

# Fun facts about woolly mammoths

1. **Woolly mammoths were big but not huge!** They were about the size of a modern African elephant.
2. **The coat of a woolly mammoth was made up of very long hairs with an undercoat of shorter hairs.** This layering would help to keep them warm.
3. **The ears of a woolly mammoth were shorter than a modern elephant's ears.** Like their thick coat of fur, their shortened ears kept them warm in the very cold weather.
4. **Mammoths used their curved tusks to dig up the ground.** They also used them to rub bark from the trees and to fight.
5. **We can tell the age of a woolly mammoth from the rings of its tusk, like looking at the rings of a tree.** There is a line for each year and the thickness or thinness of the rings tells us how well the mammoth was during that time. A thicker ring would suggest a good year with plenty of food.
6. **The woolly mammoth was not the only woolly animal. The woolly rhinoceros was around at the same time, and they died out around the same time too.** We are not sure why they died. Humans might have hunted them all, or perhaps they did not like it when the Ice Age ended.
7. **We believe the large lumps on a mammoth's back were extra stores of fat to help it survive winters when food was not easily found.** Mammoths ate grass and grazed like cows do today.

Image below: Charles R. Knight, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

