

Animals in Terra Tempo: Ice Age Cataclysm!

Each animal is listed on your chart. When you see the animal, mark “extinct” or “still alive” in the correct column. If you mark extinct, think about which modern animal it might be related to and record your ideas below the chart. Afterward, we will go through the answers and learn some cool facts about the animals in this book!

Saber-toothed Cat



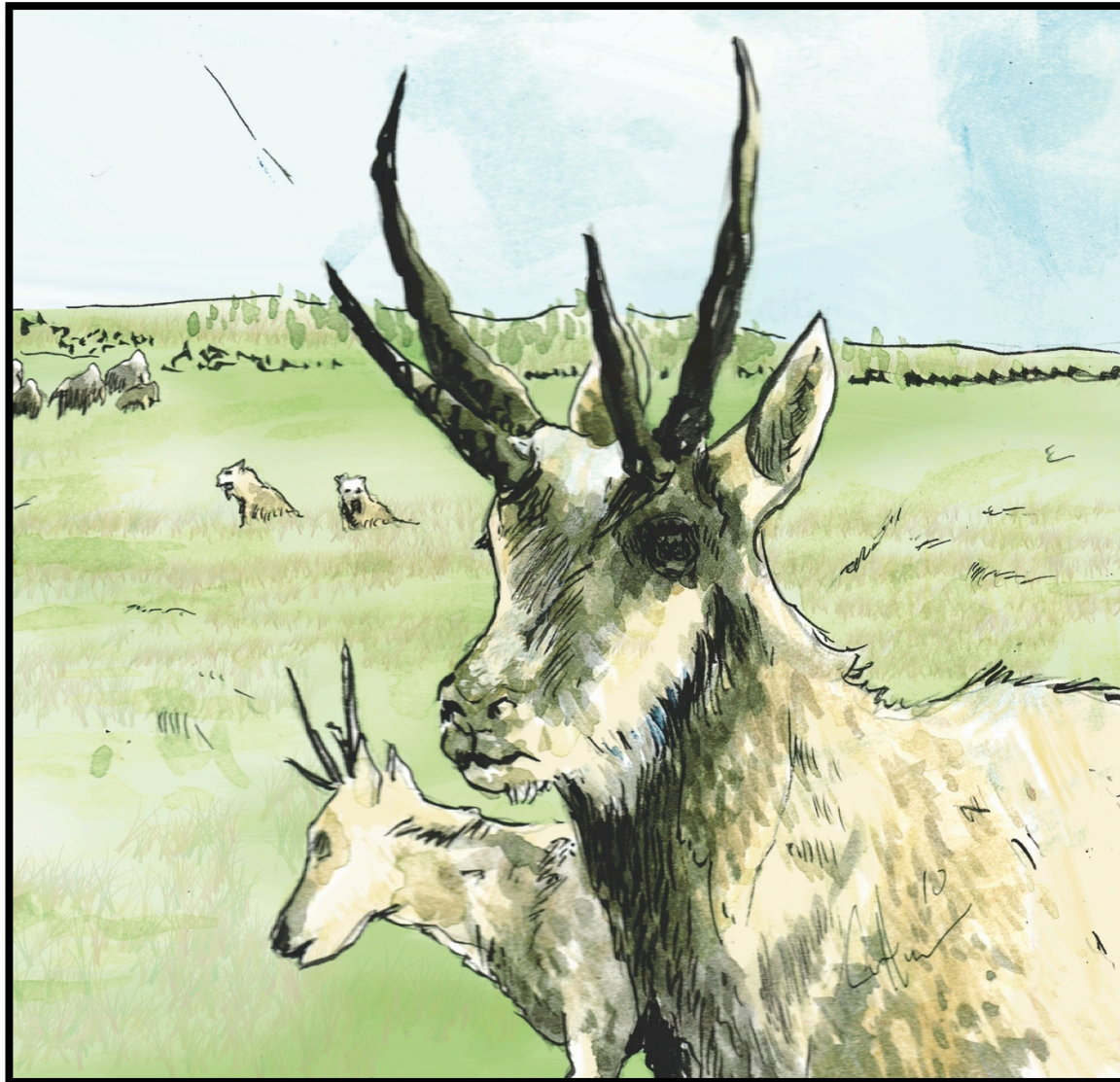
Giant Short-faced Bear



Giant Sloth



Pronghorn



Dire Wolf



Mammoths

Woolly Mammoth



Columbian Mammoth



Camelops



Western Horse



Elk



Black-capped Chickadee



Long-horned Bison





Saber-toothed cat

(*Smilodon fatalis*) – The saber-toothed cat is the California State Fossil! This animal was about the size of a modern lion, though its body was more compact and muscular. The “saber” teeth could be as long as seven inches and played an important part of hunting and mating. This animal could open its mouth to an incredible 120 degrees!

Giant short-faced bear

(*Arctodus simus*) – This was the fastest running bear to ever live! It had very long legs and may have been upwards of 12 feet tall standing on its hind feet. Some scientists estimate it could run 40 miles per hour even though it weighed over 1,500 pounds.





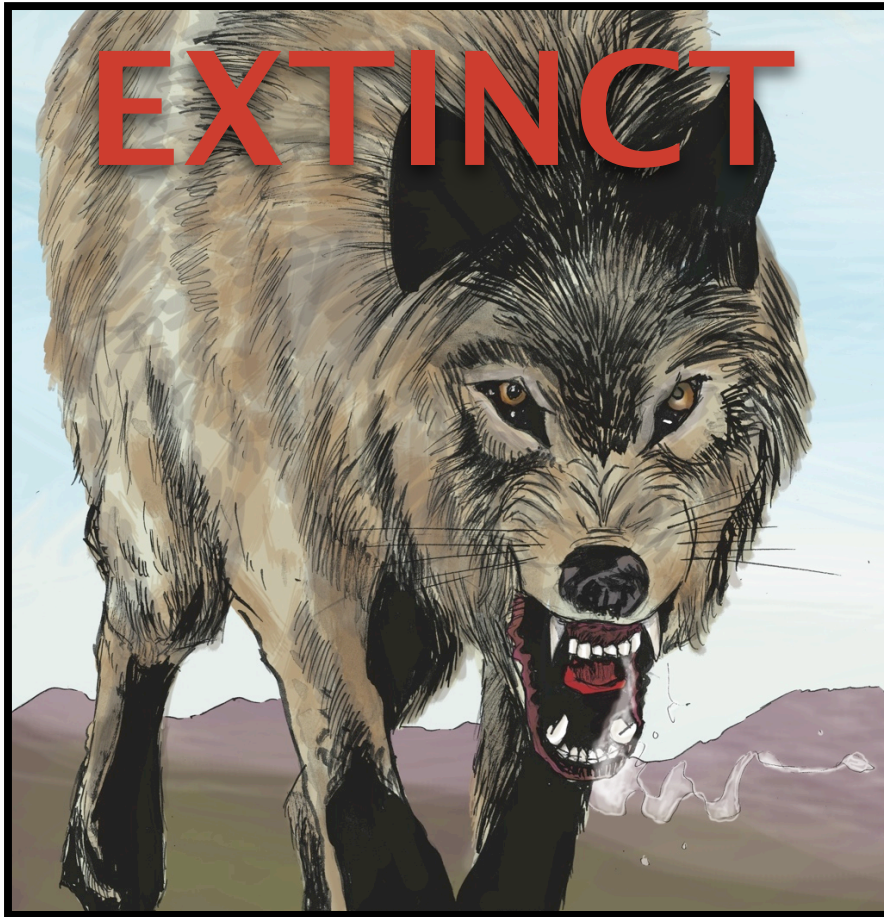
Giant sloth

(*Megalonyx jeffersonii*) – This ground sloth was a large, heavily built animal about 8 to 10 feet long. Its maximum weight may have been as much as 800 pounds! Jefferson's ground sloth is related to the modern-day two- and three-fingered sloth. The hind limbs were flat, and this, along with its stout tail, allowed it to rear up to feed on tree leaves. It had three highly developed claws that were probably used to strip leaves.

Pronghorn

(*Stockoceros onusrosagris*) – This pronghorn was smaller than the modern pronghorn and had four horns instead of two. Like a modern pronghorn, the life of the Quentin's pronghorn depended upon speed and endurance. There were many different types of pronghorn in the Pleistocene, but all went extinct except for one.





Dire Wolf

(*Canis dirus*) – This wolf was larger than modern wolves at 5 feet long and up to 190 pounds. Dire Wolves had stronger jaws and may have been scavengers as well as hunters. They lived in packs like modern wolves. Even though they were bigger in size than modern wolves, the Dire Wolves had smaller brains.

Woolly Mammoth

(*Mammuthus primigenius*) - The classic woolly mammoth of Europe, Asia, and North America had shaggy dark hair over its whole body, stood $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall, and was $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet long. It could weigh up to three tons! Both males and females had tusks, though the male tusks were larger.



Columbia Mammoth

(*Mammuthus columbi*) - This mammoth is the Washington State Fossil! They were very large animals and could be as tall as 13 feet and weigh as much as 10 tons. Their tusks were very large, with a record 16-foot-long tusk found in Texas. They were less hairy than the woolly mammoth. They lived exclusively in the Americas with a range from Alaska to Honduras.



EXTINCT

Camelops

(*Camelops hesternus*) - Taller than a modern camel, but otherwise similar, the Camelops ranged from Alaska to Southern California and lived in herds. Apparently this animal was common. There is evidence to suggest that ice age hunters hunted the Camelops.



Western Horse

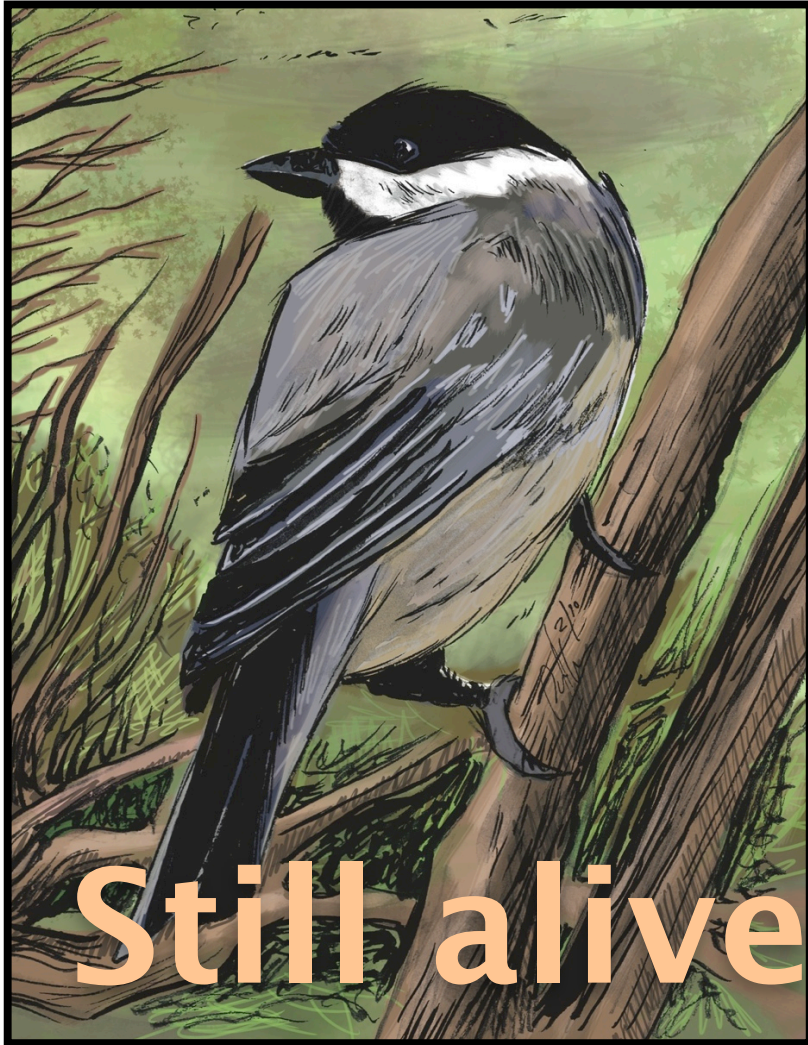
(*Equus occidentalis*) – Also known as the Ice Age Horse, the western horse lived on the grasslands of the Pleistocene landscape. They had a body similar to the modern zebra and lived in herds. They went extinct around 10,000 years ago. The Spaniards introduced modern horses to North America in the 1500s.



Elk

(*Cervus canadensis*) – Elk are one of the largest species of deer in the world, and one of the largest land mammals in North America and Eastern Asia. Males grow massive antlers, which they shed each year.





Black-capped Chickadee

(*Poecile atricapillus*) - Chickadees are named from their distinctive “chick-a-dee-dee-dee” alarm call. Did you know song birds have a language of their own that we humans can learn to understand? It’s true! There are mating calls, aggression calls, calls of the feeding young, companion calls, and alarm calls used by birds to signify an intruder into their territory. It is the Chickadee alarm call that alerts the trio of time travelers to the presence of the short-faced bear.

Long-horned Bison

(*Bison latifrons*) – Also known as the giant bison, the long-horned bison reached a shoulder height of 8.5 feet, and had horns that spanned over 6.5 feet. This bison is larger than the two remaining species of bison. It's estimated that it would have weighed well over a ton!



The extinctions at the end of the Ice Age are still a mystery...

Perhaps the Ice Age animals were hunted to extinction. This theory suggests that the human populations over-hunted the animals. Mammoths, camels, horses, and giant sloths were all hunted by Ice Age hunters.

Or...

Maybe climate change led to changes in vegetation, which altered the diets of the animals and led to their eventual extinction. This theory suggests that changes in the global environment were too much for some Ice Age animals to adapt to. The large animals would have had to eat a large quantity of food every day in order to survive. As the climate changed, so did the vegetation, leaving too many animals competing for too few resources.

Then again...

New climates can bring new bacteria and viruses. The larger animals could have been vulnerable to new diseases.

What is your theory?

After your chart is a summary of these three theories. Think about what you think happened and write your own theory. Your theory can be completely original, or contain or combine some of the three theories we have gone over.