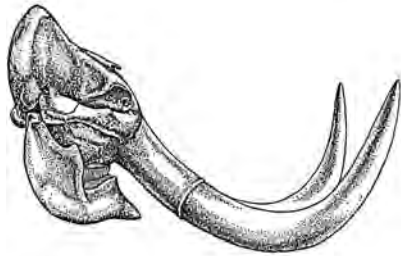


# MAMMOTHS AND MASTODONS



**Mammoth Skull**

Mammoths and mastodons looked like shaggy elephants.

Mammoths were bigger and liked to eat grassy plants. Their foreheads were tall and pointed.



**Mastodon Skull**

Mastodons were smaller and lived in bogs and forests. They liked to eat trees and shrubs. Their foreheads were low and flat.

## **How do we know these animals once lived here?**

We know because we find their bones in many places.

## **How do we know they were shaggy?**

Mammoths and mastodons have been found frozen in arctic ice. They had long brown hair, like yaks or musk oxen. The hair kept them warm in cold climates.

## **What happened to the mammoths and mastodons?**

Mammoths and the mastodons died out by about 10,000 years ago. They are now extinct. That means that there are no more mammoths or mastodons anywhere in the world.

No one really knows why this happened. Perhaps a boy or girl reading this today will grow up to be a paleontologist and discover the reason. (Paleontologists are scientists who study fossils.)



# MAMMOTH



# WHICH TOOTH IS WHICH?

## Hint:

What tooth shape would work better to grind up small flat grasses?  
That's what mammoths needed.

What tooth shape would work better to crunch up sticks and  
branches? That's what mastodons needed.



### A. Mastodon Tooth

Found in Van Buren County in southwestern Michigan

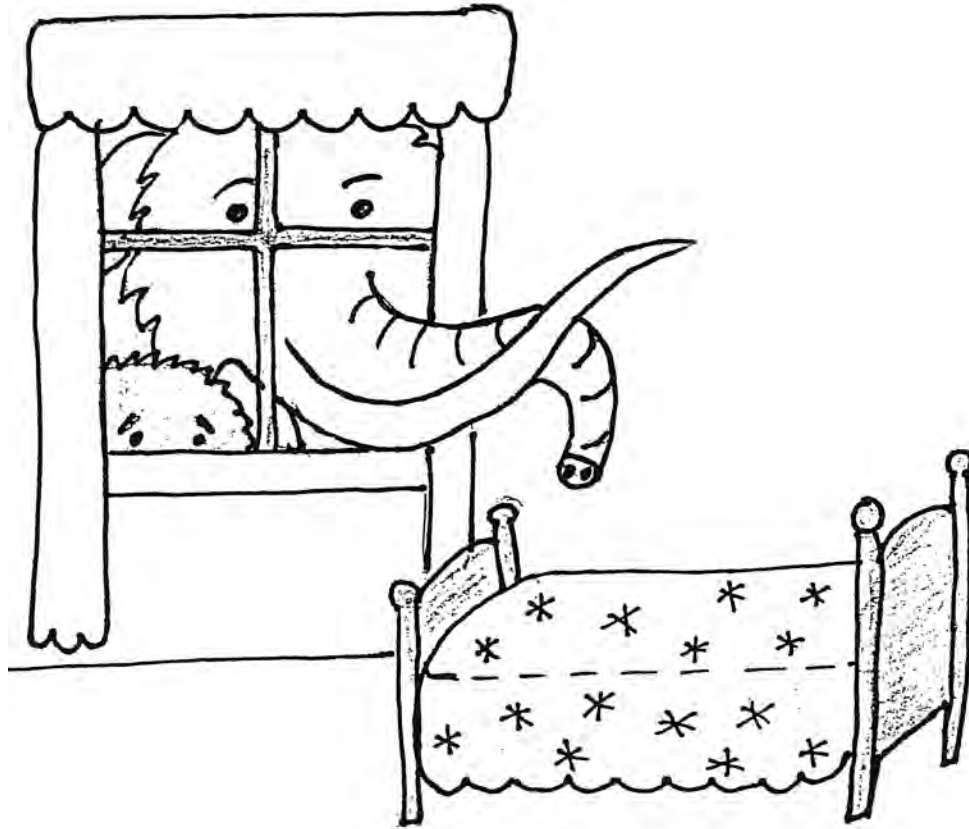
### B. Mammoth Tooth

Found in Montcalm County, about 40 miles northwest of Lansing

Illustrations from "Vertebrate Paleontology (second edition)"  
by Alfred S. Romer, 1945, University of Chicago Press



# MAMMOTHS IN THE BEDROOM



## How big were mammoths and mastodons?

Mammoths were between 10 and 12 feet high. Mastodons were shorter, only eight or nine feet high.

That means a mammoth could easily look into a second-story bedroom window. A mastodon might have to stand on its tippy-toes to see in. If you looked out the first-floor living room window, you would see big hairy knees. What a surprise that would be!

## Did you know . . .

The mastodon is Michigan's state fossil?!

In 2002, school children from Wayne and Washtenaw counties succeeded in their campaign to have the mastodon declared Michigan's official state fossil.

The University Record, April 22, 2002



# MICHIGAN'S OFFICIAL STATE FOSSIL



Eighth-grade students in Jeffrey Bradley's class at Slauson Middle School in Ann Arbor stand next to a mastodon at the [University of Michigan's] Exhibit Museum of Natural History in April 2002. The students raised \$1,500 to support updates to the museum's exhibits and successfully campaigned to make the mastodon, which became extinct about 10,000 years ago, the official state fossil of Michigan. The state Legislature passed the bill and Gov. John Engler signed the legislation this month, thereby fulfilling the students' goal. (Photo by Paul Jaronski, U-M Photo Services)



# MAMMOTHS AND MASTODONS

## Learn More

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Additional references can be found at [www.calvin.edu/academic/geology/mastodon/about](http://www.calvin.edu/academic/geology/mastodon/about).

Information compiled by the State Archaeologist,  
Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

