

Полезная лексика по теме

«Видеоразбор: каково быть ленивцем»

In 1796, Thomas Jefferson **received** a box of **bones** he couldn't **identify**. A long, **sharp claw reminded** him **of** a lion, but the **arm** bones **suggested** a larger animal, one about three meters long. Thinking it might be **huge** unknown **species** of North American lion, Jefferson **warned** explorers Lewis and Clark to **keep an eye out for** this mysterious **predator**.

But Jefferson's box of bones didn't **come from** a lion. They came from an **extinct** giant **sloth**. **Prehistoric ground sloths** first appeared around 35 million years ago.

to receive — получать

a bone — кость

to identify — опознавать

sharp — острый

a claw /klɔː/ — коготь

to remind somebody of something — напоминать кому-то что-то

an arm (здесь) — лапа

to suggest (здесь) — указывать на, подразумевать

huge /hju:dʒ/ — огромный, гигантский a species (plural: species) /ˈspiːʃiːz/ — вид (виды)

to warn — предупреждать

to keep an eye out for somebody/something — ожидать появления

a predator — хищник

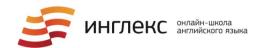
to come from — происходить от

extinct — вымерший

a sloth — ленивец

prehistoric — доисторический

a ground sloth — гигантский ленивец



Dozens of species lived across North, Central and South America, **alongside** other **ancient creatures** like **mastodons** and giant **armadillos**.

Some ground sloths, like the megalonychid, were **cat-sized**, but many were **massive**. Jefferson's sloth, Megalonyx, weighed about a ton, and that was small compared to megatherium, which could reach six metric tons, as much as an elephant. They **ambled** through the forests and **savannas** using their strong arms and sharp claws to **uproot** plants and climb trees, grazing on grasses, leaves, and prehistoric avocados. In fact, we might not have avocados today if not for the giant sloths. Smaller animals couldn't swallow the avocado's huge **seed**, but the sloths could, and they spread avocado trees far and wide.

Ground sloths **flourished** for millions of years, but around 10,000 years ago, they started disappearing **along with** the **Western Hemisphere's** other giant **mammals**. Researchers think that ground sloths could have been **pushed out** by an **oncoming ice age**, or **competition** with other species, maybe humans, who arrived in the region around the time most of the sloths **went extinct**.

dozens — множество, масса
alongside /əˌlɒŋˈsaɪd/ — наряду с
an ancient creature — древнее существо
a mastodon — мастодонт
an armadillo /ˌɑː.məˈdɪl.əʊ/ —
броненосец
cat-sized — размером с кошку
massive — огромный
to weigh /weɪ/ — весить

a metric ton — метрическая тонна

to amble — разгуливать

а savanna — саванна

to reach — достигать

to uproot — выкорчевывать

to graze on — питаться, пастись

to swallow — глотать

а seed — семя

far and wide — повсюду

to flourish (здесь) — господствовать

along with — вместе с

the Western Hemisphere — Западное полушарие

a mammal — млекопитающее

to push out — вытеснять

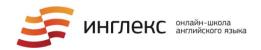
oncoming — надвигающийся

an ice age — ледниковый период

competition (здесь) — борьба за

существование

to go extinct — вымирать



some of the smaller sloths did survive and migrated to the treetops. Today, there are six species left living in the rainforest canopies of Central and South America. Hanging out in the trees is a good way to avoid predators, and there are plenty of leaves to eat. But this diet has its drawbacks. Animals extract energy from food and use that energy to move around, maintain their body temperature, keep their organs working, and all the other activities necessary for survival.

But leaves don't **contain** much energy, and that which they do have is **tough** to extract. Most **herbivores supplement a leafy diet** with higher energy foods like fruit and seeds. But sloths, especially **three-toed** sloths, **rely on** leaves almost **exclusively**. They've **evolved finely tuned** strategies for **coping with** this **restricted diet**.

to survive — выживать

to migrate — перебраться, переместиться

a treetop — верхушка дерева

rainforest canopies — тропические

джунгли

to hang out in the trees — висеть на

деревьях

to avoid — избегать

a drawback — недостаток, минус

to extract energy from — получать

энергию из

to maintain one's body temperature —

поддерживать температуру тела

survival — выживание

to contain — содержать

tough — трудный

a herbivore /ˈhɜː.bɪ.vɔːr/ — травоядное

животное

to supplement — дополнять, добавлять

a leafy diet — зеленая, лиственная диета

three-toed — трехпалый

to rely on something — зависеть

exclusively — исключительно

to evolve — развивать

finely tuned — хорошо отточенный

to cope with — справляться

a restricted diet — строгая диета



First, they extract as much energy from their food as possible. Sloths have a **multichambered stomach** that **takes up** a third of their body, and **depending on** the species, they can spend five to seven days, or even weeks, **processing a meal**.

The other **piece of the puzzle** is to use as little energy as possible. One way sloths do this is, of course, by not moving very much. They spend most of their time eating, resting, or sleeping. They descend from the canopy just once a week for a bathroom break. When sloths do move, it's not very fast. It would take a sloth about five minutes to cross an average neighborhood street. This unhurried approach to life means that sloths don't need very much muscle. In fact, they have about 30% less muscle mass than other animals their size. Sloths also use less energy to keep themselves warm because their body temperature can **fluctuate by** about five degrees Celsius, less than a **cold-blooded reptile**, but more than most mammals. These physical and behavioral adaptations minimize the sloth's energy expenditure, or metabolic rate.

Three-toed sloths have the slowest metabolism of any mammal. The giant panda is second slowest, and two-toed sloths come in third. Moving slowly has allowed sloths to **thrive** in their treetop **habitat**. But it's also made the sloths themselves a great habitat for other organisms, including **algae**, which provides a little extra **camouflage**, and maybe even a **snack**. Sloths may not be giant anymore, but that doesn't make them any less **remarkable**.

a multi-chambered stomach — желудок, состоящий из нескольких камер to take up — занимать (о пространстве) depending on — в зависимости to process a meal — перерабатывать пищу

a piece of the puzzle — часть

головоломки, загадки
to descend from something — спускаться с
neighborhood — соседний
unhurried — неспешный
an approach to — подход
muscle mass — мышечная масса
to fluctuate (by) — колебаться в пределах
a cold-blooded reptile — хладнокровная
рептилия
energy expenditure — расход энергии

metabolic rate — скорость обмена

веществ

to thrive — процветать
а habitat — среда обитания
algae /ˈældʒiː/, /ˈæl.giː/ — водоросли
camouflage /ˈkæməflɑːʒ/ — маскировка
а snack — закуска, перекус
remarkable — впечатляющий,
удивительный