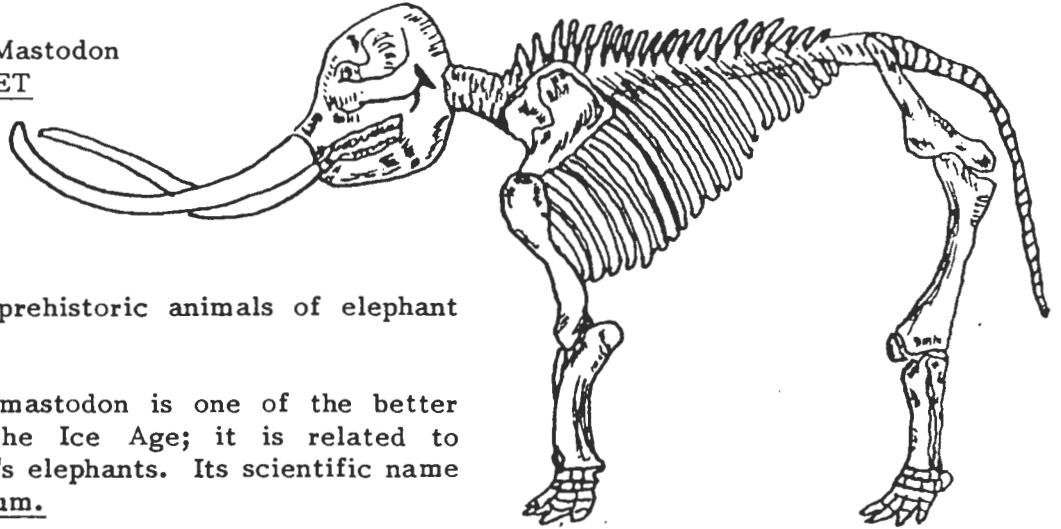


GROLEAU-WHITE LAKE MASTODON

Oakland Community College Highland Lakes Campus Union Lake , Michigan , U.S.A.

Groleau-White Lake Mastodon FACT SHEET



Mastodons are prehistoric animals of elephant size and appearance.

The American mastodon is one of the better known animals of the Ice Age; it is related to mammoths and today's elephants. Its scientific name is Mammut americanum.

Ancestors of the American mastodon may have come to North America from Siberia by the Alaskan-Siberian land bridge about 10 million years ago. Mastodons lived almost everywhere in North America, from Alaska to Florida, until about 8,000 years ago. They are now extinct.

This mastodon was nicknamed "Elmer" because the bones were dipped in Elmer's glue to keep them from cracking after they were removed from the ground.

"Elmer" lived about 10,000 years ago in Michigan. The bones were found in 1968, on M-59 between Elizabeth Lake and Williams Lake roads. The discovery site is now covered by a restaurant's parking lot.

Reconstruction of "Elmer" was begun in September of 1981 by a College class. It took 10 months and was finished in June of 1982.

A proper name for the mastodon was needed. By a vote of the students, the name Groleau-White Lake Mastodon was given to our mastodon. "Groleau" was in honor of the Groleau brothers who discovered the bones and gave them to the College. "White Lake" identifies the location of the discovery site.

Some of the bones you see are real, some are cast of plaster or fiberglass and some are part bone and part cast. "Elmer's" feet were cast from forms made of the famous Warren Mastodon's feet since no foot bones were found. The bones and cast of our mastodon weigh about 750 pounds and represent the entire skeleton except for the right foreleg, scapula, right hind leg, pelvis, and right ribs (20 of them).

The estimated weight of "Elmer" when alive is 5.5 tons (885 lbs. was used as the total skeleton weight. The skeleton makes up 16% of the animal's weight).

<u>FACTS</u>	<u>HEIGHT OF ADULT AT SHOULDER</u>	<u>WEIGHT OF ADULT</u>
American mastodon:	about 8 feet	about 5.5 tons
Asian elephant:	about 6 to 9 feet	about 3 to 5 tons
African elephant:	about 9 to 12 feet	about 5 to 7 tons

This project was recorded by the National Geographic Society. You might enjoy the pictures and article found in Giants From The Past, Ralph Gray (Ed.), 1983, Books for World Explorers, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.