



Megafauna Management Plan Worksheet

Mammoth Eaters Tribe

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Welcome to the Mammoth Eaters Tribe. Unlike other tribes, you have a special connection with mammoths. Through the ages your nomadic tribe has followed the herds of great beasts, camping for months where and when you kill some. Though your tribe mainly hunts, kills, and eats the rich meat of mammoths, you also relish in killing and eating most species of megafauna. Your "Paleo-diet" is primarily meat and you can't stomach the thought of eating plants like animals do.

You believe that mammoths, mastodons, giant ground sloths and other large species eat such vast amounts of plant life that they could displace many other smaller species within the ecosystem. You also believe in the principal of "optimum foraging strategy" that most wild creatures use in getting their food. That strategy is to harvest and consume the largest amounts of food with the least amount of effort. You've learned that killing a one-ton ground sloth or mammoth can feed your tribe for weeks in one place, and allows your hunters more time with the tribe to protect them from predators and threats from other tribes. You see yourselves as "ecosystem managers" by riding the landscape of these giant keystone species that consume so much of the habitat. Other tribes fail to appreciate your role in helping preserve grasses and plants from mammoths and mastodons. Your plan should consider various methods of achieving your goals and the goals of the other teams... as long as you get to kill and eat mammoths now and into the future.

Your tribe will conduct online research and prepare their own Pleistocene megafauna management plan that supports your clan's goals. When developing your plan, consider the goals of the other tribes and how they conform or conflict with your goals. In class Session 3, all of the tribes will present their plans then have a class debate on solutions to developing an overall Pleistocene megafauna management plan that best serves the interests of the various megafauna populations (both present and future) with consideration to humans and other ecological members.

Consider these points when developing your plan and debating in class:

- Chart human population growth and mammoth reproduction rates. How many mammoths can you and other tribes kill before the population nears extinction?
- What other food sources would you be willing to consider to preserve mammoths on the landscape?
- You also see what is happening to other species as expanding human populations with different tribal goals focus on killing certain species. How can different tribes share common goals?

