

Stone Age Animals

Many large animals lived at the same time as early humans during the last **Ice Age**. A few that have interested people over the years are the smilodon, the woolly mammoth, the mastodon, the dire wolf, the cave bear and the woolly rhino.



Smilodon

These animals are sometimes called sabre-toothed tigers or cats because of their long canine teeth. Their teeth could grow up to 30cm long and they were very sharp. They lived on the continents of North and South America and became extinct about 10,000 years ago.

Did You Know...?

The name smilodon comes from a Greek word that means 'carving knife'.



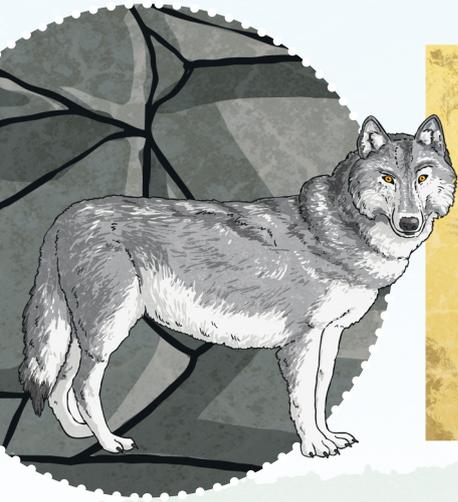
Woolly Mammoth

Woolly mammoths had long, curved tusks that could grow to just over four metres long. They also had a shaggy coat that grew up to 70cm long and small ears. Woolly mammoths once lived on the **tundra** that was found in North America, Asia and Europe during the last Ice Age and most became extinct around 10,000 years ago.



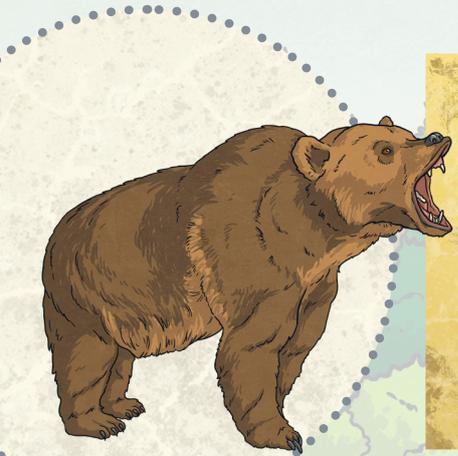
Mastodon

Mastodons were similar to woolly mammoths and lived on the continent of North America until about 10,000 years ago. They were also hairy, elephant-like creatures with small ears. Mastodons were different to mammoths in that they were shorter and stockier. They also had flatter heads, smaller, straight tusks that grew up to two and a half metres long and had cone-shaped teeth.



Dire Wolf

Dire wolves were a little bit bigger than modern-day grey wolves and they could grow to almost two metres long. They lived on the continents of North and South America until about 13,000 years ago.



Cave Bear

Cave bears looked a lot like modern brown bears. They could grow almost two metres tall and were mostly herbivores. They lived in Europe and Asia and became extinct around 20,000 years ago.



Woolly Rhino

Woolly rhinos lived in Europe, Asia and North Africa. Most woolly rhinos had thick layers of fur and also had two large horns on the front of their skulls. They became extinct about 14,000 years ago.

Glossary

Ice Age: A period of time when the Earth was very cold and was largely covered in glaciers.

tundra: A treeless, cold plain dotted with shrubs and grasses.

Questions

- How long could a mastodon's tusks grow? Tick one.
 - almost two metres
 - just over four metres
 - two and a half metres
 - two metres
- Where did smilodons live? Tick one.
 - on the continents of North and South America
 - Europe and Asia
 - America, Europe and Asia
 - Europe, Asia and Africa
- Which animal lived on the continents of North and South America until 13,000 years ago? Tick one.
 - smilodon
 - woolly mammoth
 - cave bears
 - dire wolf
- Which animal had cone-shaped teeth? Tick one.
 - woolly mammoth
 - mastodon
 - smilodon
 - dire wolf
- Look at the section called **Cave Bears** and fill in the missing words.

