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Opening extract from

Woolly Mammoth

Written by

Mick Manning

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For Mandy, Andrew, Katherine, Sarah
and Claire Gray

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Woolly Mammoth

Mick Manning
Brita Granström

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In association with the
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Large carnivores of the Ice Age included wolves, hyenas, bears and lions.



Ice Age lions preyed on large herbivores – just like African lions do today.



Spotted hyenas live in Africa now – but scientists have found their bones and food remains in caves all over Europe.

A gentle giant . . . really I am!
But if I get angry I become a battering ram
Of tusks and steaming, shaggy hair.
Would I face a hungry wolf, hyena or bear?

Oh yeah!

An undefended mammoth calf would become easy prey.



African elephants and musk oxen form circles for defence. Scientists think mammoths behaved in the same way.



A mammoth's heavy stomping feet could be as dangerous as its tusks!

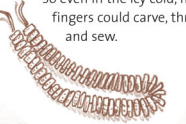
If danger threatens,
the herd forms a circle,
side-by-side.
Calves in the middle,
our future, our pride.
But if a predator gets inside . . .

What then?
Well, they might get in, stomp
But they never, stomp
Get out again!



Humans used every bit of a mammoth: meat, offal and fat for food; sinews for sewing and binding; fur and skin for clothes and tents; tusk and bones for carvings, tools and weapons.

Arctic people even today have a special ability called 'the hunters' reflex' which sends extra blood to the hands in freezing temperatures. This prevents numbness and allows delicate fingerwork. So even in the icy cold, human fingers could carve, thread and sew.



Thousands of mammoth ivory beads have been found at Ice Age burial sites in Russia.

To humans we are more than just meat.
To humans a mammoth is a treat.
Every one of us they kill
Gets recycled with craft and skill.
In their hands, our skin and bone
Join forces with wood and stone.