

Discussion Questions: “The Ethics of Species Discovery”

1. Scientific research is important for many of the reasons espoused in “The Ethics of Species Discovery,” but it is not without ethical challenges. If you knew your ethics were going to be compromised by doing your research, but you knew your research was going to save lives, would you continue with the research? Explain your rationale.
2. Do the “ends justify the means” if species are injured or killed to conduct research on medicines or technologies that will improve the quality of life for humans?
3. A fundamental research ethic is to “Do No Harm.” How is this ethic reconciled in the video “The Ethics of Species Collection.”
4. At some point, scientists may be able to bring back extinct animals, and perhaps early humans, raising questions of ethics and environmental disruption. If becomes possible to “resurrect” lost plant and/or animal species, should we do it? Explain the ethical implications and the pros and cons of doing so.



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