



CRESWELL CRAGS

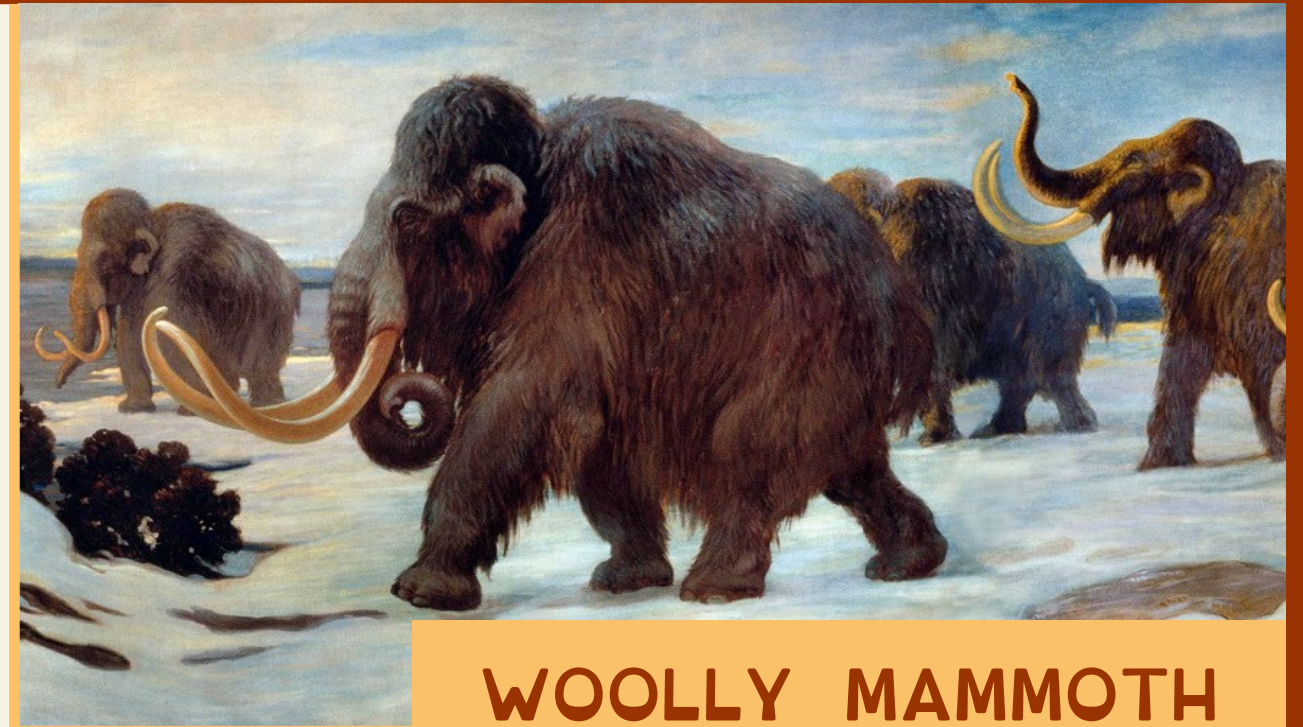
Ice Age Animal

Factsheets

Scientists have found frozen woolly mammoths in cold places, like Russia. Some of these mammoths were so complete that you can see their hair and muscles!

Mammuthus primigenius

Height: 3m (shoulder)
Weight: 6000 kg
Diet: Herbivore
Range: Eurasia & N. America



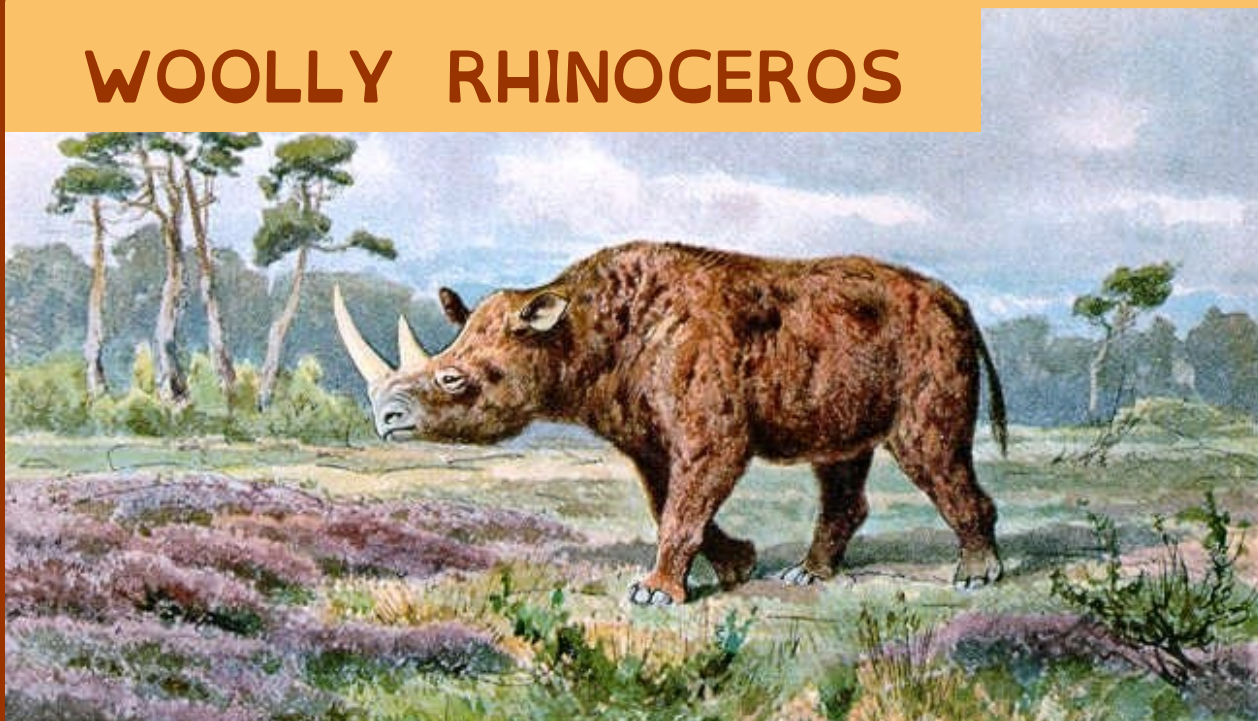
WOOLLY MAMMOTH



HERBIVORES: MEGAFaUNA

The word “megafauna” means “big animal”. Many animals in the Ice Age were very large compared with creatures living today.

WOOLLY RHINOCEROS



Coelodonta antiquitatis

Height: 2m (shoulder)
Weight: 2700 kg
Diet: Herbivore
Range: Eurasia

Woolly rhinos were plant-eaters. They used their massive horns to scrape away ice and snow from plants so they could feed (like a giant snow plough)!

In Spain, there is a cave called Altamira which has beautiful Ice Age paintings of bison. We also have an Ice Age carving of a bison at Creswell Crags!

Bison priscus

Height: 2m (shoulder)

Weight: 900 kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Eurasia



STEPPE BISON



HERBIVORES: COW-LIKE ANIMALS

Aurochs and bison were large animals which looked a lot like bulls. Humans during the Ice Age would have hunted them for their meat and skins.

AUROCHS



Bos primigenius

Height: 1.8m (shoulder)

Weight: 700 kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Eurasia &
Africa

The farm cows we have today are related to the aurochs. Scientists think humans began to tame aurochs around ten thousand years ago.

The saiga antelope has a very unusual nose which helps them live in cold places. Breathing through their nose lets them warm up cold air!

Saiga tatarica

Height: 0.7m (shoulder)

Weight: 40 kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Eurasia

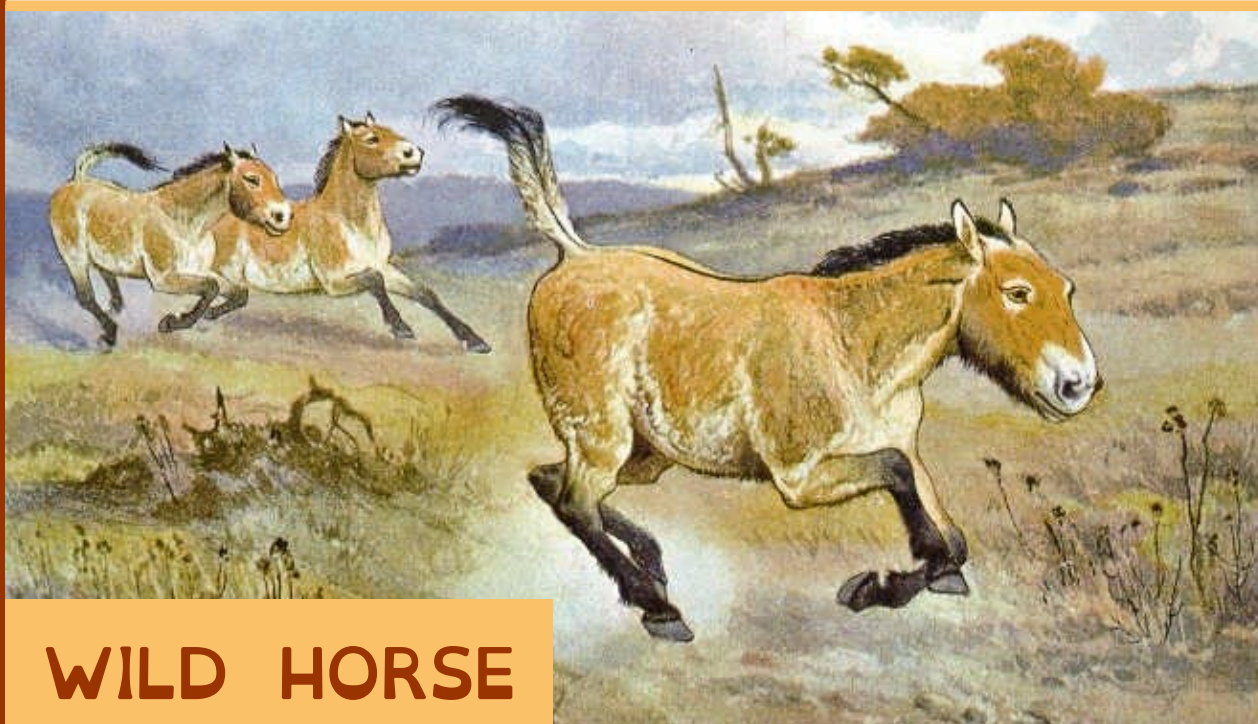


SAIGA ANTELOPE



HERBIVORES: GRAZERS

Grazers are animals which eat food on the ground, usually grasses or herby plants. Some grazers act a bit like a lawnmower, keeping grass very short!



WILD HORSE

Equus ferus

Height: 1.3m (shoulder)

Weight: 150 kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Eurasia, N. & S
America

Everyone knows that zebras have stripes, but have you ever seen a horse with polka-dots? Some Ice Age cave paintings show spotty horses. Do you think they were real?

Reindeer meat (venison) is only one of the reasons this animal was hunted in the Ice Age. Can you think of some uses of their fur, antlers and bones?

Rangifer tarandus

Height: 1.5m (shoulder)

Weight: 140 kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Eurasia, N. America



REINDEER



HERBIVORES: DEER

Deer were very important to people during the Ice Age. Stags were one of their favourite things to draw and paint in art and reindeer were the most commonly hunted animal of all.



IRISH ELK

Megaloceros giganteus

Height: 2.1m (shoulder)

Weight: 600-700kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Eurasia

The Irish Elk had the biggest antlers ever found, wider than a human arm span! These huge antlers were extremely heavy. How strong do you think their neck muscles were?

One of the reasons Ice Age people stayed at Creswell Crags was to trap mountain hares. Their fluffy furs are good for gloves and their leg bones make excellent tools for piercing skins.

Lepus timidus
Weight: 3kg
Diet: Herbivore
Range: Eurasia



MOUNTAIN HARE



HERBIVORES: RABBIT RELATIVES

Rabbits and their relatives eat grass, moss and other small plants. Sometimes they eat their own poo to digest it again and get all of the goodness out!



STEPPE PIKA

Ochotona pusilla
Weight: 300g
Diet: Herbivore
Range: Eurasia

You might have heard of Pikachu, but have you heard of the pika? This small furry animal looks like a hamster but is more closely related to a rabbit.

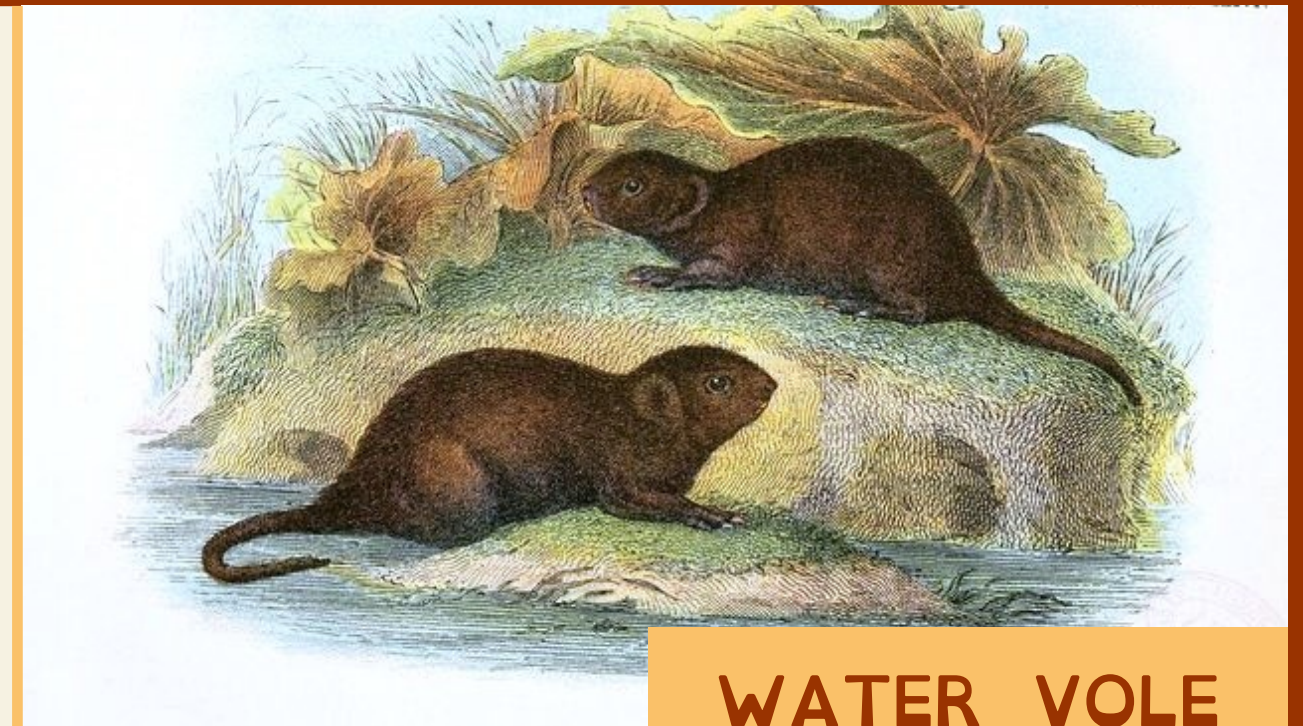
Because there are many kinds of voles and their teeth are very distinctive, archaeologists can use their fossilised teeth to help date sites. This is called the “Vole Clock”!

Arvicola amphibius

Weight: 200g

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Europe



WATER VOLE



HERBIVORES: RODENTS

The rodents, which include mice, rats, voles, lemmings, hamsters and gerbils, all have a habit of chewing things. In fact, that’s what the name “rodent” means!

NORWAY LEMMING



Lemmus Lemmus

Weight: 100g

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Europe

Lemmings are extremely common in cold places today, like Norway and Sweden. Many people think that they jump off cliffs but this isn’t actually true!

Some of the oldest cave paintings in the world can be found at Chauvet Cave in France. One of the beautiful pictures is of a pride of cave lions hunting bison.

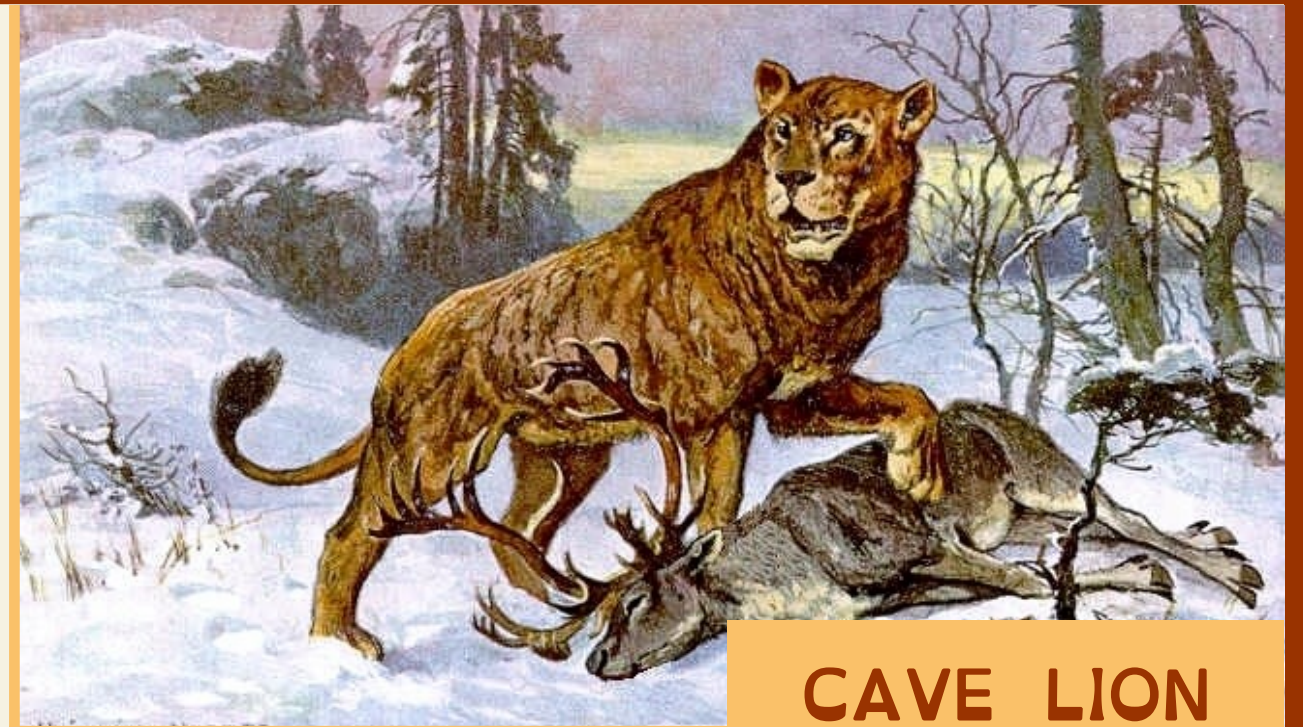
Panthera leo spelaea

Height: 1.2m (shoulder)

Weight: 315 kg

Diet: Carnivore

Range: Eurasia

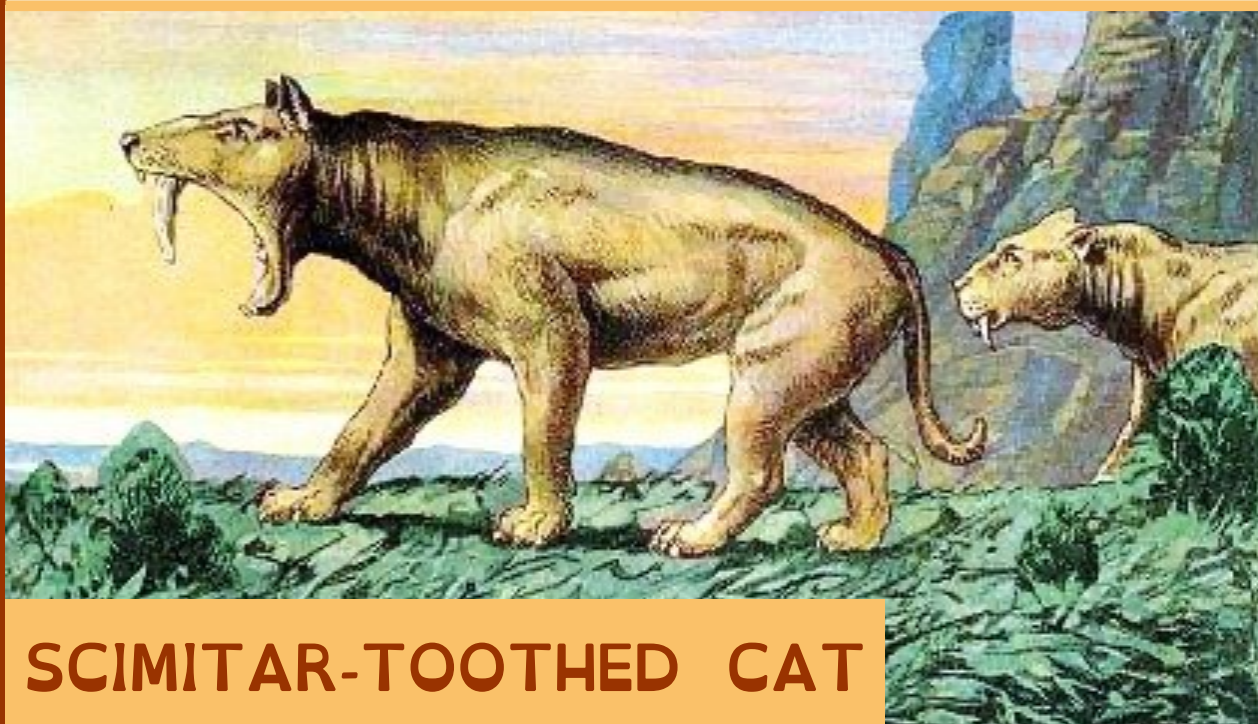


CAVE LION



PREDATORS: BIG CATS

Did you know that the famous sabre-toothed cat never lived in Britain? These two big cats were the closest thing to it that you would find in this part of the world.



SCIMITAR-TOOTHED CAT

Homotherium latidens

Height: 1m (shoulder)

Weight: 160 kg

Diet: Carnivore

Range: Eurasia, Africa

Scimitar-toothed cat fossils are very rare in Britain, but one impressive fang was found at Creswell Crags. Their teeth were jagged like knives, to help them tear into the flesh of prey.

All pet dogs can be traced back to the grey wolf, who was their ancient ancestor. Archaeologists think that humans started to tame wolves during the Ice Age.

Canis Lupus

Height: 0.7m (shoulder)

Weight: 40 kg

Diet: Carnivore

Range: Eurasia & N. America



GREY WOLF



PREDATORS: PACK HUNTERS

Did you know that we have the most complete baby hyena fossil in Europe at Creswell Crags?
His name is Eric and he even has his own Fan Club!



CAVE HYENA

Crocota crocota spelaea

Height: 1m (shoulder)

Weight: 225kg

Diet: Carnivore

Range: Eurasia

Cave hyenas would grind up bones with their teeth to get the rich fat inside. Swallowing bits of bone made their poo fossilize, something archaeologists call "coprolite" (poo stone)!

Arctic fox fur is incredibly soft and warm, so Ice Age hunters may have trapped them for their furs. Their teeth were often used by Ice Age people for jewellery.

Vulpes lagopus

Height: 0.3m (shoulder)

Weight: <10 kg

Diet: Carnivore

Range: Eurasia &
N. America

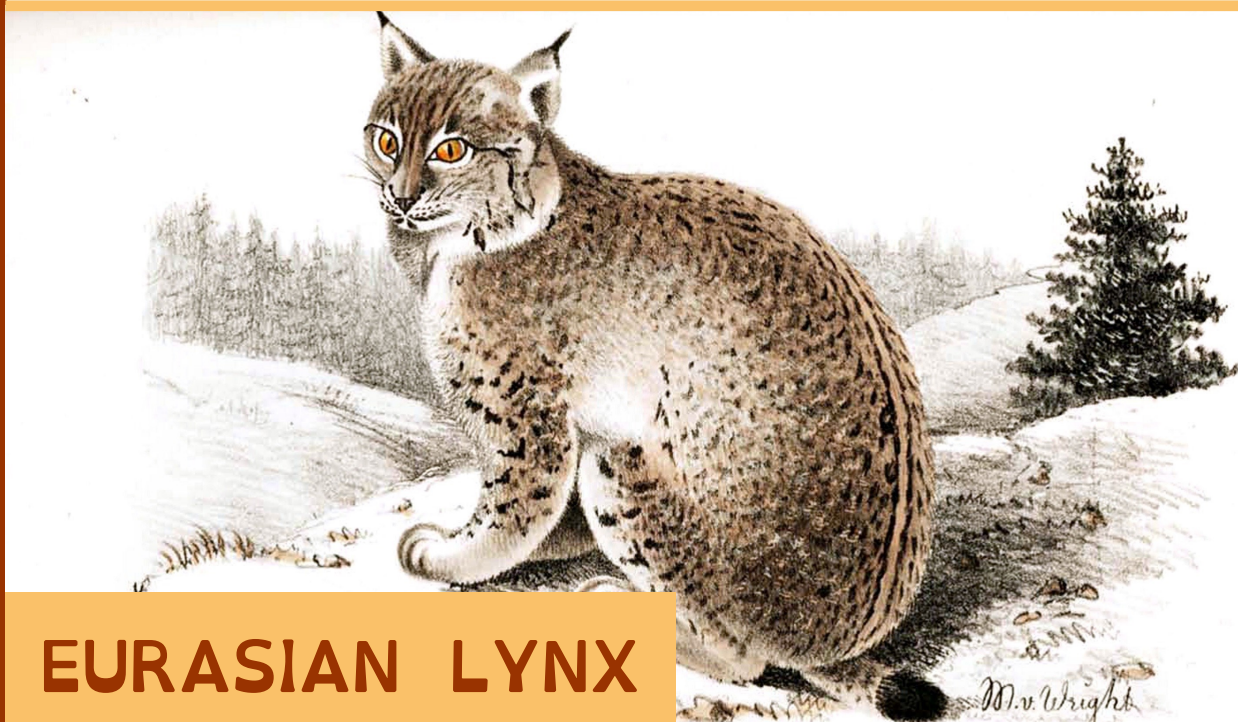


ARCTIC FOX



PREDATORS: SOLO HUNTERS

Smaller predatory animals would eat little animals like rodents, birds, fish and even the young of larger animals like deer.



EURASIAN LYNX

Felis lynx

Height: 0.7m (shoulder)

Weight: 25 kg

Diet: Carnivore

Range: Eurasia

Lynx stalk their prey and use gaps in rocks to hide themselves. When they're close, they pounce... BAM! By being sneaky they can kill animals as large as deer!

Did you know that a pet ferret is actually a tamed polecat? People use ferrets to catch rabbits because they are so flexible and good at hunting.

Mustela putorius

Weight: 1kg

Diet: Omnivore

Range: Eurasia



EUROPEAN POLECAT



PREDATORS: MUSTELIDS

These animals are closely related to weasels, otters and badgers. Animals of this family are called mustelids and they are all very good hunters even though they are not very large.

WOLVERINE



Gulo gulo

Weight: 25kg

Diet: Omnivore

Range: Eurasia & N.
America

Wolverines have several common names. They get called "skunk bear" because they are so smelly (but not actually a bear), and "glutton" because they eat a lot.

There is a rock shelter where Neanderthal people buried their dead together with bodies of cave bears. Do you think bears were special to Neanderthal people?

Ursus spelaeus

Height: 1.5m (shoulder)

Weight: 500 kg

Diet: Omnivore

Range: Eurasia



CAVE BEAR



OMNIVORES: BEARS

Bears can be very fierce if they are protecting themselves, but they are not just predators. They have a very mixed diet including meat, fish and plants. Cave bears were mostly vegetarian!



BROWN BEAR

Ursus arctos

Height: 1.0 m (shoulder)

Weight: 200 kg

Diet: Omnivore

Range: Europe, Asia,
N. America

Brown bears can still be found across much of the world. There are lots of different types, like grizzly bears and Kodiak bears.

Ptarmigans are adapted for living in cold places.

They have feathered eyelids to keep their eyes from freezing and wide feathery feet to help them walk in the snow!

Lagopus muta

Weight: 600g

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Eurasia, N. America



ROCK PTARMIGAN



ICE AGE BIRDS

As there were not many trees for much of the Ice Age, a lot of the birds back then were species which nest in rocks or on the ground.



SHORT-EARED OWL

Asio flammeus

Weight: 300g

Diet: Carnivore

Range: Eurasia, N. America, S. America

All owls are fantastic hunters with extremely good eyesight. To help their vision, they can rotate their head almost completely around in a circle!

Musk oxen have fabulous, shaggy coats of fur with very long hairs which can reach right down to the ground. Can you think of a use for this fur?

Ovibos moschatus

Height: 1.5m (shoulder)

Weight: 400 kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Eurasia & N.
America



MUSK OX



EUROPEAN HERBIVORES

In the Ice Age, Europe and Britain were connected by land. There was no English Channel! Some animals we did not find in Britain would have been around in other parts of Europe.



ALPINE IBEX

Capra ibex

Height: 1m (shoulder)

Weight: 70 kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Europe

The ibex is a type of agile mountain goat which currently lives in the Alps. Males are much bigger than females and have incredible curved antlers.

GIANT BEAVER



Giant beavers were the size of a black bear, making them one of the largest rodents which ever lived. Its incisors (gnawing teeth) were up to 15cm long!

Castoroides ohioensis

Height: 1m (shoulder)
Weight: 200 kg
Diet: Herbivore
Range: N. America



NORTH AMERICAN MEGAFaUNA

Like in Europe, the Americas had some unusually large animals living during the Ice Age. Can you imagine a beaver the size of a bear?



MASTODON

Mammuthus americanus

Height: 4m (shoulder)
Weight: 7250 kg
Diet: Herbivore
Range: N. America

A complete mastodon skeleton was found in America, with a spear point stuck into its ribs! The bone around the point had started to heal. What does that tell you?

These giants could reach over 4m tall when they stood up. They would tear off vegetation or fruit from trees with their very long tongue!

Megatherium americanum

Height: 2.5m (shoulder)

Weight: 2500 kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: S. America



GIANT SLOTH



SOUTH AMERICAN MEGAFauna

South America is still a continent of many wonders, with many kinds of animals which are not found elsewhere. During the Ice Age, these strange creatures could have been found there.



GLYPTODON

Glyptodon clavipes

Height: 1.5m (shell)

Weight: 2000 kg

Diet: Herbivore

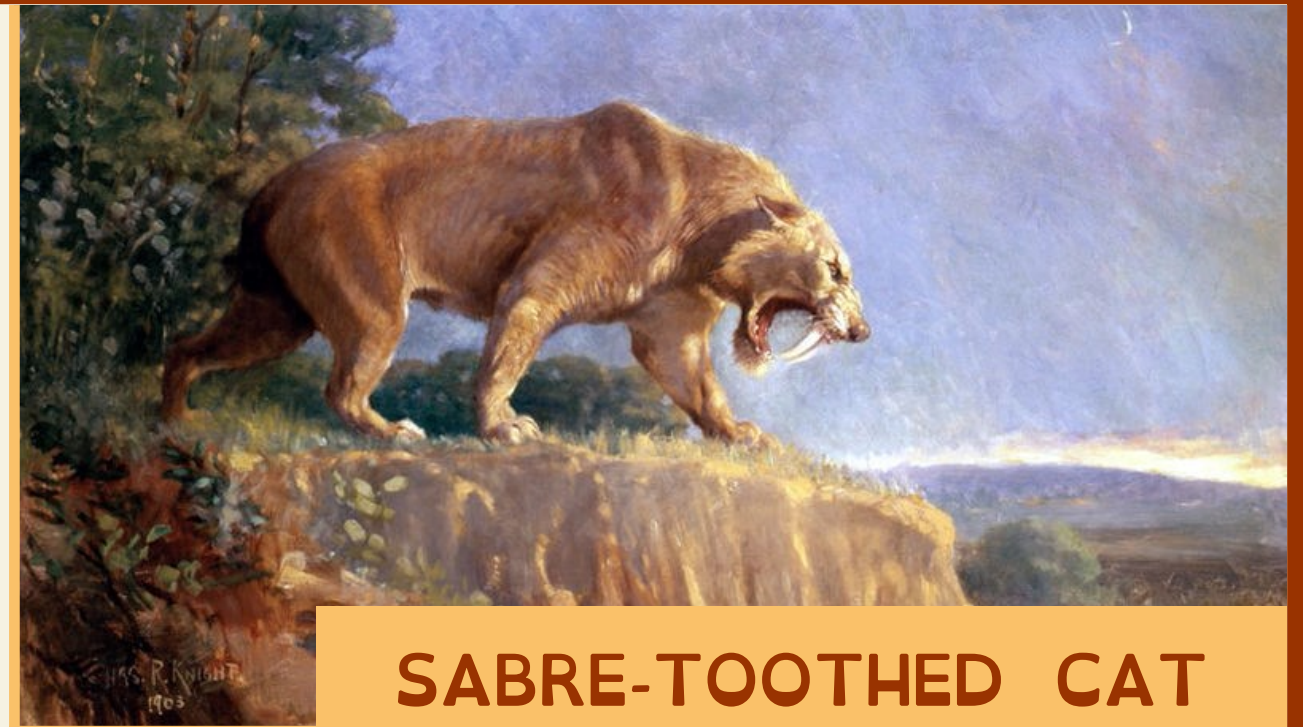
Range: S. America

Glyptodon were a bit like a giant armadillo. The earliest humans to live in South America hunted them, sometimes using their gigantic shells to make shelters!

Well-preserved fossils of sabre-toothed cats were found in the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles (USA). They got stuck trying to eat other trapped animals!

