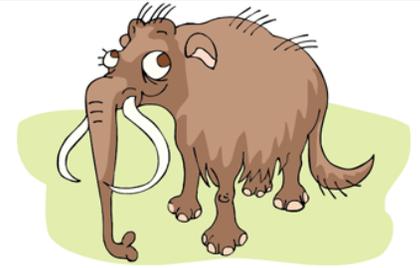


Name _____ **Context Clues**

Woolly Mammoths: Extinct or not?



DIRECTIONS: Circle the best meaning for each bold-faced word from the passage. Then write the clues from the passage that helped you choose the correct meaning.

1. **Alleged** means: A. reported B. said to be true

CLUES: _____

2. **Extraordinary** means: A. very unusual B. very ordinary

CLUES: _____

3. **Variety** means: A. different type of same thing B. description

CLUES: _____

4. **Preserved** means: A. maintained in original state B. frozen

CLUES: _____

5. **Indisputable** means: A. always B. can't be challenged

CLUES: _____

6. **Immense** means: A. very large in scale B. unexplored

CLUES: _____

7. **Uninhabited** means: A. no one lives there B. no one goes there

CLUES: _____

Woolly mammoths are believed to have died off 4,000 years ago. And yet the last **alleged** sighting of a woolly mammoth was in 1920. A Frenchman told an **extraordinary** story about having seen what certainly sounds like a mammoth in Siberia. "It was a huge elephant with big white tusks that were very curved," he said. "Its hair was a dark chestnut color as far as I could see. It had fairly long hair on the hindquarters, but it seemed shorter in the front. I must say, I had no idea there were such big elephants! A second beast was around . . . it seemed to be at least as big as the first."

There are certain **varieties** of cows that have long, dark chestnut-colored hair and long white horns. But it would be pretty hard to mistake a kind of cow for a mammoth.

Mammoths have been found in the ice with their meat still freshly **preserved**, as recently as 1948. It doesn't make for **indisputable** evidence that mammoths still exist. But Siberia is an **immense** wilderness, much of which is still **uninhabited** by humans. So it isn't out of the question that mammoths might still roam its vast expanses, and occasionally, unconfirmed reports of "elephant-like" creatures still trickle out of the area.