The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Well-Preserved Mammoth Discovered in Russian Arctic as Permafrost Thaws

July 27, 2020



The skeleton includes part of the animal's skull. **yanao.ru**

Reindeer herders in northern Siberia have found a well-preserved wooly mammoth skeleton as climate change thaws the vast region's permafrost layer at a rapid pace.

The surprise archaeological find came during a historically hot summer in Siberia and the Russian Arctic, which is one of the world's fastest-warming regions.

The skeleton, which was discovered along the shore of Pechevalavato Lake in the Yamalo-Nenets autonomous district last week, includes part of the animal's skull, its lower jaw, several ribs and a foot fragment with some soft tissue still intact, the state-run TASS news agency reported.

Archaeologists uncovered several other large bones and fragments and are now working to find more remnants of the skeleton that may still be buried.

"The lake bottom mud may hold the rest of the mammoth skeleton," said Dmitry Frolov, the

head of the Research Center for Arctic Studies.

"It is necessary to record the exact location of the remains for further studies," he added.

It's relatively rare for scientists to find a complete mammoth skeleton, said Yevgeniya Khozyainova of the Shemanovsky Institute in the far-northern town of Salekhard in televised remarks.

Wooly mammoths, which roamed across northern Eurasia and North America, are believed to have died out 10,000 years ago. Several mammoth skeletons have been discovered in Siberia.

Russian and Korean scientists in 2015 established a lab in the Siberian republic of Sakha dedicated to researching ways to clone the elephant-sized animals.

Temperatures above the Arctic Circle have soared to nearly 40 degrees Celsius this summer as climate scientists warn that melting permafrost could release mass amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

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