They could grow almost two _____ tall and were mostly _____.
- Look at the section called **Smilodon**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'not always'.

- Summarise what you have learnt about a stone age animal of your choice in 25 words or fewer.

Answers

1. How long could a mastodon's tusks grow? Tick one.
 - almost two metres
 - just over four metres
 - two and a half metres**
 - two metres
2. Where did smilodons live? Tick one.
 - on the continents of North and South America**
 - Europe and Asia
 - America, Europe and Asia
 - Europe, Asia and Africa
3. Which animal lived on the continents of North and South America until 13,000 years ago? Tick one.
 - smilodon
 - woolly mammoth
 - cave bears
 - dire wolf**
4. Which animal had cone-shaped teeth? Tick one.
 - woolly mammoth
 - mastodon**
 - smilodon
 - dire wolf
5. Look at the section called **Cave Bears** and fill in the missing words.
They could grow almost two **metres** tall and were mostly **herbivores**.
6. Look at the section called **Smilodon**.
Find and copy one word that means the same as 'not always'.
sometimes
7. Summarise what you have learnt about a stone age animal of your choice in 25 words or fewer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: The woolly mammoth lived on tundra. They had long curved tusks, a shaggy coat and small ears. They became extinct about 10,000 years ago.

Stone Age Animals

Various **megafauna** lived alongside early humans during the last **Ice Age**. A few that have especially interested numerous people for centuries are the smilodon, the woolly mammoth, the mastodon, the dire wolf, the cave bear and the woolly rhino.



Smilodon

Only distantly related to modern big cats, these animals are sometimes known as sabre-toothed tigers or cats. The name smilodon comes from a Greek word that means 'carving knife' and probably refers to their lengthy and sharp canine teeth, which grew up to around 30cm in length. Smilodons could weigh between around 200 to 400kg. All three known species of smilodon lived on the continents of North and South America and became extinct about 10,000 years ago.

Did You Know...?

Unlike woolly mammoths, mastodons had cone-shaped teeth that allowed them to eat twigs and small branches.



Woolly Mammoth

There are ten known species of mammoth but the most well known is the woolly mammoth. It had long, slightly curled tusks that grew up to around four metres in length, a shaggy coat that grew up to 70cm long and small ears. Male woolly mammoths could weigh up to 8 tonnes. Related to modern-day elephants, woolly mammoths once lived over large areas of **tundra** in North America, Asia and Europe and most became extinct around 10,000 years ago.



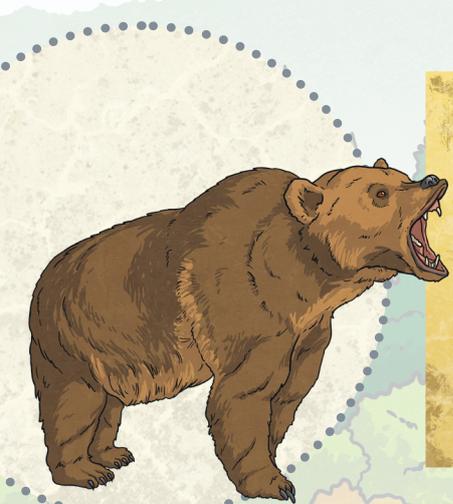
Mastodon

Found on the continent of North America until about 10,000 years ago, the four known species of mastodon were similar to woolly mammoths. They were also hairy, elephant-like creatures with small ears. They were different to mammoths in that they were shorter and stockier and only weighed up to 6 tonnes. Mastodons also had flatter heads and smaller, straight tusks that could grow over five metres long!



