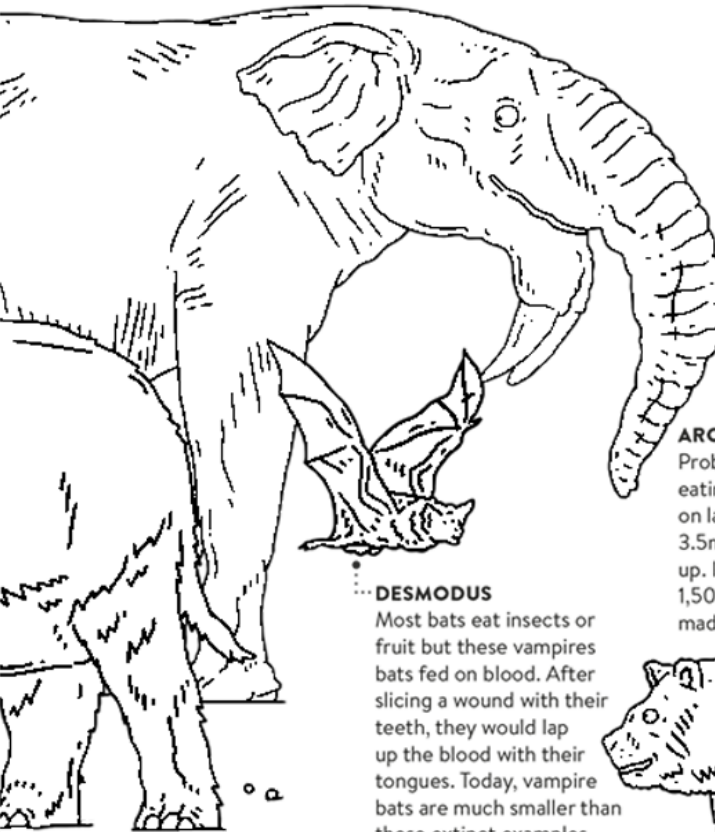


# EXPLORER MAMMALS!



**DESMODUS**  
Most bats eat insects or fruit but these vampires bats fed on blood. After slicing a wound with their teeth, they would lap up the blood with their tongues. Today, vampire bats are much smaller than these extinct examples.

**MEGATHERIUM**.....  
The largest of the now-extinct plant-eating 'ground sloths'. *Megatherium* could stand 6m-tall on its hind legs to reach high-up leaves. Most giant mammals died out around 10,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age.

**ARCTOTHERIUM**.....  
Probably the largest meat-eating mammal to ever live on land. This huge bear was 3.5m tall when standing up. It weighed a hefty 1,500kg. But its long legs made it surprisingly quick.

**PROCOPTODON**.....  
The largest known kangaroo. It was around 2m-tall, taller than most humans.

**SMILODON**.....  
This sabre-toothed cat grew over a metre tall and weighed almost a quarter of a tonne. It uses its 30cm-long canines for piercing the necks of prey after ambushing and pinning them down.

**HOMO HABILIS**.....  
This big-brained early human was probably one of the first to use stone tools. These tools had a sharp edge for cutting and a blunt edge for crushing.

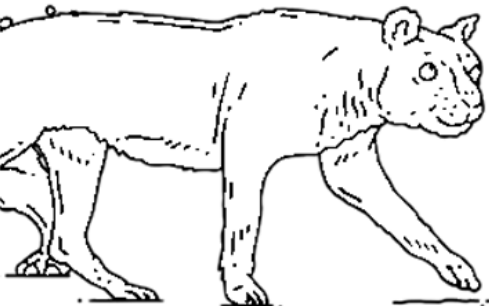
**THYLACOLEO**  
This meat-eater was a relative of kangaroos and koalas. It had powerful blade-like teeth and sharp claws for hunting.

**CAMELOPS**  
Camels once roamed North America. Today they only survive in Africa and Asia. Camels are well adapted for desert conditions. Their humps store food for long journeys. Plus, they can survive months without water.

**MIRACINONYX**  
The agile physique of this large cat was similar to a cheetah's. But it wasn't a close relative. The two species developed their similar body structures independently.

**HOMO ERECTUS**  
This ancient human left Africa and spread across Asia. It was perhaps the first human to control fire. Fire allowed humans to stay warm in colder environments. Cooking food on fires also helped to prevent diseases.

**NORTH AMERICAN LION**.....  
This 2.5m-long lion was probably the largest ever. Lions were once found worldwide but today only live in Africa and India. Lions are unusual big cats for living and hunting in pairs.



# EXPLORER MAMMALS!

## DIRE WOLF

These wolves had a heavier build than their close relatives, grey wolves and dogs. They hunted large animals, including bison, in packs, leaving smaller prey for the grey wolves.

## ELASMOTHERIUM

This elephant-sized rhinoceros had a huge 1.5m-long horn. It roamed across the snow-covered plains of central Asia. A shaggy coat helped protect it from the frozen conditions.

## WOOLLY MAMMOTH

Mammoths were relatives of elephants. Thick coats protected them from the freezing Ice Age temperatures. The last mammoths went extinct around 4,000 years ago. Rising temperatures and human hunting probably caused them to die out.

## MEGALOCEROS

Depictions of this huge deer in cave art have allowed us to learn more about them. A hump across its shoulders helped to support its 4m-wide antlers.

## MACRAUCHENIA

This strange South American mammal had a long, trunk-like nose. It was so unusual, it confused scientists for decades after its discovery.

**HORSE**  
Horses were domesticated by humans living in the grassy plains north of the Black Sea. They were first used for pulling carts and chariots. Later, humans learned to ride horses.

**PLATYPUS**  
These strange mammals have bills and webbed feet. They lay eggs and not seem to be mammals. Platypos means the flattest, which means they're hard to identify.

**NEANDERTHAL**  
These humans lived and interbred with our own species, but are now extinct. Their robust bodies kept heat in better in the cold regions where they lived. Neanderthals are some of the earliest humans known to produce art and bury their dead.

## HOMO SAPIENS

Modern humans. They used stone, antler and bone to make tools. They even made some of the earliest art, including the first known sculptures. These humans spread across the globe, transforming environments to suit their lifestyles – they are us!

## AUROCH

Over time, humans bred these horned mammals into European cows. Today, cows are used for meat and milk, and for leather clothing. In some places, they are even used as currency.

## WOLVES AND DOGS

Intelligent 2m-long pack-hunters. Wolves can run at 60km/h. Humans tamed wolves and bred them into today's dogs. This process is called 'domestication'.

## WILD PIG

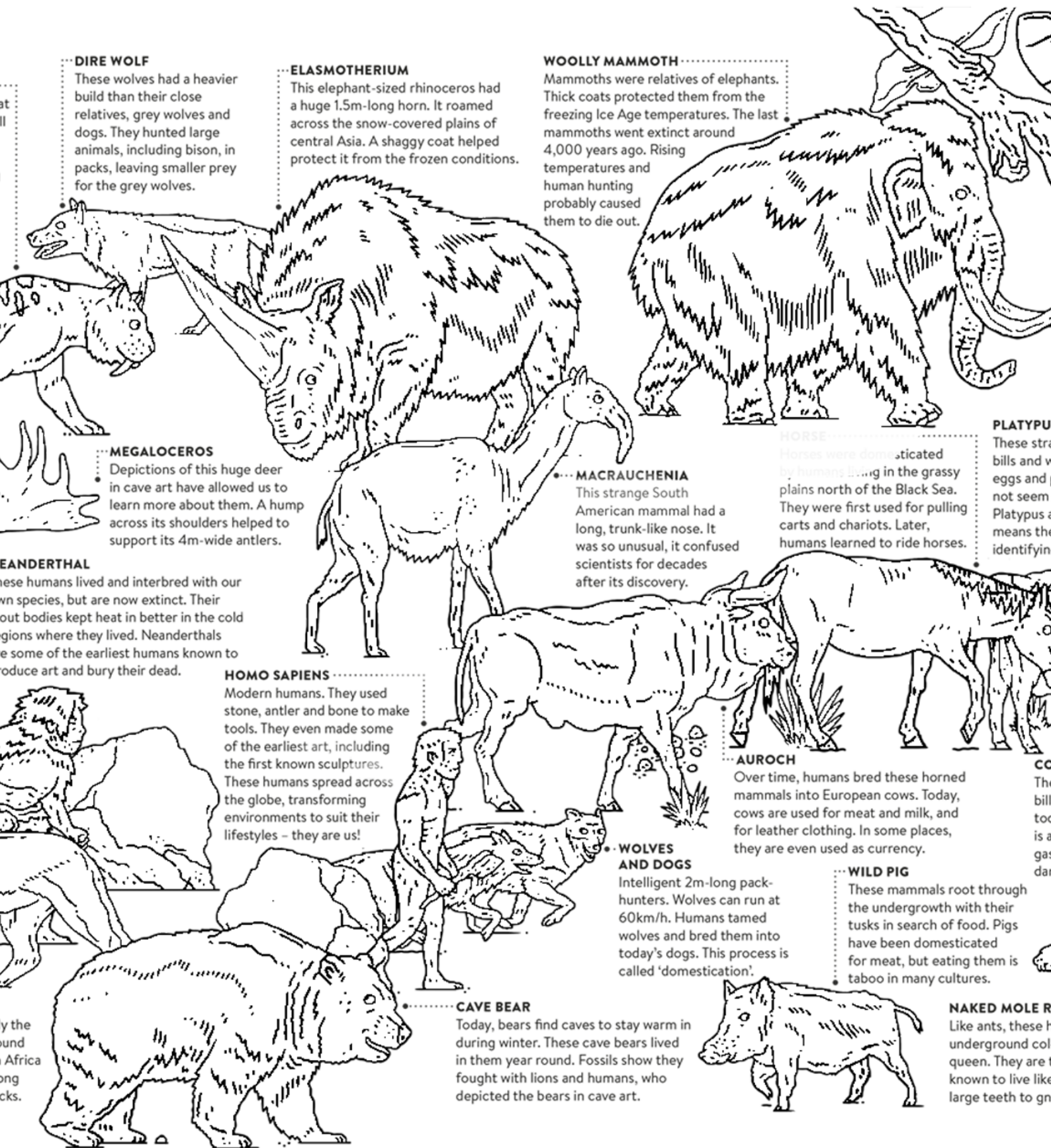
These mammals root through the undergrowth with their tusks in search of food. Pigs have been domesticated for meat, but eating them is taboo in many cultures.

