

Lonesome George dies 巨龟孤独乔治死了

Vocabulary: age and ageing 年龄和上年岁的词汇

What age would you like to live to?

Many people often live to a **ripe old age**, but 'Lonesome George', a giant tortoise, was estimated to have been over 100 years old.

This week his keeper of 40 years, Fausto Llerena, sadly found him dead in his **enclosure**.



Over the years Lonesome became a symbol of the Galapagos National Park in Ecuador, which attracts over 180,000 visitors each year. He received his nickname as he often **shied away from** female company.

Although 100 would be **long in the tooth** for most humans, for giant tortoises Lonesome was relatively young; some are thought to live to 200 years of age.

Although **advanced in years**, he wasn't **over the hill** and had been trying to father **offspring** with a female partner. Considered to be in his sexual **prime**, he was however unsuccessful as the eggs produced were subsequently found to be **infertile**.

Environmentalists are particularly upset at his death because Lonesome was the last of his **subspecies** of Pinta tortoises.

In the **good old days** of the 19th century, tortoises were plentiful on the Galapagos Islands. Since then they have been hunted for their meat to the point of **extinction**. There now remain around 20,000 other subspecies of tortoise on the islands, but these creatures are now considered rare and **endangered**.

Lonesome's body will now be **embalmed** so that visitors to the park can view the body and the **legacy** of his subspecies can live on.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What is the name of the place where Lonesome George was found dead?
2. What is the expression used which means to avoid the company of others?
3. Name two idioms used to describe old age.
4. What is the word used for when a species of animal does not exist anymore?
5. What is the name given for when a body is preserved with chemicals?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The government minister tried to _____ answering the difficult questions during his radio interview.

jump away from	run over from	shy away from	fall over from
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2. She really needs to control her _____. They are running all over the place and creating havoc.

arms	eggs	language	offspring
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3. Sexual health research has found that traditional advice for _____ men (such as lose weight, don't smoke and drink less) is a waste of time.

extinct	infertile	embalmed	giant
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4. The park contributes to conservation projects working with _____ species throughout the world.

dead	lonesome	endangered	human
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5. The London 2012 Olympics will provide a great _____ for young British athletes of the future.

offspring	subspecies	enclosure	legacy
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What is the name of the place where Lonesome George was found dead? His enclosure
2. What is the expression used which means to avoid the company of others? Shied away from
3. Name two idioms used to describe old age. Long in the tooth, advanced in years, over the hill, ripe old age
4. What is the word used for when a species of animal does not exist anymore? Extinction
5. What is the name given for when a body is preserved with chemicals? Embalmed

Exercise 练习

1. The government minister tried to shy away from answering the difficult questions during his radio interview.
2. She really needs to control her offspring. They are running all over the place and creating havoc.
3. Sexual health research has found that traditional advice for infertile men (such as lose weight, don't smoke and drink less) is a waste of time.
4. The park contributes to conservation projects working with endangered species throughout the world.
5. The London 2012 Olympics will provide a great legacy for young British athletes of the future.

Glossary 词汇表

ripe old age	一大把年岁了
enclosure	围场
shied away from	羞于
long in the tooth	年迈
advanced in years	年老的
over the hill	年老走向衰弱
offspring	子孙后代
prime	壮年
infertile	不育的
subspecies	亚种
good old days	过去的好时光
extinction	绝种
endangered	濒临灭绝的
embalmed	铭记于
legacy	遗产