

Island survivors

Explore two animals. Find their places. Notice what the evidence can tell us.



DODO



WOOLLY MAMMOTH

The dodo lived on Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean.

The last known woolly mammoth population lived on Wrangel Island, in the Arctic. These animals lived in very different environments.

1. FIND THEIR PLACES

Open the DodoHistory globe and locate both islands.

What do you notice about where they are?

2. LOOK CLOSELY

Choose one animal. Sketch a feature that might suit its way of life.

The pictures are artistic interpretations, not photographs of extinct animals.

Be an evidence detective

A good discovery includes a question we cannot answer yet.

3. OBSERVATION OR INTERPRETATION?

Write O beside a recorded observation and I beside an interpretation.

A. A reliable dodo sighting was recorded in 1662. _____

B. Therefore, every dodo must have disappeared in 1662. _____

C. The last known mammoth population was on Wrangel. _____

4. THINK LIKE A RESEARCHER

Why might the last recorded sighting differ from the date
when an entire species disappeared?

5. ASK A QUESTION OF YOUR OWN

What would you want to find out about one of these animals?

Which kind of evidence might help?

Keep exploring: [dodohistory /start](#) or [/learn/extinction](#)

The grown-up field guide

Discuss the reasoning. A thoughtful question matters more than a perfect answer.

DISCUSSION AND ANSWERS

1. Mauritius is in the Indian Ocean; Wrangel is in the Arctic.
2. Drawings vary. Distinguish visible features from guessed behavior.
3. A = O; B = I (and not justified); C = O, reporting known evidence.
4. Animals may survive without being seen or reliably recorded.
A last sighting alone cannot establish an exact extinction date.
5. Accept open questions. Ask what evidence would support the answer.

EVIDENCE TO FOLLOW

Natural History Museum: The dodo bird - the real facts.

Natural History Museum of Sweden: 2024 research on the final
Wrangel Island woolly mammoth population.

The final cause of the mammoths' extinction remains unresolved.

Read the dodo reference

Read the mammoth research announcement

USE THIS KIT

Explore the two stops at /start, then discuss the worksheet together.

No learner name or account is needed. This is a supplemental activity,
not a complete curriculum. Illustrations were created with AI.

You may print and share this free kit for learning, keeping its credits.