

## Let's imagine: tusk

Each week the Museum is going to publish a 'Let's Imagine' activity sheet. This activity sheet will include a picture of an object in the Museum. It will tell you about the object and then it will be up to you to imagine a story, poem and/or picture inspired by this object. The sheet will include at least three questions or statements to help get you started and inspired.

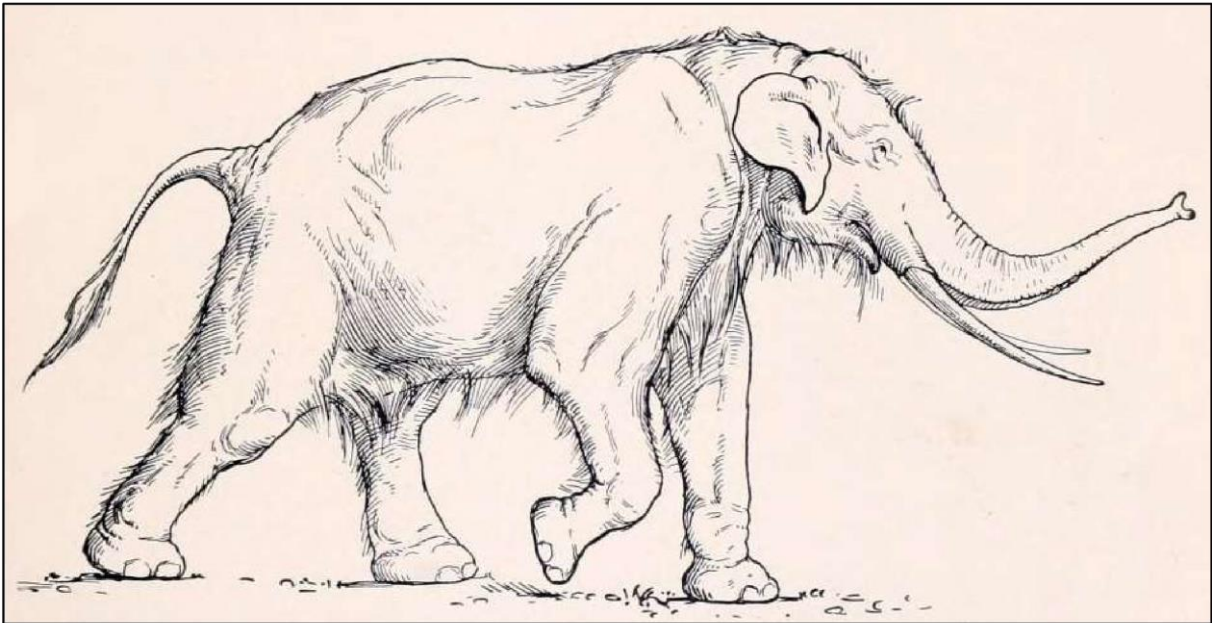
This week's object is a straight-tusked elephant tusk that can be found in the permanent exhibition. Read the information below the illustration to find out more about this tusk.



Imagine you've dug up this tusk, describe the tusk in detail.

Draw a picture of a straight-tusked elephant – use the illustration below to help you.

Write a story or poem about being transported back to Stone Age Britain. What animals do you see?



This is an illustration of a straight-tusked elephant. It lived in Britain during the Middle and Late Pleistocene (approximately 781,000–50,000 years ago). The tusk, which is on display in the museum's permanent exhibition, was found in Lower Way, Thatcham, along with an upper molar from a straight-tusked elephant. Its tusks are relatively straight and long – the reason for its name. They were probably used for defence, offense, digging, lifting and gathering food. They would also protect the sensitive trunk, tucked between them, when another elephant charged. The elephant lived in small herds of about a dozen elephants.

H. Osborn, *Men of the Old Stone Age*; / Public domain