絕的生活。

5. colonize (v) when one country occupies another for an extended period 殖民

India was colonized by England.

印度被英國殖民。

6. predator (n) an animal that eats another 捕食者，獵食者

This snake is a fierce predator.

蛇是一種兇猛的獵食動物。

7. weed (n) a plant that spreads easily and is usually unwanted 雜草

Mrs. Lambert was picking all the weeds out of her garden.

Lambert 太太從花園裡挑出了所有的雜草。

Phrases and Sentence Patterns 句型解析

1. out of control (phr) uncontrollably 失控，無法控制

The students were out of control, running around the museum noisily.

學生們失去控制，喧鬧地在博物館裡跑來跑去。

2. wreak havoc (expression) wreak = cause, havoc = a lot of destruction 造成破壞

The virus is wreaking havoc on the local population.

病毒對當地人口造成嚴重破壞



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The Mighty Woolly Mammoth

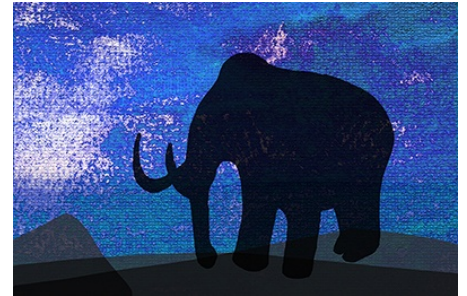
強壯的長毛象

Try to imagine the following animal:

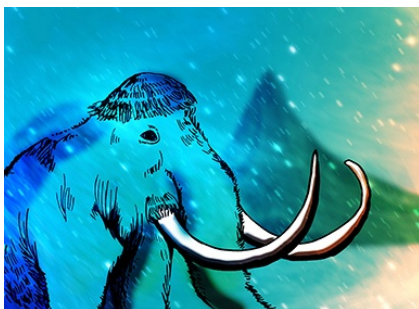
嘗試想像一下下列的動物:

It stands over 300 centimeters tall and weighs 6000 kilograms. It has long fur hanging from its **massive** body, a trunk for fighting and **manipulating** objects, and pointed tusks that stick out 2 to 4 meters from its face.

站起來時超過三公尺高且重達六千公斤。厚重的身體上覆蓋長長的毛皮。一個用來打鬥以及操作物品的象鼻，和一副在臉上 2-4 公尺長的尖銳象牙。



If you are imaging this beast as a kind of hairy elephant, then you are pretty much right. The woolly mammoth is the **extinct** relative of today's elephant. It died out at the end of the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago. It lived across a large area that covers today's Northern Asia, Europe, and North America. What's interesting is that humans and woolly mammoths actually **coexisted** for a while. Ancient humans hunted woolly mammoths to use their meat for food and tusks for tools and homes. Moreover, we know more about woolly mammoths than any other **prehistoric** animal because some of their bodies have been found perfectly **preserved** in Arctic ice.



如果你將這頭野獸想像成一種毛茸茸的大象，那很接近了。長毛象是現在的大象已絕種的親戚。它在上個冰河時期尾聲，約在一萬年前左右就已絕跡。它曾居住於現今北亞、歐洲和北美的廣大區域。最有趣的是人類曾和長毛象共存一段時間。早期人類曾獵殺長毛象來取肉為食，取其象牙做為工具及住家使用。除此之外，相較於其他史前動物，我們更了解長毛象，是因為在北極冰層中發現完整保存的屍體。

So how did such a big and strong animal go extinct? It is believed that human hunting and climate change were responsible for killing them off.

為什麼這樣大型又強壯的生物會絕種呢？據說是因為人類獵殺與氣候變遷所導致。

Vocabulary 好字精選

1. massive (adj) very big or has a large mass 巨大的；為數眾多的

The new apartment is massive and is able to house thousands of people.

這間新公寓的數量很多，足以容納幾千名住戶。

2. manipulate (v) handle or control sth. 操控，操作

You can manipulate the car using this remote control.

你可以用遙控器來操控汽車。

3. extinct (adj) die of (for a whole species) 絕種，絕跡

That kind of bird went extinct about 10 years ago.

這種鳥類在 10 年前絕種了。

4. coexist (adj) live together or at the same time 共存

That bird and the rhino coexist happily because they help each other in various ways.

那隻鳥和犀牛互利共存，因為它們可以在不同方面相互幫助。

5. prehistoric (adj) ancient history, before writing was invented 史前的

Humans walked all over the Earth in prehistoric times.

史前時期人類遍佈地球。

6. preserve (v) to keep something the way it is 保存，保留

This beautiful painting must be preserved.

務必好好保存這幅美麗的畫。

Phrases and Sentence Patterns 句型解析

1. pretty much (expression) just about, basically 應該是..，基本上...

This essay is pretty much perfect. There is only one minor mistake.

除了一個小錯誤外，這文章接近完美。

2. ice age (expression) the glacial period 冰河時期

The Earth's average temperature was about 5 degrees colder during the ice age.

在冰河時期，地球的均溫約低了 5 度。

3. what's ADJ is that... (sentence pattern) (形容詞) 的是...

What's funny is that the kids didn't even notice the sticker on their dad's face.

最有趣的是小孩幾乎沒有注意到貼在父親臉上的貼紙。



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