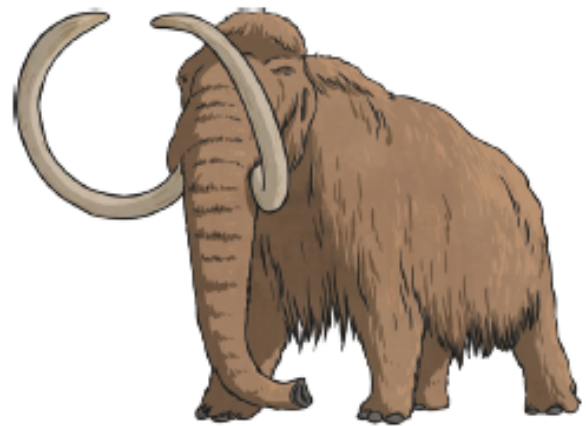


The Woolly Mammoth

What was it?

The woolly mammoth was an extremely large animal that roamed the Earth long, long ago. This animal existed during the last ice age, which was between 200,000 and 4,000 years ago. It is known to have lived in Northern Europe and Asia, as well as North America.



Why did it become extinct?

About 4,000 years ago, the woolly mammoth became extinct. The main reason for the disappearance of this species is climate change. This animal evolved to live in extremely cold weather, and planet Earth has become much warmer since its existence. Another reason it went extinct is because humans began hunting the woolly mammoth for the ivory that came from their tusks.

What did it look like?

Because the woolly mammoth lived during the ice age, it was covered with long fur to help it keep warm. It also had two very long ivory tusks. The woolly mammoth was so big that it weighed about 6 tons! That is around the size of an African elephant. Mammoths and elephants actually come from the same family of animals, and they look very similar. One difference is that mammoths actually had very small ears!

Fun facts!

- The woolly mammoth was a herbivore!
- Their tusks were 15 feet long!
- Mammoth ivory is sometimes used in making violin bows today!