

Ice Mammoths – Mammoths found in the thawing permafrost

Information Sheet

By S.J Poyton Author of Mammoth Rider

Mammoth on Ice

As the permafrost thaws it releases methane gas into the atmosphere speeding up climate change, but it also reveals treasures. Treasures like animals that died thousands of years ago and have been preserved in the ice. Including mammoths!

Some of these mammoths still have their fur and even their last dinner in their tummies! Scientists can sometimes get DNA from the well persevered specimens, which helps them piece together the full DNA genome of woolly mammoths. This helps get them closer to cloning mammoths and bringing them back to help break the carbon cycle of thawing permafrost and slow global warming. Plus, further our understanding of mammoth and how they lived.



Lyuba – The Ice Mammoth Calf

Facts About Lyuba...

- Lyuba is a woolly mammoth calf which was found in 2007 in the melting permafrost
- Lyuba was a girl calf
- She was found in Siberia
- Lyuba lived and died 42,000 years ago
- Lyuba was about a month old when she died
- Her last meal was milk and adult mammoth poo!
- Scientists managed to get some of Lyuba's DNA
- Lyuba is now housed in the Shemanovskiy Museum in Salekhard Russia.
- Lyuba's DNA isn't used in the cloning project – but she's helping in other ways. She helps scientists understand how mammoths' bodies worked and how they develop and grow.
- But DNA found in other frozen mammoth is being used in the cloning projects. – to help build a full DNA genome to be used as a blueprint for editing Asian Elephants to be winterproof. (In Mammoth Rider, Goliath, Nayala and all the mammoths are cloned in this way.)



Check out the Ice Mammoth Activity Sheet

Ice Mammoth Dig Activity Sheet



best used with the 'Ice Mammoth Information sheet'

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This sheet is guide of an inexpensive activity that is easy to prepare to give children a hands-on experience to further understand the concept of ice mammoths.

What you will need

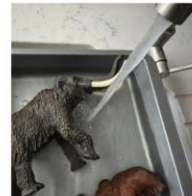


- Mammoth toy figures
- Cake tin (that fits in Your freezer)
- Wooden dig tools lollipop sticks will do (we actually used them on paleontology digs!)
- Optional ice cube tray and rolling pin.

Step One



Put mammoths in baking tray



Fill tray with water



Put tray in freezer and wait for it to freeze

Step Two



Take ice cubes and crush finely



Take out tray from freezer



Add crushed ice cubes

Ready to Play!



Grab your digging tools and reveal your ice mammoths!

(It may help to tip some tepid water on the tray to warm up ice for easier digging - plus ties in global warming lessons!)



Educational notes: refer to the ice mammoth worksheet information whilst children uncover the mammoth from the ice.