

Stone Age Animals – Reading Comprehension

Thousands of years ago, during the Stone Age, many animals roamed the earth that we do not see today. One of the most famous was the woolly mammoth. These huge creatures looked a little like elephants, but they had long, shaggy hair to keep them warm in the cold climate. Their long, curved tusks could grow up to five metres in length! People in the Stone Age hunted mammoths for their meat, bones, and skins. The skin could be used to make shelters and warm clothing, while the tusks and bones were shaped into tools.

Another important Stone Age animal was the woolly rhinoceros. Covered in thick fur, this rhino was strong and well adapted to the freezing ice age environment. Its horns were used for defence against predators like wolves and cave lions. These animals were powerful and difficult to hunt, but they were an important source of food.

Stone Age people also encountered giant deer, sometimes called the Irish elk. The males had enormous antlers, which could spread wider than the height of a tall person! These antlers made them look impressive but also made it hard for them to move through thick forests.

All of these animals show how Stone Age people had to use their skills and bravery to survive. Hunting provided food, clothing, and tools, but it was dangerous work. Without these animals, life in the Stone Age would have been much harder.

Questions

1. What did woolly mammoths look like and how were they useful to Stone Age people?

2. How was the woolly rhinoceros adapted to the cold environment?

3. Why might the giant deer's huge antlers have been both helpful and difficult?

4. What do these animals tell us about life for Stone Age people?