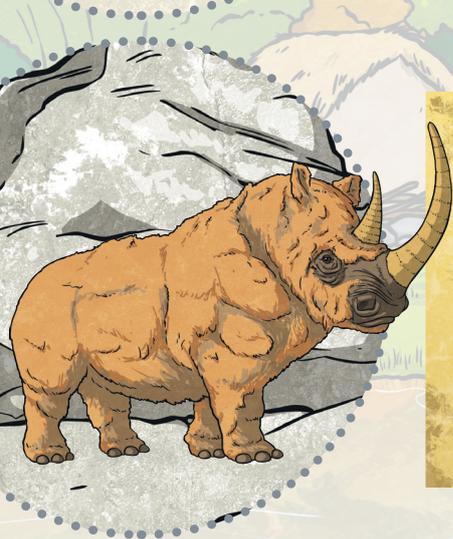
Dire Wolf

Dire wolves were slightly bigger than modern-day grey wolves and were only distantly related to them. They grew up to 1.75 metres in length and weighed up to around 68kg. They lived on the continents of North and South America until about 13,000 years ago.



Cave Bear

Found in caves in Europe and Asia, cave bears looked a lot like modern brown bears. They weighed between 400 and 1000kg, could grow up to 1.7 metres tall and were mostly herbivores. They became extinct around 20,000 years ago.



Woolly Rhino

The two species of woolly rhinos lived in Europe, Asia and North Africa. Most woolly rhinos weighed around 3.5 tonnes, had thick layers of fur and also had two massive horns on the front of their skulls. They became extinct about 14,000 years ago.

Glossary

Ice Age: A period of time when the Earth had a freezing climate and was largely covered in glaciers.

megafauna: Animals that are large in size.

tundra: A treeless, cold plain dotted with shrubs and grasses.

Questions

1. How long could a smilodon's canine teeth grow to? Tick one.

- around 2.5 metres
- around 70cm
- around 30cm
- around 4.2 metres

2. Which animal is related to modern-day elephants? Tick one.

- woolly rhino
- woolly mammoth
- cave bear
- smilodon

3. Which animal became extinct 20,000 years ago? Tick one.

- cave bear
- woolly rhino
- dire wolf
- mastodon

4. Draw **four** lines and match each animal to where it lived.

smilodon	Europe, Asia and North America
woolly rhino	North America, Asia and Europe
woolly mammoth	North and South America
cave bear	Europe and Asia

5. Fill in the missing words.

_____ megafauna lived _____ early humans during the last Ice Age.

6. Look at the section **Mastodon**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'like' or 'almost the same'.

7. Which animal would you like to see in a zoo? Explain your answer.

8. Which animal surprised you the most? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. How long could a smilodon's canine teeth grow to? Tick one.

- around 2.5 metres
- around 70cm
- around 30cm**
- around 4.2 metres

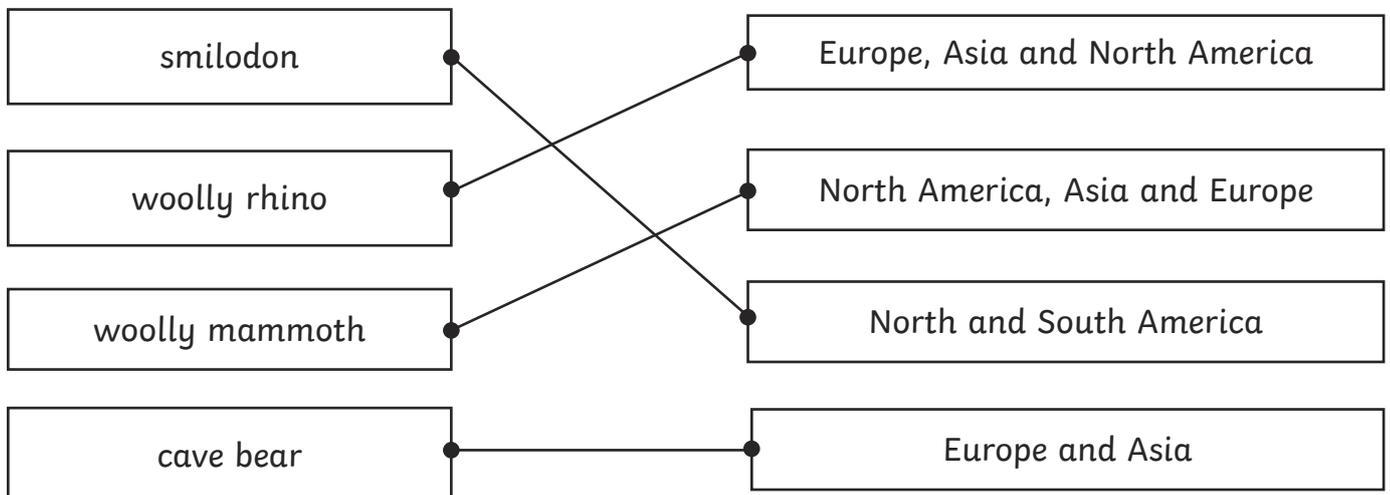
2. Which animal is related to modern-day elephants? Tick one.

- woolly rhino
- woolly mammoth**
- cave bear
- smilodon

3. Which animal became extinct 20,000 years ago? Tick one.

- cave bear**
- woolly rhino
- dire wolf
- mastodon

4. Draw **four** lines and match each animal to where it lived.



5. Fill in the missing words.

Various megafauna lived **alongside** early humans during the last Ice Age.

6. Look at the section **Mastodon**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'like' or 'almost the same'.

similar

7. Which animal would you like to see in a zoo? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would like to see a smilodon in a zoo. I think they would be interesting to see with their long teeth. I would be able to compare them to modern cats and see how they are similar and different.

8. Which animal surprised you the most? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the mastodon surprised me the most. I didn't realise there was another elephant-like creature that lived during the Ice Age. I only knew about the mammoth.

Stone Age Animals

There were many different **megafauna** that lived alongside early humans during the last **Ice Age**. A few that have fascinated numerous people for generations are the smilodon, the woolly mammoth, the mastodon, the dire wolf, the cave bear and the woolly rhino.

Smilodon



Marginally related to the modern big cats, these animals are sometimes identified as sabre-toothed tigers or cats. The name smilodon comes from a Greek word that means 'carving knife'. It probably relates to their extended canine teeth, which grew up to around 30cm and were extremely sharp. The smilodon could weigh between 200 and 400kg and it is thought that they preferred to live in forests and were pack hunters. All three species of smilodon lived on the continents of North and South America and became extinct about 10,000 years ago.

Woolly Mammoth



Closely related to modern-day elephants, woolly mammoths once rambled over large areas of **tundra** found in North America, Asia and Europe. There are ten known species of mammoth but the woolly mammoth is the most well known. It had very distinctive features, including its extremely long, slightly curved tusks that grew up to around four metres, a shaggy coat that grew up to 70cm long and small ears. Many scientists think they had small ears to protect them from the cold climate. Male woolly mammoths could weigh up to 8 tonnes. Most mammoths became extinct around 10,000 years ago.

Mastodon



Found on the continent of North America until about 10,000 years ago, mastodons were very much like woolly mammoths; they were also hairy, elephant-like creatures with small ears. Even so, the four known species of mastodon were shorter and stockier than mammoths with smaller, straight tusks that could grow over five metres long! Mastodons weighed up to 6 tonnes and had flatter heads than mammoths. They also had unique, cone-shaped teeth so they could eat twigs and not just grasses like their mammoth ancestors.

Dire Wolf



Quite distant ancestors of most modern day canines, Dire wolves were slightly bigger than today's grey wolves. They grew up to 1.75 metres tall and weighed up to 68kg. They also had larger teeth than their wolf relatives. They lived on the continents of North and South America until about 13,000 years ago.

Cave Bear



Cave bears spent a good portion of their life in European and Asian caves and looked a lot like modern brown bears. They could grow to 1.7 metres tall, weighed between 400 and 1000kg and were mostly herbivores. They became extinct around 20,000 years ago.

Woolly Rhino



The two known species of woolly rhino lived over a broad part of the world from Europe and Asia down to North Africa. Most woolly rhinos weighed around 3.5 tonnes, had thick layers of fur and also had two massive horns on the front of their skulls. They became extinct about 14,000 years ago.

Glossary

Ice Age: A period of time when the Earth had a freezing climate and was largely covered in glaciers.

megafauna: Animals that are large in size.

tundra: A treeless, cold plain dotted with shrubs and grasses.

Questions

1. How tall could a cave bear be? Tick one.

- 70 cm
 1.7 metres
 1.75 metres
 4.2 metres

2. Draw **four** lines and match each animal to its number of species.

woolly rhino

three

smilodon

ten

mammoth

two

mastodon

four

3. How many horns did a woolly rhino have?

4. Fill in the missing words.

Mastodons _____ up to 6 tonnes and had _____ heads
 than mammoths.

5. Look at the section called **Woolly Mammoth**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'a bit'.

6. If you could go back in time and see all of these animals, would you go? Explain your answer.

7. If we could bring these animals back, do you think we should? Explain your answer.

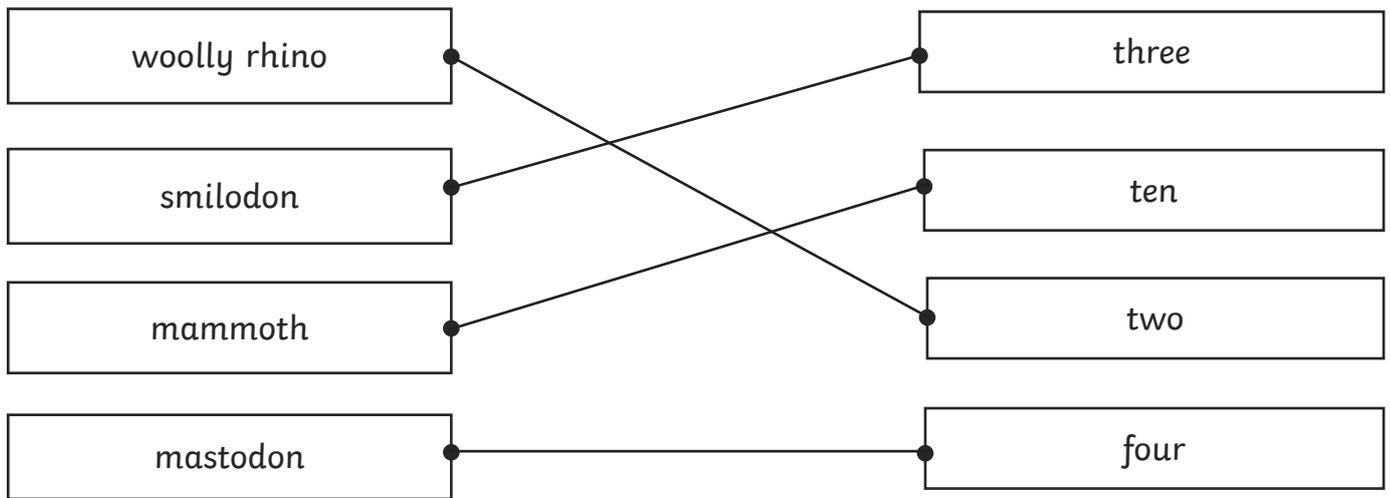
8. Which animal would you like to learn more about? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. How tall could a cave bear be? Tick one.

- 70 cm
 1.7 metres
 1.75 metres
 4.2 metres

2. Draw **four** lines and match each animal to its number of species.



3. How many horns did a woolly rhino have?

The woolly rhino had two horns.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Mastodons **weighed** up to 6 tonnes and had **flatter** heads than mammoths.

5. Look at the section called **Woolly Mammoth**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'a bit'.

slightly

6. If you could go back in time and see all of these animals, would you go? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think I would like to go back in time and see them. It would be fascinating to see how big they were and how they had adapted to their cold environment.

7. If we could bring these animals back, do you think we should? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I don't think so. I think they became extinct for a reason. I also think they would possibly bother the populations of animals we have now and we are already struggling to help them.
8. Which animal would you like to learn more about? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would like to learn more about the mastodon. I would like to know if it lived with and got along with woolly mammoths. I'd also like to see the cone-shaped teeth and learn more about how they ate twigs.