

TWINKL NEWS

OLDEST PLANT EVER IS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE!

9 This week, clever scientists have managed to grow
17 a narrow-leafed plant from seeds that are almost
20 thirty thousand years old!

30 Found last month in Russia, the old seeds are
39 thought to have been hidden inside burrows
46 by Arctic ground squirrels. By hiding them
55 underground, the squirrels had stopped the seeds
63 from being damaged by the frost. Scientists found
64 more than sixty thousand of them!

72 Working carefully, scientists found out that only
82 three of the seeds still had tiny plants inside. After
90 giving them food, light, warmth and oxygen,
99 scientists were amazingly able to grow the seeds
108 into adult plants. The plants' petals were a shape
111 that humans had never seen before.



Quick Questions

1. Which word in the first sentence describes the leaves on the plant?

2. How many of the seeds had tiny plants inside? Tick **one**.

none of them sixty

three all of them

3. Why might the Arctic ground squirrels have hidden the seeds inside the burrows?

4. This experiment was a success. What might scientists do now?

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Answers

1. Which word in the first sentence describes the leaves on the plant?

Accept: narrow

2. How many of the seeds had tiny plants inside?
Tick **one**.

none of them sixty

three all of them

3. Why might the Arctic ground squirrels have hidden the seeds inside the burrows?

Accept answers which discuss that squirrels may have intended to eat the seeds, such as: I think that the squirrels hid the seeds so that they could eat them at a later date.

4. This experiment was a success. What might scientists do now?

Accept any answers which give a sensible prediction relating to bringing extinct species back to life or trying to find more viable seeds, such as: I think that scientists will look for more old seeds and grow them into plants.