



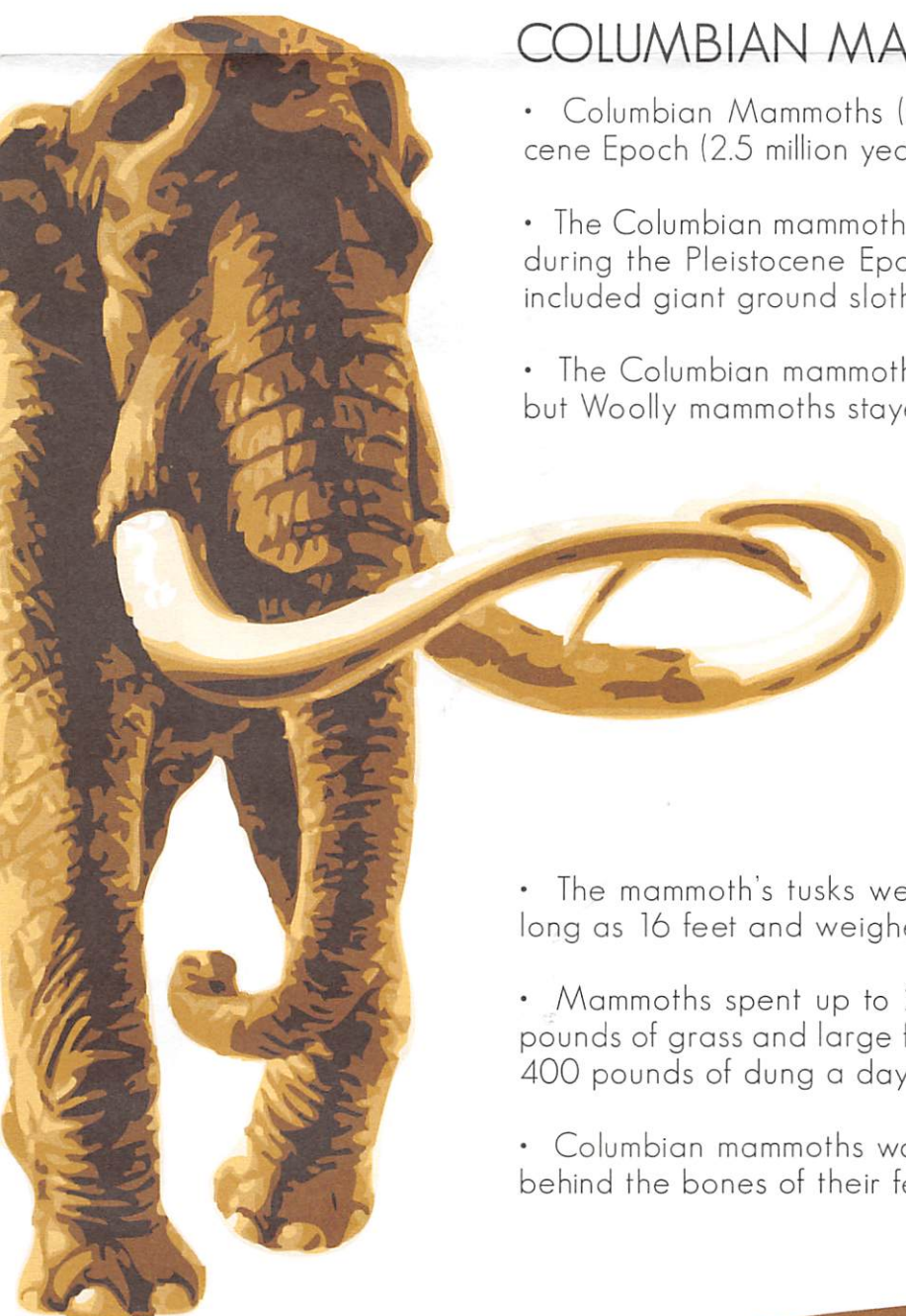
"The nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene mammoths" - *National Park Service*



## WACO MAMMOTH SITE OVERVIEW

- The Waco Mammoth Site sits in more than 100 acres of wooded parkland and is the result of a collaboration between the City of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation. The City of Waco manages the site, while Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex curates the excavated material and oversees scientific research.
- Congressional legislation is currently pending to create the Waco Mammoth National Monument and to include the site as a unit of the National Park Service.
- The Waco Mammoth Site was first discovered in 1978. The site is the only known discovery of a nursery herd (female mammoths and their offspring) in North America. This is also North America's largest known collection of Columbian mammoths that died in a single event.
- Research indicates the Waco mammoths perished in a series of flood-related events spread across thousands of years. One of the earliest events took place approximately 68,000 years ago and included 19 of the mammoths.
- To date, 24 mammoths have been discovered, and the likelihood of additional fossils exists. A large portion of the mammoth remains were discovered in the ravine outside of the dig shelter.

## COLUMBIAN MAMMOTH FACTS



- Columbian Mammoths (*Mammuthus columbi*) lived during the Pleistocene Epoch (2.5 million years to 10,000 years ago).
- The Columbian mammoth was one of the largest mammals to have lived during the Pleistocene Epoch. Other animals that lived during this time included giant ground sloths, short-faced bears and giant beavers.
- The Columbian mammoth is a distant relative of the Woolly mammoth, but Woolly mammoths stayed farther north in much colder regions.
- Columbian mammoths grew to more than 14 feet in height and weighed up to 10 tons (20,000 lbs). They stood 2 to 4 feet taller and weighed up to 8,000 pounds more than Woolly mammoths.
- A mammoth's tooth could be as large as a four-pound shoe box. Mammoths had six sets of teeth during their lifetime, which could span up to 75 years.
- The mammoth's tusks were modified incisor teeth. The tusks grew as long as 16 feet and weighed up to 200 pounds each.
- Mammoths spent up to 20 hours a day eating between 300 to 700 pounds of grass and large fruits. As a result, mammoths produced around 400 pounds of dung a day.
- Columbian mammoths walked on their tiptoes. A sponge-like pad was behind the bones of their feet, which cushioned their immense weight.

