

# Amazing Stories

## UNCOVERING THE MAMMOTH

In 1997 something amazing was found in the ice fields of Siberia in northern Russia. Trapped in the ice were the remains of a 20,000-year-old woolly mammoth! The body was very well preserved. It had the hair, the skin, and even the smell of a mammoth.

The woolly mammoth was a huge, furry cousin of the elephant. It stood about 4 meters (13 feet) tall and had long, curved tusks. The mammoth's thick, hairy coat kept it warm as it roamed through cold places. Most mammoths died out about 10,000 years ago, at the end of the Ice Age.

How could this amazing fossil best be studied? Researchers carefully

dug a huge chunk of frozen ground containing the mammoth. The chunk weighed about 21,000 kilograms (23 tons)!

A helicopter carried the chunk to an ice cave. Scientists will study the mammoth for clues about how it lived and died.

Could a woolly mammoth live again? It may be possible! Scientists are looking for special cells in the mammoth that they could clone. To clone means to make an exact copy of a living thing.

### Write ABOUT IT

1. How are woolly mammoths and elephants similar? How are they different?
2. Do you think woolly mammoths can live again on Earth? If so, where might they live?



This replica of a woolly mammoth that lived in North America, Asia, and Europe is in the Royal British Columbia Museum.

Scientists uncover woolly mammoth bones at the Mammoth Site Museum in South Dakota.



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