## CAVE BEAR

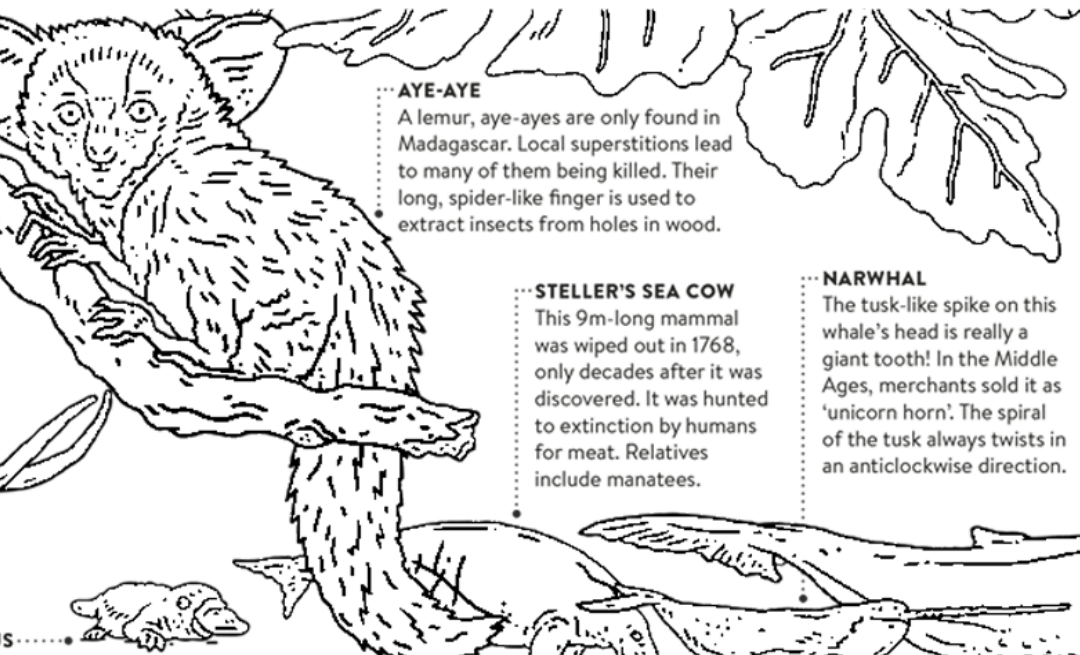
Today, bears find caves to stay warm in during winter. These cave bears lived in them year round. Fossils show they fought with lions and humans, who depicted the bears in cave art.

**NAKED MOLE RAT**  
Like ants, these mammals live underground colonies. They have a queen. They are known to live like a long time. They have large teeth to gnaw through roots.

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# EXPLORER MAMMALS!



## AYE-AYE

A lemur, aye-ayes are only found in Madagascar. Local superstitions lead to many of them being killed. Their long, spider-like finger is used to extract insects from holes in wood.

## STELLER'S SEA COW

This 9m-long mammal was wiped out in 1768, only decades after it was discovered. It was hunted to extinction by humans for meat. Relatives include manatees.

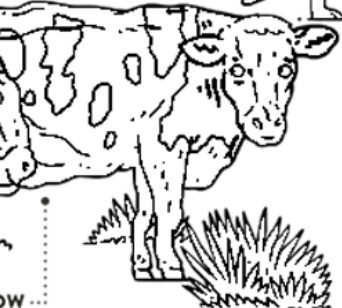
## NARWHAL

The tusk-like spike on this whale's head is really a giant tooth! In the Middle Ages, merchants sold it as 'unicorn horn'. The spiral of the tusk always twists in an anticlockwise direction.

