MAMMOTHS AND MASTODONS

TITANS OF THE ICE AGE

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Student Exhibition Worksheets

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1. Elephants, mammoths, and mastodons belong to a group of mammals called _____. The name comes from the word proboscis, referring to their long _____, a feature many of these animals share.

2. The first proboscideans evolved in Africa about _____ million years ago. Over time, they evolved into over _____ different species!

3. Mammoths and mastodons lived and roamed the earth during the Ice Age from _____ years ago to _____ years ago and could be found on what three continents?

_____ _____ _____

4. Are mammoths the ancestors of elephants? _____
How are they related?

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. The _____ was slightly shorter but more heavily built than the Mammoth. Since it was also an animal who lived here in San Diego during the _____ Epoch, he would have had an imposing presence on our landscape!

6. How did the Mammoth migrate to North America?

_____

_____

_____

7. The _____ Family Tree includes the woolly mammoths, mastodons, plus the dwarf elephants and modern elephants from Africa and Asia. Name three other species that have also gone extinct.

_____, _____, and

_____.

8. Compare and contrast a Mammoth to a Mastodon. What are the biggest differences? What are the most unique similarities?

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9. To keep warm, mammoths evolved thick layers of _____ beneath their skin. They also had a warm 'under coat' of _____ and an 'over coat' of _____ _____, some of which could have been up to three feet in length.

10. What other species of animals were alive during in the Pleistocene Epoch are now extinct? Compare and contrast them to their living relative today.

_____

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11. In order to figure out what kind of lives mammoths and mastodons led, what they ate and how they interacted with their world, what types of evidence do scientists study to answer these questions? What do scientists observe today to understand the behavior and life cycle of mammoths and mastodons?

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12. If today's scientists were not alive during the Pleistocene, how do they know so much about woolly mammoths?

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13. 'Lyuba' (lee-OO-buh) is a remarkable baby mammoth specimen. What are the three reasons why she is so well preserved?

_____

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14. The teeth from 'Lyuba' can tell scientists what three specific things? _____, _____ and _____.

15. Besides the intestines of 'Lyuba,' what do scientists study and investigate to find out what a mammoth ate? _____.

16. In North America, a cousin of the woolly mammoth known as the _____ roamed as far north as Alaska and as far south as Central America.

17. Some male Columbian mammoths stood _____ feet tall at the shoulder! These giant mammoths were one of the largest proboscideans to ever live!

18. Here in San Diego and elsewhere in the American West, Columbian mammoths shared the landscape with other herbivores. Those herbivores (plant-eaters) included:

_____

_____

_____

_____

19. What was the largest herbivore species after mammoths and mastodons? _____

20. How much vegetation did a Columbian mammoth eat in a single day? _____ Lbs.

21. Powerful carnivores (meat-eaters) also populated the regions where mammoths and mastodons lived. Three examples are:

_____

_____

_____

22. For tens of thousands of years, humans lived alongside mammoths and mastodons. What is the evidence used to confirm this hypothesis?

_____

_____

_____

_____

23. How did some mammoths end up living on islands?

_____

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_____

24. There are only three proboscideans alive today. They are:

_____

_____

Are their numbers in decline? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

25. True or false:

• _____ Mammoths and mastodons lived only in snow and ice.

• _____ Mammoths helped build Egypt's great pyramids.

• _____ Mammoths could swim.

• _____ The evolutionary cousins of mammoths and mastodons are still alive today.

26. One of the most important reasons scientists are studying mammoths and mastodons is to protect and conserve our remaining elephant populations. In fact, so much research has been done on mammoths that the possibility may soon exist to clone a mammoth and have a live specimen to study. Should scientists continue this research and 'make a mammoth?' What do YOU think the pros and cons are of this work?