# EXAMINING the REMAINS

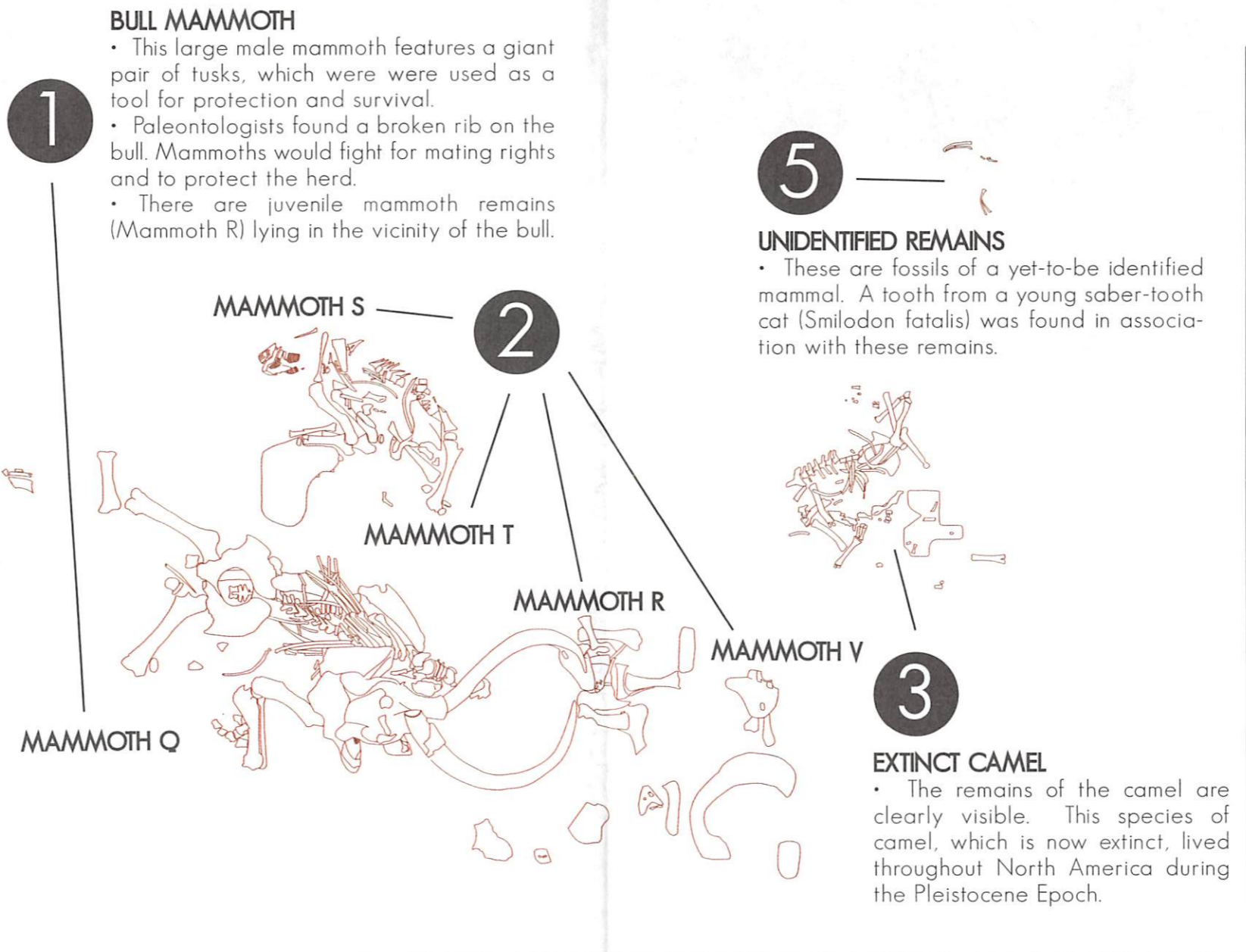


The dig shelter houses the fossils of six mammoths and a camel, along with a set of unidentified remains.

- 1 BULL MAMMOTH**  
(Mammoth Q)
- 2 MAMMOTH REMAINS**  
(Mammoths R,S,T,V)
- 3 EXTINCT CAMEL**
- 4 FEMALE MAMMOTH**  
(Mammoth W)
- 5 UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS**

**WHAT HAPPENED?**

- Research indicates the animals died in a series of events beginning approximately 68,000 years ago.
- One of the earlier events involved at least 19 mammoths (all females and juveniles) and possibly the camel.
- An additional event involved the unidentified remains and the tooth of a juvenile saber-tooth cat.
- A later event, approximately 15,000 years after the first flood, involved the bull, the female and a juvenile that was originally lying across the bull's tusks.



**BULL MAMMOTH**

- This large male mammoth features a giant pair of tusks, which were used as a tool for protection and survival.
- Paleontologists found a broken rib on the bull. Mammoths would fight for mating rights and to protect the herd.
- There are juvenile mammoth remains (Mammoth R) lying in the vicinity of the bull.

**UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS**

- These are fossils of a yet-to-be identified mammal. A tooth from a young saber-tooth cat (*Smilodon fatalis*) was found in association with these remains.

**EXTINCT CAMEL**

- The remains of the camel are clearly visible. This species of camel, which is now extinct, lived throughout North America during the Pleistocene Epoch.

**FEMALE MAMMOTH**

- This female mammoth is preserved in its original state and features a large set of teeth.