

## HABITAT MANAGERS FOR WOOLLY PRESERVATION

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, Habitat Managers!** The U.S. government needs your help in preparing a wildlife management plan for Woolly Haven's mammoth herd. Your group believes that the mammoths should continue to reside in Woolly Haven. After all, the mammoth requires a unique habitat to survive, which Woolly Haven has been able to provide for thousands of years. Your goal is to maintain and improve the valley's habitat so the mammoth herd can continue to thrive. You also think the valley should become a preserve that limits visitors' access to the grounds and fences in the herd to keep the mammoths wild and safe.

**To pitch a great management plan, consider researching about the following:**

- What is habitat? And what do animals need in their habitat?
- What kinds of prehistoric habitats did mammoths inhabit?
- What kind of landscape would you need in the valley?
- What is in a mammoth's diet?
- What food resources do you need in the valley?
- What climate were mammoths adapted to?
- Look up "wildlife habitat management". Which habitat management methods would you use to improve the habitat?
- How would you keep the habitat safe from diseases or natural disasters?
- How would you keep the mammoths inside the valley?
- What other kinds of animals may live in those habitats?
- Would you allow other wildlife to migrate into Woolly Haven?
- If so, what corridors would you give them? If not, how will you keep them out?
- How would you limit access to the public?



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!