

HUNTERS FOR WOOLLY CONSERVATION

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.

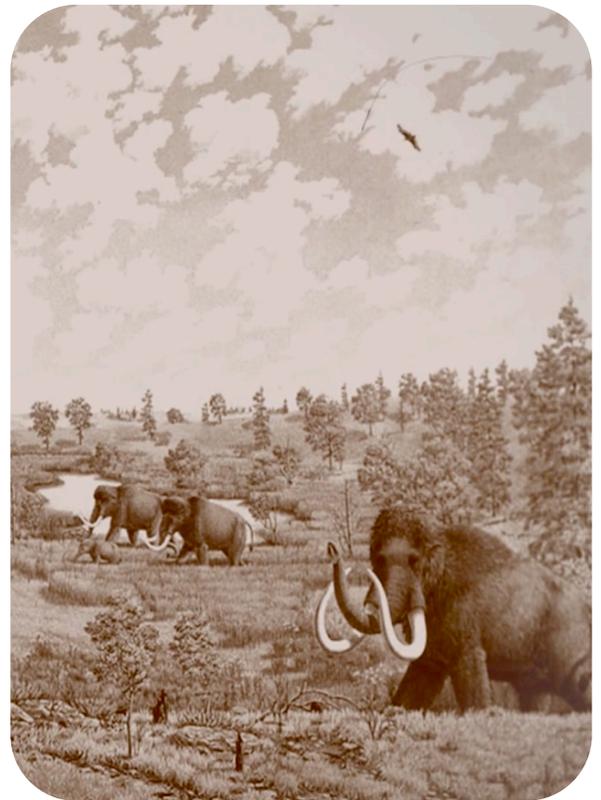
They are wild animals and we wish to keep it that way."

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, Hunters! The U.S. government needs your help in preparing a wildlife management plan for Woolly Haven’s mammoth herd. Your group believes in conserving the woolly mammoth by using hunting as a management tool. Other groups and people may find your methods barbaric, but you understand that prehistoric humans were once the predators of mammoths. And without any predation today, the mammoth herd will continue to grow exponentially, which may cause human-wildlife conflicts in the future. You also value hunting because it has the ability to keep wildlife populations at healthy levels, and it will fund money toward conserving the herd. The committee will have to decide if the mammoths will stay in the valley or be allowed to migrate. No matter the decision, you think hunting should be considered and used in managing the population numbers of the herd.

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

- Research biological carrying capacity. What happens when there are too many wildlife in a habitat? Or too few in a habitat?
- Based on your findings, will Woolly Haven provide enough resources for the mammoth herd indefinitely?
- Why is hunting a good tool for managing wildlife populations then?
- Research about the Pittman Robertson Act. According to this, how could hunting help the mammoths?
- What hunting style would you use?
- How would you stay safe during the hunts? What hunter safety techniques would have to be followed?
- What would the harvested animal be used for?
- To prevent overharvesting, how do we regulate/limit hunts today? How would you integrate those methods into regulating mammoth hunting today?
- The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is the foundation. How would your mammoth hunting coexist with this model?
- Our ancestors used to hunt mammoths. So why would hunting mammoths be culturally important?



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!