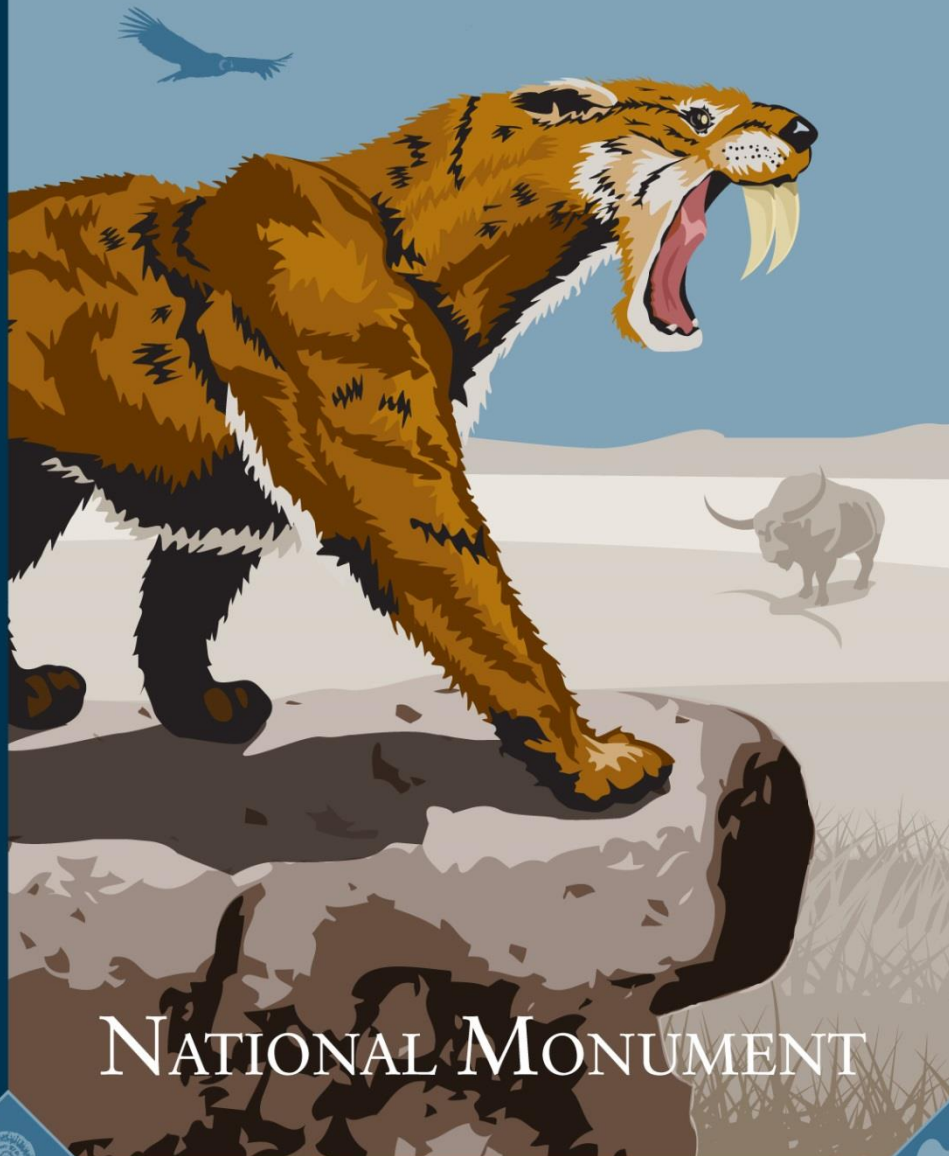


Teacher Resources

TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS



NATIONAL MONUMENT

3rd – 5th Grade

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument

Teacher Resources

Grades 3-5

Tule Springs Fossil Beds is one of our newest National Park Service units, located in the Las Vegas Valley. We are providing these educational resources for K-12 educators together with our partners: the Protectors of Tule Springs. Over the last ~570,000 years, water has transformed the Upper Las Vegas Valley. Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument is an urban park that preserves the unique story of this ever-changing ecosystem

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument preserves thousands of Pleistocene (Ice Age) fossils that help tell the story of a dynamic environment. These fossils were preserved within expanding and contracting wetlands between 100,000-12,500 years ago. Many of the Pleistocene animals of Tule Springs are still alive today, including the coyote (*Canis latrans*), jackrabbit (*Lepus* sp.), and aquatic snails. Some animals went extinct, disappearing from North America entirely.

The Monument also protects Mojave Desert habitat from urban development. This wildlife and plant corridor is home to a diverse group of native plants and animals. Flash floods are also common seasonally in the upper Las Vegas Wash. Important cultural resources, such as historic objects, cultural sites, and artifacts are also protected within the Monument.

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument is in the early phases of park planning, so we do not have facilities on site. Further information can be found at [NPS.gov/TUSK](https://www.nps.gov/TUSK)



Ice Age Investigation

3rd - 5th Grade

Concepts

- Fossils give us evidence about extinct animals.
- Scientists can learn how extinct animals lived by observing their adaptations and comparing them to living animals.

Objectives

- Students will understand that the fossils from Tule Springs teach us about life in Las Vegas during the Ice Age.
- Students will understand that many Ice Age animals are similar to animals that still live today.

Outline

Students will select one animal and use their research to compose a short paragraph about how that animal lived.

Review the idea that fossils give scientists evidence about plants and animals that lived a long time ago. The fossils from the Tule Springs give us information about what life was like in Las Vegas during the Ice Age. We can draw information from fossils by making careful observations and using what we already know about animals who are alive today.

Ice Age Investigation

The extinct animals from Tule Springs can tell us a lot about the way the animals lived by examining their fossil remains. From the smallest mouse to the largest mammoth, the story of their life is in their bones. Read and research about the animals of the Ice Age and see if you can uncover the mysteries!

Choose one of the animals from your reading, and use your research and observations to fill in the paragraph.

I chose to study the _____.

My animal is _____ in size compared to other animals of the Ice Age.

Its teeth are _____ which tells me that it ate _____.

It walks on _____ legs.

My animal looks like it moved _____ because _____
_____.

A living animal similar to my animal is the _____.

Draw your animal:

