

MOTHER EARTH ADVOCATES

STUDENT NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:



MAMMOTHS BACK FROM EXTINCTION

BREAKING NEWS! For 12,000 years, mammoths were extinct from the face of the Earth. But a week ago, explorers discovered a hidden tundra within a mountain valley in northern Canada that contained a herd of 5,000 mammoths. Mystified by this turn of events, archaeologists investigated the valley and found evidence that Clovis people might have had something to do with this. Dr. Alexis Montoya stated, "The art we found in caves next to the valley are astounding! They illustrate that the Clovis people foresaw the woolly mammoth's extinction ... so they created a haven for the mammoths. And it has remained untouched for thousands of years!"

Other archaeologists agree with Montoya's statement after locating Clovis spear points near the archaic stone wall built around the borders of the valley.

Now, biologists and wildlife enthusiasts are scrambling to see these prehistoric elephants that our ancestors protected. "I feel like I have set foot in Jurassic Park ... only it's the Pleistocene Period with the gigantic beasts from the Ice Age!" said visitor Willow Adams. The valley, now called "Woolly Haven", is booming with visitors. Game Warden Zeke Morgan has been supervising sight-seers and advises the public to be safe. "These creatures have been untouched by human society for thousands of years.

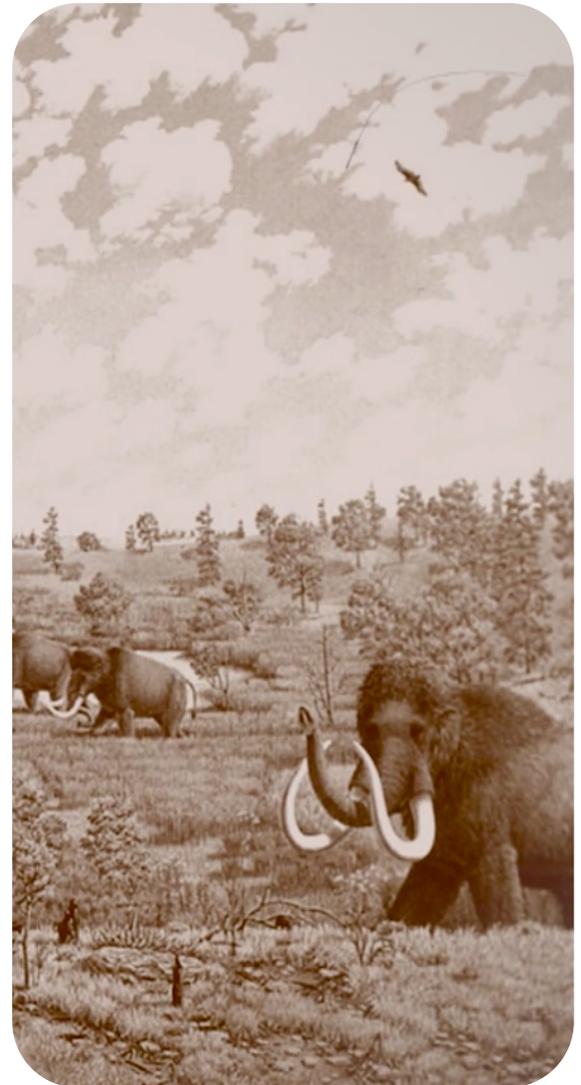
They are wild animals and we wish to keep it that way."

Despite warnings, a group of onlookers snuck past a warden and spooked the mammoths. In a panic, the herd tore off and burst through the stone wall. Now woolly mammoths are flooding out of the valley and into the North American continent. The breach has some of the public in a panic. Some admit they are afraid to witness mammoths in their backyards. Wildlife agencies and the government are now debating how to manage the species. Their decision will be announced in three days time ... ■

Welcome to the woolly mammoth debate, Mother Earth Advocates! The U.S. government needs your help in preparing a wildlife management plan for Woolly Haven’s mammoth herd. Your group believes in creating a management plan that looks out for the welfare of humans, mammoths, and all life on the planet currently and in the future. You have seen the list of other groups attending the debate and know there will be some great management suggestions, but also holes in their plans. Your goal is to help all the groups recognize these issues and offer possible solutions that will help the committee create a management plan for the good of Mother Earth.

To pitch a great presentation, consider researching about the following issues or solutions:

- **The habitat managers will want to maintain and improve the habitat in Woolly Haven so mammoths can remain there.** How will they protect mammoths from disease and other natural disasters that can easily invade this small area and cause the population to drop?
- Over thousands of years, mammoths may have evolved into a different species with different needs for their environment. So how are the habitat managers sure they are creating habitat suited for these mammoths? Can they study the mammoth herd somehow?
- The population has remained isolated for thousands of years, and the genetic diversity of the mammoths may be very low. What would hybridizing mammoth DNA with elephant DNA do? Should this be an option?
- **The hunters will want to hunt the woolly mammoth herd to keep the population numbers at a healthy level.** Hunting could lead to the encouragement of poaching. Why is this a problem and how could we resolve this issue?
- What is an endangered species? When is a species considered endangered? If the mammoths are determined to be endangered, are hunters allowed to hunt the species? When could they be allowed to hunt?
- How dangerous could hunting woolly mammoths be for hunters and surrounding people?



- **The relocators will want to capture and translocate mammoths to new areas to live, which may help minimize damage to human property or increase the mammoth population.** What if the mammoths wander back to where they were captured? How much would it cost to repeatedly move an 8-ton animal?
- Do we necessarily have to move the mammoths? What kind of damages could they cause to humans or the landscape? Are there ways we could deter mammoths away from human property? (Search online for elephant deterrence strategies).
- What is a fundamental niche? How will the introduction of a prehistoric animal impact the modern wildlife? Will there be competition for resources and space?

On a separate sheet of paper or on your computer, record your findings. Then share your discoveries with your team members. As a group, discuss and create a slideshow presentation on how your group would manage the woolly mammoth herd. But plan your presentation with care ... for your presentation will decide what kind of future the mammoths will have! To capture your audience, be creative with your slideshow and add pictures, artwork, and even sound effects or music. Your group will present your slideshow to the class, which must include your group's interests and supporting research. Other groups will have different interests and goals, so be prepared to debate with others about your logic and planning. Best of luck to your team!

