

A detailed illustration of a Tyrannosaurus Rex in a lush, prehistoric jungle. The dinosaur is shown in profile, facing right, with its mouth open, revealing sharp teeth. It has a brown and grey textured skin. In the background, there are various tropical plants, palm trees, and a hazy landscape. A large, light brown title card with a green border and a green cracked background is overlaid on the right side of the image. The title 'ANCIENT ANIMALS' is written in large, green, outlined letters on this card.

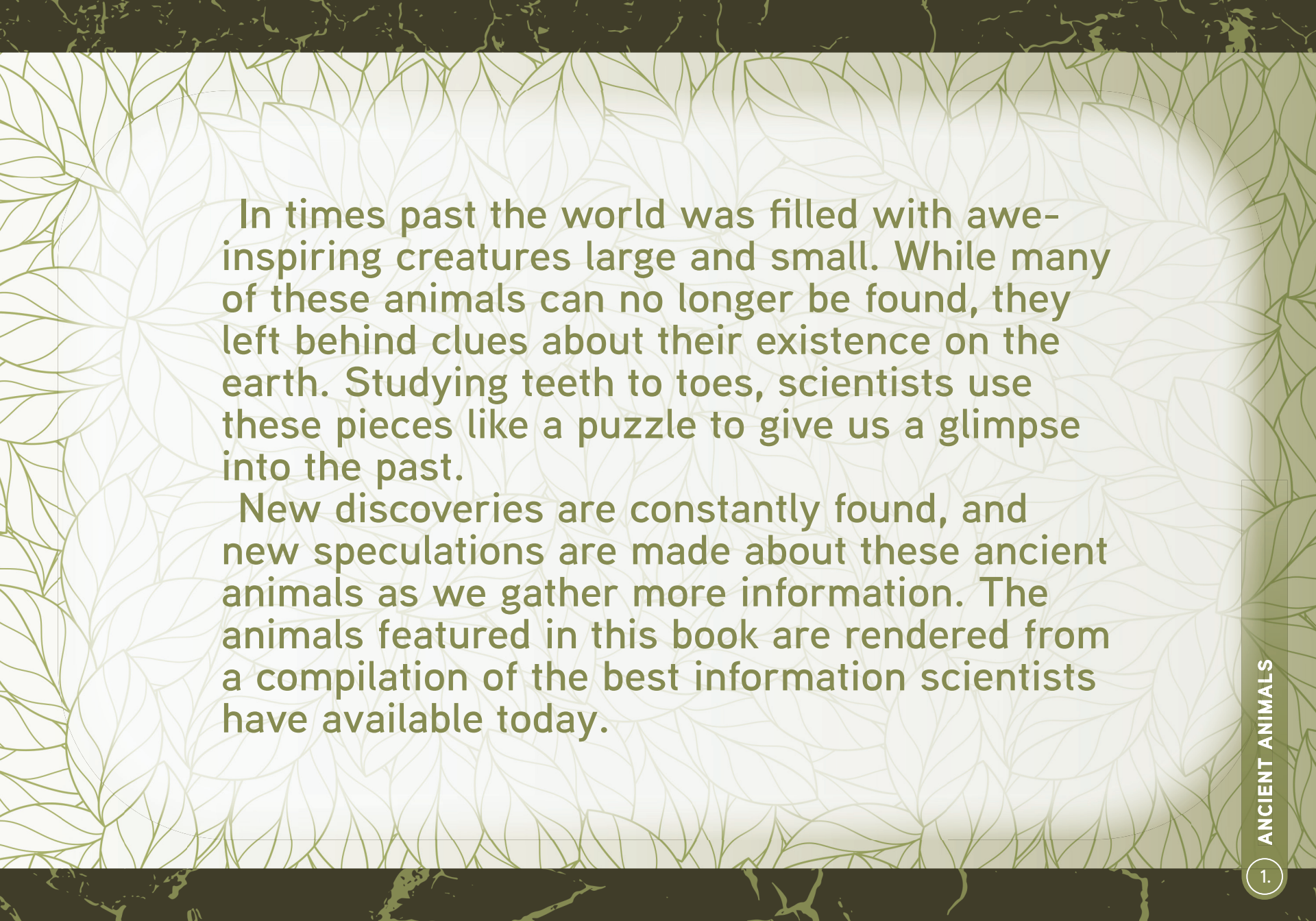
ANCIENT ANIMALS

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THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY





In times past the world was filled with awe-inspiring creatures large and small. While many of these animals can no longer be found, they left behind clues about their existence on the earth. Studying teeth to toes, scientists use these pieces like a puzzle to give us a glimpse into the past.

New discoveries are constantly found, and new speculations are made about these ancient animals as we gather more information. The animals featured in this book are rendered from a compilation of the best information scientists have available today.

DIMETRODON

Dimetrodon [die-MEH-truh-don], often mistaken for a dinosaur, was a mammal-like creature that fed on fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Since its initial discovery in 1878, twenty species have been identified. This animal walked on four legs and had a magnificent sail down its back. Many scientists believe that Dimetrodon's sail was used to help regulate its temperature, though other studies indicate that this may not have been the case.



FUN FACT:

Dimetrodon means “two measures of teeth.” It had long teeth in the front and shorter teeth in the back.



INFO:

SIZE:

1.83–4.57 m (6–15 ft) long

WEIGHT:

27.22–249.48 kg (60–550 lb)

CARNIVORE

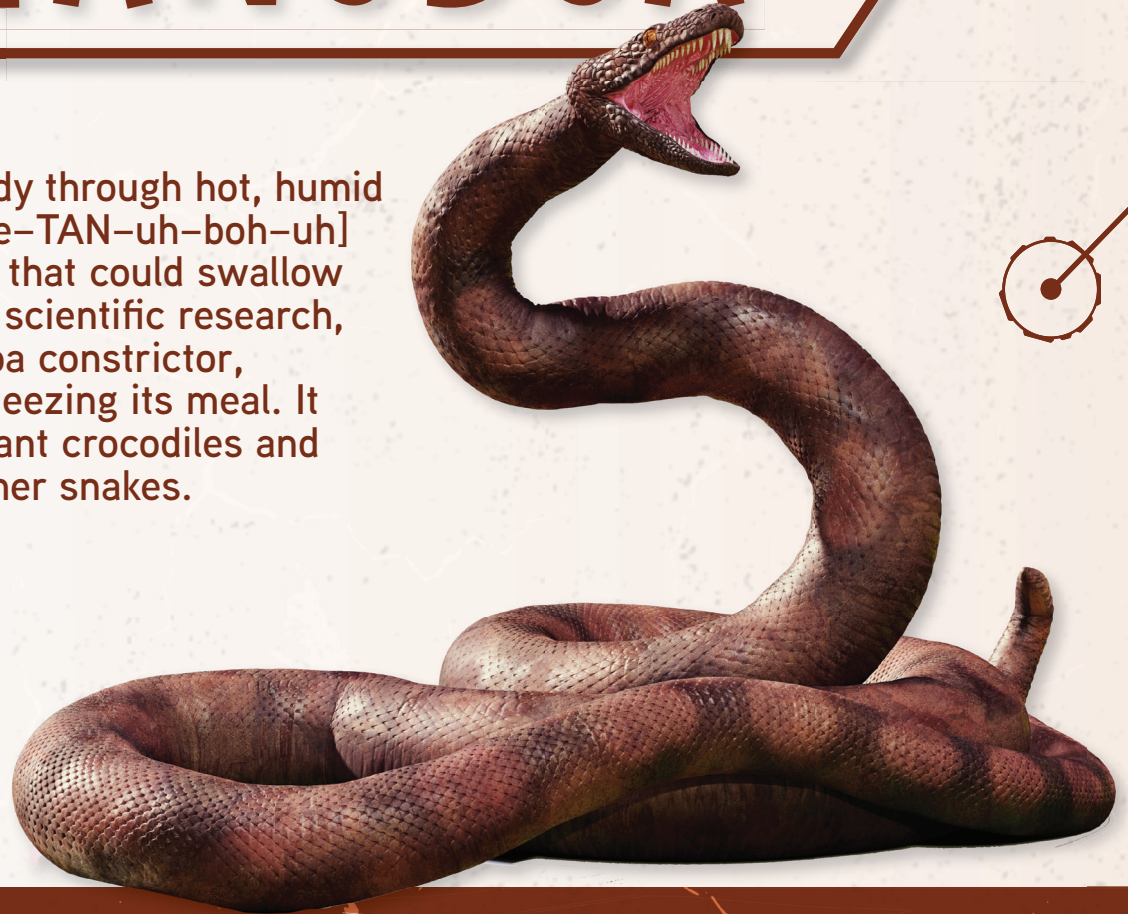
FOUND:

North America



TITANOBOA

Weaving its massive body through hot, humid jungles, the Titanoboa [tie-TAN-uh-boh-uh] was an enormous hunter that could swallow its prey whole. Based on scientific research, the snake resembled a boa constrictor, wrapping around and squeezing its meal. It could easily prey upon giant crocodiles and turtles, large fish, and other snakes.



FUN FACT:

Titanoboa could go about a year between meals. Its body was 91.44 cm (3 ft) in diameter.



INFO:

SIZE:

13.7 m (45 ft) long

WEIGHT:

About 1,133.98 kg
(2,500 lb)

CARNIVORE

FOUND:

Colombia



ANOMALOCARIS

(GIANT SHRIMP)

In Greek, anomalocaris [uh-NOH-muh-lo-CARE-iss] means “unusual shrimp.” At a length of around 91.44 cm (3 ft) long, this ancient arthropod was certainly unusual. Anomalocaris was able to swim at great speeds due to its undulating motion, and it had sharp spikes on its limbs, useful for grabbing prey. With 32 overlapping plates in its mouth, Anomalocaris may have been able to crush the thick armor on food like trilobites, but it has also been theorized that it was a filter feeder, using its spiky arms to sift through gravel for smaller prey.



FUN FACT:

Anomalocaris's large stalked eyes had 16,000 lenses each, which gave it 360-degree eyesight.



INFO:

SIZE:

Up to 91.44 cm (3 ft)

WEIGHT:

9.07 kg (20 lb)

CARNIVORE

FOUND:

Utah, USA; Canada; China; Australia; and Greenland



INFO:

SIZE:

Up to 3 m (9.8 ft)

WEIGHT:

Unknown

CARNIVORE

FOUND:

South America

FUN FACT:

The Phorusrhacids were fast runners, reaching up to 48 kph (30 mph). They likely chased down rodents for prey.



PHORUSRHACID

Nicknamed the “terror bird” for its predatory feeding habits and ferocious hooked beak, the Phorusrhacid [FOR-iss-RASS-id] was an apex hunter that lived on the continent of South America. Standing between 1–3 m (3.3–9.8 ft) tall, this long-legged bird likely used its height to intimidate prey and its large beak to strike downward at the animals. It may also have held its prey down with sharp talons and pecked at the prey with its powerful beak.





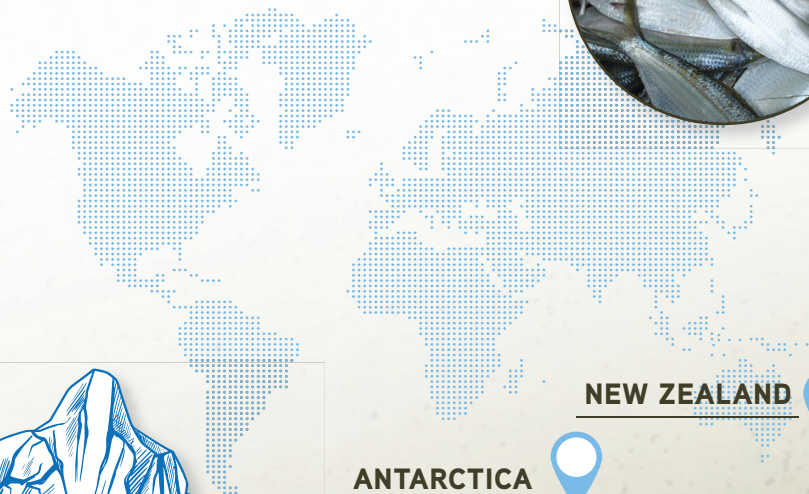
PALAEODYPTES

(GIANT PENGUINS)

Including four species of large ancient penguins, fossils of the Palaeodyptes [PAH-lay-you-DIP-teez] genus of birds have been found on Seymour Island, Antarctica, and in New Zealand. At about 2 m (6.7 ft) tall, the largest of the four species was taller than most humans while the smallest was closer to the size of modern emperor penguins. Based on their size, scientists think these “colossus penguins” were able to stay underwater for around 40 minutes at a time.

FUN FACT:

A similar penguin today is the emperor penguin at 1.22 m (4 ft) tall and close to 45 kg (100 lb).



NEW ZEALAND

ANTARCTICA

INFO:

SIZE:

1.83 m (6 ft) tall

WEIGHT:

About 113.4 kg (250 lb)

CARNIVORE

FOUND:

Antarctica and
New Zealand



THALASSOCNUS

Thalassocnus [thal-uh-SOCK-niss], a genus of semiaquatic ground sloths, relied on their large paws more for paddling than for aggressive swimming. With long snouts and internal nostrils far inside its head, this animal was able to sink underwater and walk across the seafloor to dig up its next meal of seaweed and seagrass. Similar to a beaver's tail, Thalassocnus's long tail was most likely used to aid in diving and balance.



FUN FACT:

Thalassocnus's dense bones helped it to sink so it could walk the ocean floor in search of food.



INFO:

SIZE:

Up to 3.35 m (11 ft) long

WEIGHT:

Up to 3,628.74 kg (8,000 lb)

HERBIVORE

FOUND:

Peru and Chile



STUPENDEMYS



Stupendemys [stoo-PEN-duh-muss], the largest freshwater turtle known to have existed, ate plants, animals, and nearly anything that would fit in its mouth. This side-necked turtle would fold its long neck into one side of its shell for protection, and its heavy weight allowed it to stay underwater for extended periods of time.

Scientists discovered that the male Stupendemys had horns on the upper part of its shell, which is called the carapace. These horns are speculated to have been used for defense.

FUN FACT:

Stupendemys translates to “stupendous turtle,” which is an accurate description of this massive genus.



INFO:

SIZE:

Up to 3.96 m (13 ft) long

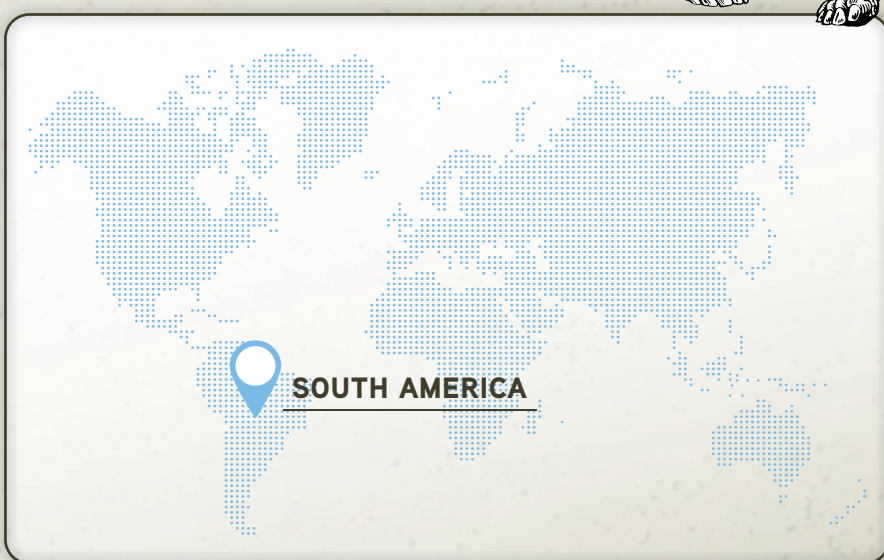
WEIGHT:

1,133.98 kg (2,500 lb)

OMNIVORE

FOUND:

South America



CHALICOTHERIUM

This odd-looking creature, Chalicotherium [cah-LEE-coh-THEER-ee-um], had long clawed forelimbs and paw-like shorter hind limbs. Based on scientific studies, it is speculated that it walked on its front knuckles to protect its sharp claws from the ground. It would use its powerful forelimbs and claws to pull and scrape for food or to defend itself. Despite its fierce appearance, Chalicotherium's diet most likely consisted of leaves and other soft vegetation.



FUN FACT:

Chalicotherium shares features with the great ape, panda, ground sloth, and horse.



INFO:

SIZE:

2.74 m (9 ft) high at the shoulder

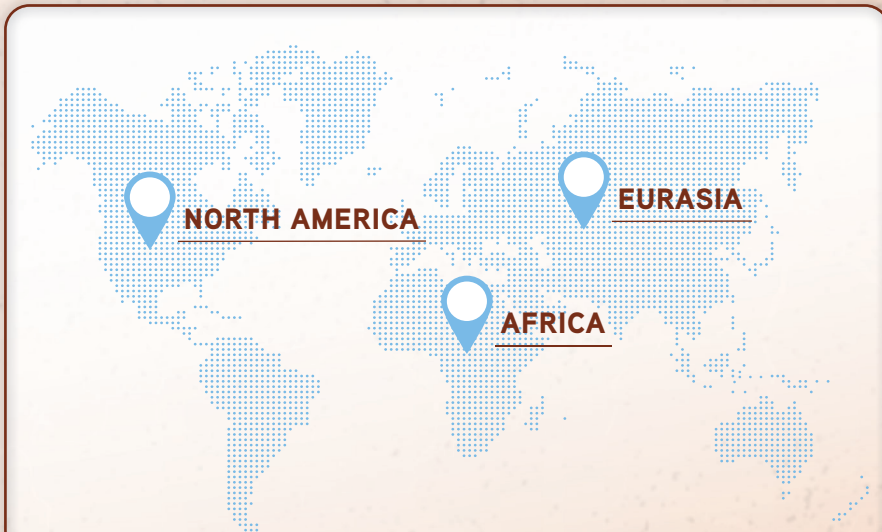
WEIGHT:

Up to 907.18 kg (2,000 lb)

HERBIVORE

FOUND:

Africa, Eurasia, and North America



INFO:

SIZE:

Up to 3.41 m (11.2 ft)
tall at the shoulder

WEIGHT:

Up to 5,987.42 kg
(13,200 lb)

HERBIVORE

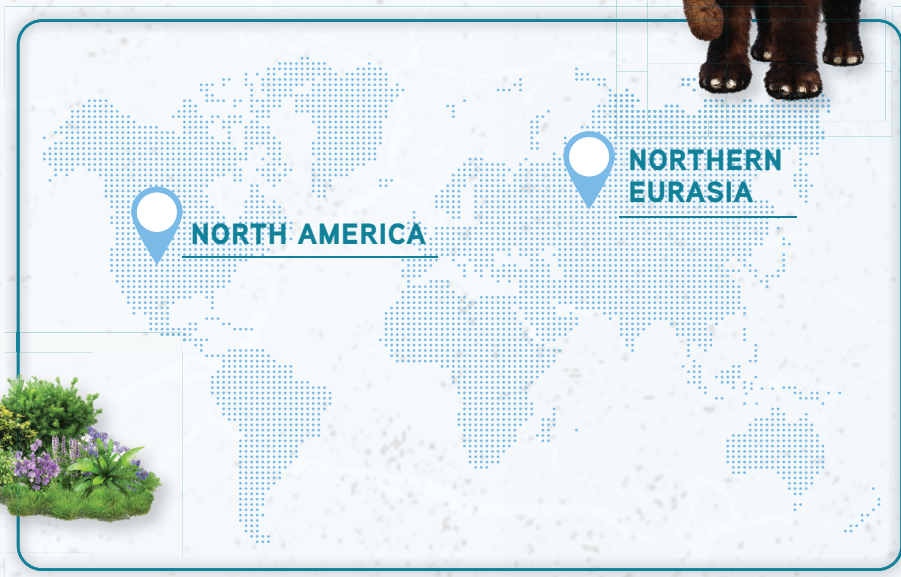
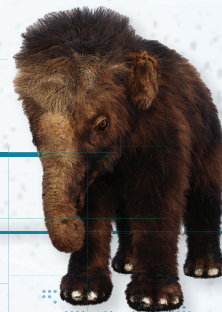
FOUND:

Northern Eurasia and
North America



FUN FACT:

A baby woolly mammoth would weigh about 90.72 kg (200 lb) at birth. Woolly mammoths had small ears and short tails, which helped prevent frostbite. They lived for about 60 years.



WOOLLY MAMMOTH



The massive woolly mammoth [WUHL-lee MAM-uth] is known for its long curved tusks that were used to break ice and scrape tree limbs, as well as to defend itself against predators. Its fat stores, short undercoat, and long fur kept it warm in the frigid lands it roamed. Scientists believe this social animal likely lived in female-led family groups, similar to modern-day elephants. Living in a herd allowed for better protection against wolves and large felines.