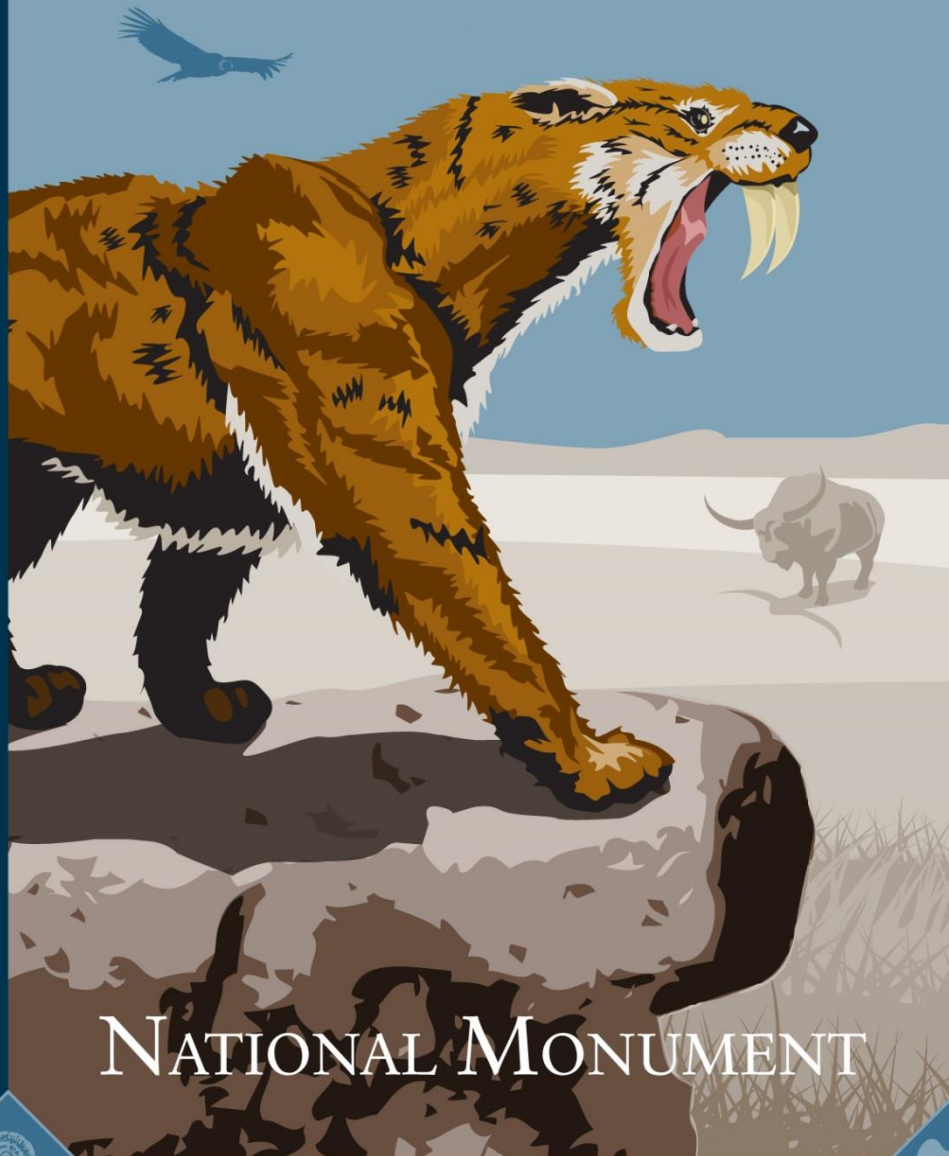


Teacher Resources

TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS



NATIONAL MONUMENT

6th – 8th Grade

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument

Teacher Resources

Grades 6-8

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

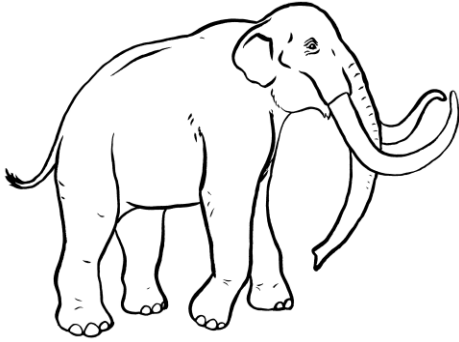
Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument preserves thousands of Pleistocene (Ice Age) fossils that help tell the story of a dynamic environment. These fossils were preserved within expanding and contracting wetlands between 100,000-12,500 years ago. Many of the Pleistocene animals of Tule Springs are 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)



Name: _____ Date: _____



Meals for Mammoths

Columbian mammoths were some of the largest mammals that ever existed, and like many large animals, they were herbivores. Mammoths lived almost entirely on grass!

Scientists estimate the average Columbian mammoth ate 300 pounds of grass per day. At 245 calories per pound, this means one of these giants consumed 73,500 calories every day.

$$\frac{300 \text{ lb grass}}{1 \text{ lb grass}} \times \frac{245 \text{ calories}}{1 \text{ lb grass}} = 73,500 \text{ calories}$$

What if mammoths had chosen other foods? How much would they need to eat then? We can use factor-label equations, like the example above, to find out.



Alfalfa

970 calories per pound

$$\frac{73500 \text{ calories}}{970 \text{ calories}} \times \frac{1 \text{ lb alfalfa}}{970 \text{ calories}} = \frac{\quad \text{lb of alfalfa}}{970 \text{ calories}}$$



Corn

1536 calories per pound

$$\frac{73500 \text{ calories}}{\quad \text{calories}} \times \frac{1 \text{ lb corn}}{\quad \text{calories}} = \frac{\quad \text{lb of corn}}{\quad \text{calories}}$$



Oats

1765 calories per pound

$$\frac{\quad \text{calories}}{\quad \text{calories}} \times \frac{1 \text{ lb oats}}{\quad \text{calories}} = \frac{\quad \text{lb of oats}}{\quad \text{calories}}$$



Pumpkin

118 calories per pound

$$\frac{\quad \text{calories}}{\quad \text{calories}} \times \frac{1 \text{ lb pumpkin}}{\quad \text{calories}} = \frac{\quad \text{lb of pumpkin}}{\quad \text{calories}}$$



Strawberry

145 calories per pound

$$\frac{\quad \quad \quad}{1 \text{ lb grass}} \times \frac{\quad \quad \quad}{1 \text{ lb grass}} = \frac{\quad \quad \quad}{1 \text{ lb grass}}$$