## BLUE WHALE

The biggest animals ever to have lived. Blue whales can grow 30m-long and weigh 150 tonnes. That's about 10 double-decker buses! Spread out across the oceans, blue whales communicate over many miles with deep, pulsating calls.

Some creatures have duck-like webbed feet. They also lay eggs and produce venom. They might look like mammals, but they aren't! They are 'electroreceptive'. This means they can find their prey by detecting their electric signals.



## TASMANIAN TIGER

This wolf-like mammal was not a true tiger - it was more closely related to kangaroos! It was once a top predator in Australia and New Guinea. By the 1930s it was extinct in the wild. The last known Tasmanian tiger died in captivity in 1936.

There are around 1.5 billion cows in the world today. This huge number is a source of greenhouse gases, which cause dangerous climate change.



Hairless rodents build colonies around a single entrance. They are the only mammals that can dig this. They use their paws on plant roots.

## CHIMPANZEE

These apes are our closest living relatives among other animals. Chimps share about 99 per cent of our DNA. They are highly intelligent and can use simple tools. Like us, they live together in complex societies.

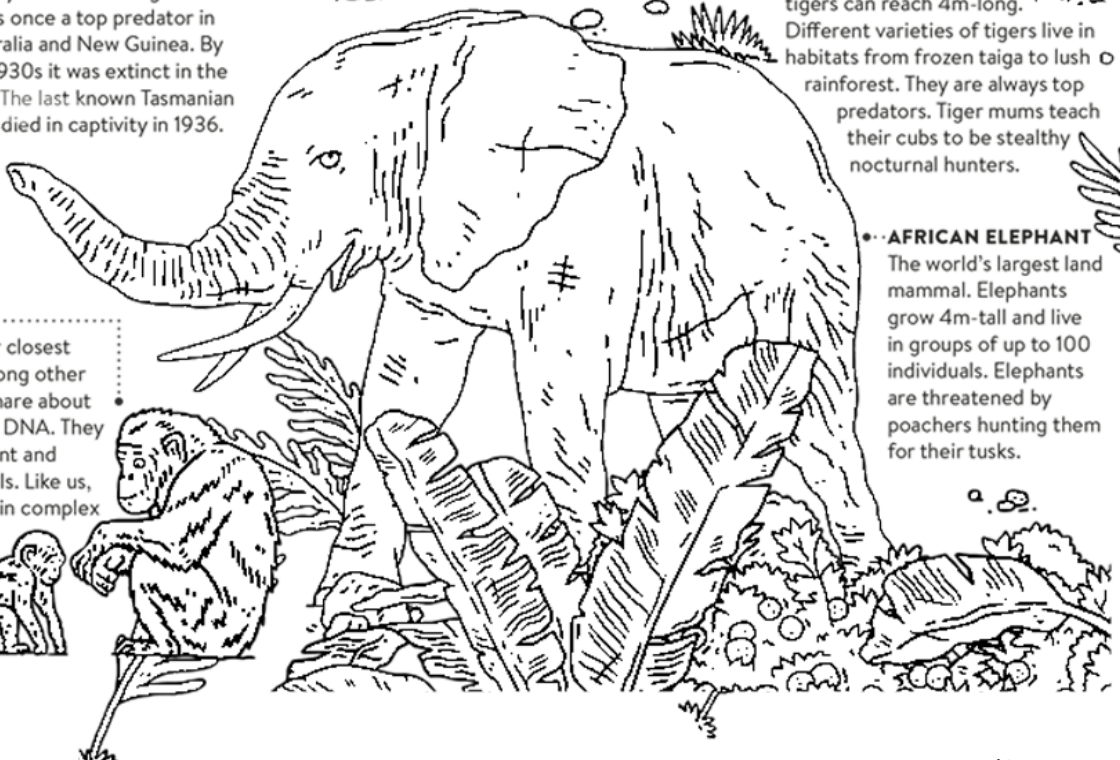


## HOUSE CAT

Cats protect humans from pests, such as snakes and rats, and subsequently disease and hunger. In Ancient Egypt, people even worshipped them. The centre of this worship was in the city of Bubastis. The cat-headed goddess Bastet was believed to protect the city.

## SIBERIAN TIGER

The largest living cats. These tigers can reach 4m-long. Different varieties of tigers live in habitats from frozen taiga to lush rainforest. They are always top predators. Tiger mums teach their cubs to be stealthy nocturnal hunters.



## AFRICAN ELEPHANT

The world's largest land mammal. Elephants grow 4m-tall and live in groups of up to 100 individuals. Elephants are threatened by poachers hunting them for their tusks.