

**C.O.D.E.
GREEN**

WALLOWOLOGY
YOUTH PROGRAM



MAMMOTHS

Mammoths are one of the most well-known of the prehistoric mammals. To many people, these giant, furry animals almost single-handedly represent the Ice Age. Mammoths are part of the mammalian Order Proboscidea. Only a few species of proboscidea remain today, including Asian elephants and African elephants. Although related to elephants, mammoths are not their ancestor. Each represents a separate branch of an extensive family tree. In fact, there was a time when mammoths and elephants lived on Earth together. **Did you know?** Even though Woolly Mammoths often steal the Ice Age spotlight in movies, ads and in books, during the Pliocene and Pleistocene periods, several types of mammoths roamed the earth. The mammoths parading on the inside and outside of the Wallowology! building in downtown Joseph, Oregon are actually **Columbian mammoths**.

Columbian mammoths first appeared in North America about one million years ago and once roamed over large stretches of what is now Oregon. The 14-foot giants ranged as far north as southern Canada and as far south as Costa Rica. Adult male Columbian mammoths weighed approximately 10 tons. They needed 500 pounds of food per day and had to almost continually forage for food to survive. Columbian mammoths liked the open plains and fed on grasses, herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees. They had shorter hair than their mammoth counterparts, as they preferred warmer, woodlands or even deserts to cold, glacial environments.

Comparing Proboscidea

Mastodons

Mastodons were early relatives of mammoths and first lived on Earth about 25 million years ago. Fossil evidence of mastodons has been found on every continent except Australia and South America. They were shorter and stockier than their woolly mammoth cousins and had shorter, straighter tusks. Mastodons seemed to have preferred warmer climates and woody areas with trees and shrubs. Their teeth were equipped with pointed cones that were for eating woody browse, in contrast to mammoths' flat molars, which were best suited for grinding up grasses.



**Can you tell
which molar
belonged to a
mastodon?**

Photo by Daniel Mann

[nps.gov/articles/mammoth-or-mastodon.htm](https://www.nps.gov/articles/mammoth-or-mastodon.htm)

Woolly Mammoths

Woolly mammoths were comparable in size to African elephants, but they had several adaptations which set them apart. All of these adaptations allowed them to thrive in the colder, glacial covered areas of Earth and their primary homeland is thought to have been present-day Eurasia.

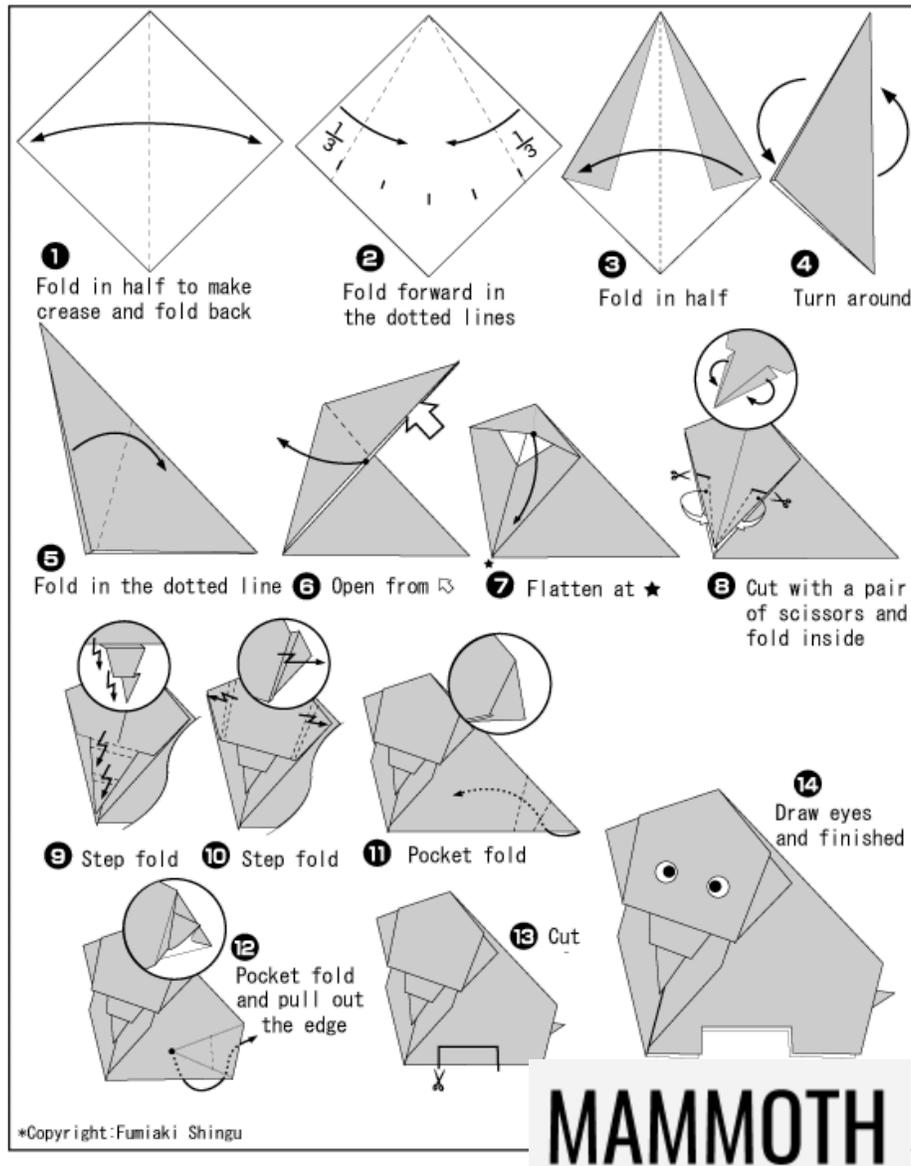
These mammoths had enormously long tusks, made to dig deep into snow and ice to find food. They also had much smaller ears and tails, which scientists believe allowed the animals to keep them close to the warmth of their large bodies. And, as you might guess from their name, woolly mammoths were covered in a long, shaggy coat of thick, dark hair, with a dense, woolly undercoat for protection from the bitter Ice Age temperatures.



**What can you spot
between these two
species?**

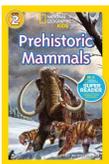
Create Your Own

Like paleontologists might use the fossils they find to reconstruct the skeleton of a prehistoric creature, in this kit you'll be invited to assemble some mammoths of your own! Enjoy using the art of origami to construct a model of this amazing animal that once roamed over Oregon. All you need is a medium-weight, square piece of paper.

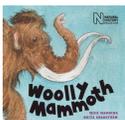


Book Suggestions for Learning More About Mammoths at Home

Check them out from your local library and have fun learning together!



Prehistoric Mammals by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld



Woolly Mammoth by Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom