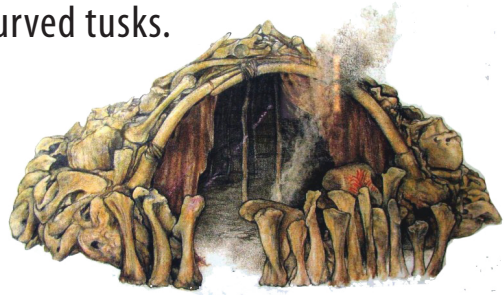


Woolly Mammoth: Awesome Giants of the Steppe

THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH is a recent relative of the modern African elephant. Mammoths had long, thick hair that kept them warm through the frigid ice ages. Woolly mammoth herds once roamed across the steppe grasslands of Europe, Asia, and even into North America. Though most woolly mammoths died out after the ice age as the steppe turned to forest, a small herd survived on Wrangle Island in the Siberian Arctic until about 4000 years ago.

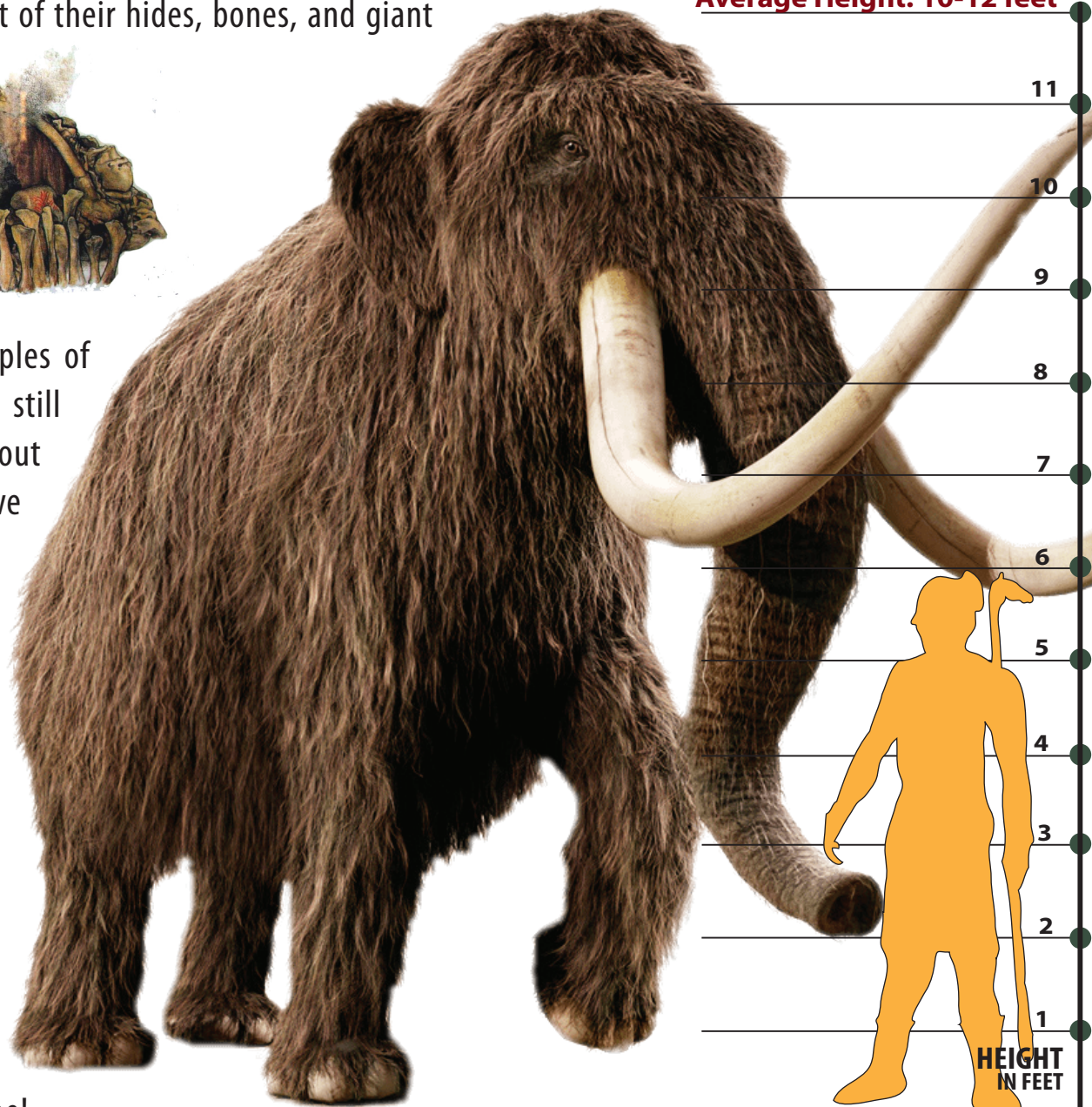
European peoples have lived and loved the mammoth for thousands of years. They carved mammoth figurines, painted them in caves, and even made homes, clothing, and tools out of their hides, bones, and giant curved tusks.



Some Indigenous peoples of Europe and Asia still remember stories about the mammoth that have been passed down for thousands of years through their oral history.



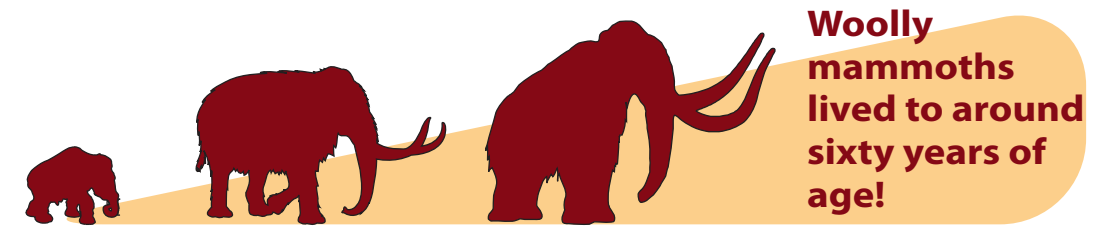
People have known mammoths are awesome for a long time!



Mammoth tusks can be up to 12 feet long!

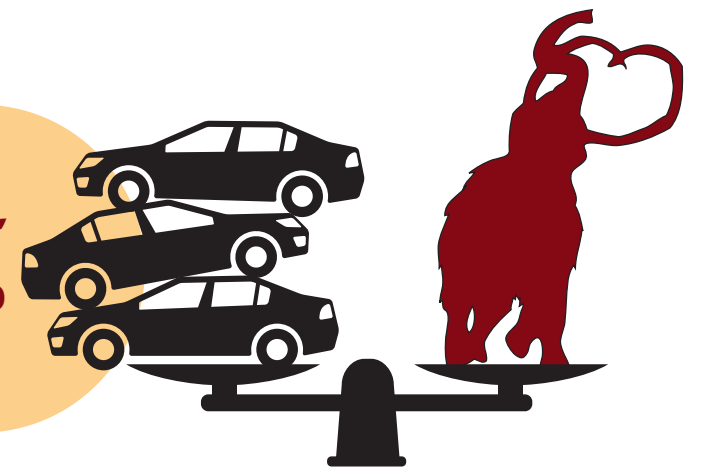


MAMMOTH RANGE AT END OF LAST ICE AGE



Woolly mammoths lived to around sixty years of age!

Though calves weighed only 200 lbs when born, adult mammoths grew up to six tons, or 12,000 lbs (about the same as three large cars)!



Mammoths were a keystone species of the cold grasslands. Their heavy feet flattened moss so grasses could grow. Their poop fertilized grass and shrubs. They used their tusks to scrape away snow to reach food, helping smaller grazers like horse and reindeer find food during winter. Cleared ground froze, trapping greenhouse gasses like methane and carbon dioxide in the earth.