

## Woolly Mammoths

### Introduction

Woolly Mammoths were related to the modern day elephant but they were much taller and heavier. They lived alongside humans during the Ice Age and became extinct around 11,000 years ago. Interestingly, cave paintings of the woolly mammoth have been found in France and Spain.

### Appearance

Woolly Mammoths looked very similar to modern day elephants. They commonly measured up to 3.5m tall to their shoulders and weighed about 6 tonnes. Mammoths had two coats of fur: an outer layer which was long and rough, and a shorter, softer layer underneath. This fur kept them warm in a very harsh environment. They also had tusks for protection and fighting. Amazingly, these could grow to nearly 2.5m long!

### Habitat and Diet

Remains of mammoths have been found in Europe, Asia and North America. Their woolly coats meant that they could survive in cold climates. All mammoths were herbivores and ate grass, leaves and bushes. Many had to dig through snow to find food in the tundra.

### Conclusion

More recently, scientists have found whole woolly mammoths encased in ice. This has helped us to understand more about them.

## VIPERS

1. What does the word 'extinct' mean?

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2. Find and copy two words that describe how a woolly mammoth is compared to an elephant?

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3. Why do woolly mammoths have woolly coats?

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4. What is a herbivore?

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5. Describe the environment woolly mammoths lived in?

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6. Why did they 'dig through snow'?

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7. Explain how we know about mammoths?

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8. Name 2 features of an information text and explain their purpose.

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