

# steppe mammoths

**S**teppe mammoths are an extinct member of the family Elephantidae, and were found, during the early Pleistocene Epoch, on all continents except Australia and South America.

The Pleistocene Epoch is also known, colloquially, as 'the Great Ice Age' or 'the Ice Age' and is divided into stages, the first of which is the Gelasian stage, which started around 2,588,000 years ago to, around 1,806,000 years ago, when it gave way to the Calabrian stage.

During the Pleistocene Epoch, large ice sheets formed, hence it's casual name, the 'ice age'.

In the course of the Gelasian stage, the Gauss-Matuyama geomagnetic reversal<sup>1</sup> took place.

A Steppe mammoth's diet was mainly constituted of, as we know from their dentures, tough shrubbery such as grass and was sometimes omnivorous although Steppe mammoths were still mostly herbivorous. A Steppe mammoth's tusks would have, at the most, weighed 80 kilo-grams, and, at the shoulder, could have reached a height of up to 4 metres. The Steppe mammoth had relatively small ears in comparison to the ears of an African elephant, as less surface area means less heat loss. Steppe mammoths were larger than modern elephants, and their whole life history could be seen from the rings on their tusks.

for credits: see <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A geomagnetic reversal is when magnetic north and magnetic south swap places.

<sup>2</sup> <https://school.eb.co.uk/levels/intermediate/article/mammoth/50411>  
<https://school.eb.co.uk/levels/intermediate/article/Pleistocene-Epoch/117455>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gauss-Matuyama\\_reversal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gauss-Matuyama_reversal)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geomagnetic\\_reversal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geomagnetic_reversal)  
<https://ucmp.berkeley.edu/mammal/mesaxonia/proboscidea.php>  
<https://www.academia.edu/35196396/Mammoths>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steppe\\_mammoth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steppe_mammoth)  
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/what-s-the-difference-between-asian-and-african-elephants-and-10-other-elephant-facts>