Smilodon populator

Height: 1.2m (shoulder)
Weight: 400 kg
Diet: Carnivore
Range: The Americas



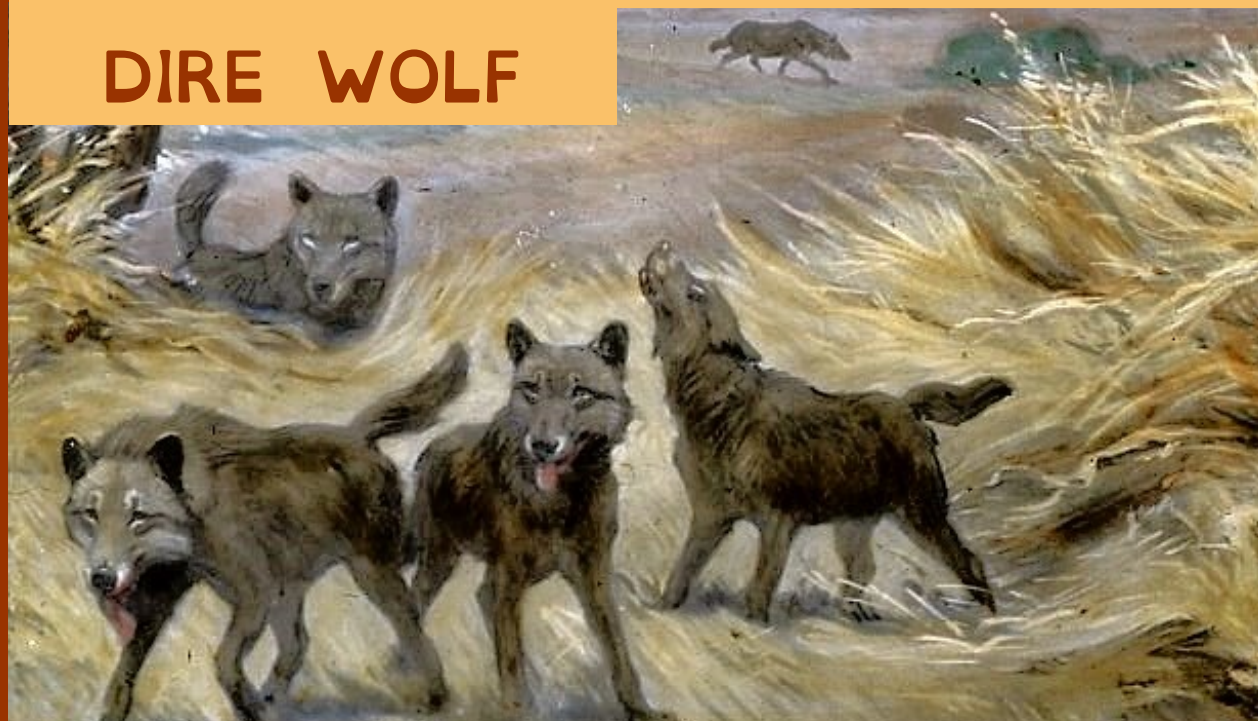
SABRE-TOOTHED CAT



AMERICAN ICE AGE PREDATORS

Smilodon teeth were bigger than the European *Homotherium* — 18cm long compared with 10cm. Both of them are named after their teeth, sabres and scimitars are types of sword!

DIRE WOLF



Canis dirus

Height: 0.8m (shoulder)
Weight: 50 kg
Diet: Carnivore
Range: The Americas

Dire wolves were larger and had a more powerful bite than the grey wolf. They would have competed with sabre-toothed cats for prey like wild horses and giant sloths.

These animals were the largest kangaroo that ever lived. It is possible that humans changing the environment in Australia drove them to extinction.

Procoptodon goliah

Height: 2m (standing)

Weight: 230 kg

Diet: Herbivore

Range: Australasia



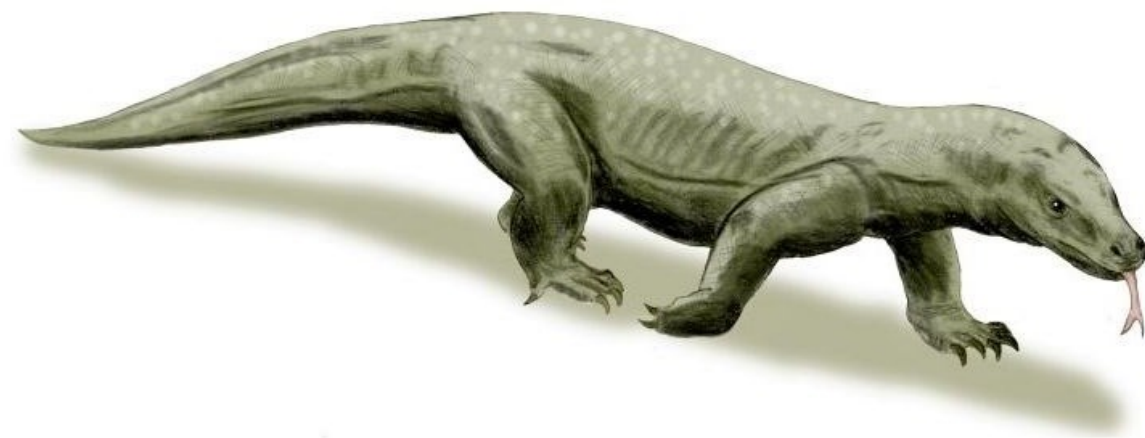
GIANT KANGAROO



AUSTRALIAN ICE AGE

Even Australia had an Ice Age and these two giant beasts were part of their “megafauna”, alongside giant wombats, giant echidnas and marsupial lions.

GIANT GOANNA



Creative Commons: ArthurWeasley

Megalania prisca

Height: 0.9m (shoulder)

Weight: 500—600 kg

Diet: Carnivore

Range: Australasia

This terrifying giant monitor lizard was one of the closest things you would see to a dinosaur during the Ice Age. It was around 6 metres long!