



PREHISTORIC PLANET

ICE AGE

Dear Educator,

Travel to a new era millions of years after the dinosaurs with **Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age** and these free activities from Apple TV+ and curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired.

With the hands-on activities, students will determine measurements of awe-inspiring Ice Age animals, create puppets, and practice scientific vocabulary and earth history knowledge with a word search.

Please share the program with other teachers. And let us know your thoughts about it at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-prehistoricplanet. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

About Prehistoric Planet

Two million years ago, with the dinosaurs long gone and a third of the world covered in ice, the world's coolest animals inherited the earth. Based on brand new science, this is the Ice Age as you've never seen it before. The third installment of the Prehistoric Planet franchise, executive produced by Jon Favreau and the BBC, narrated by Tom Hiddleston, and scored by Hans Zimmer, takes audiences to a new era. **Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age** premieres November 26 on Apple TV+.



Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

Target Audience

Grades 3-5

Program Components

Available at ymiclassroom.com/prehistoricplanet:

- This one-page teacher's guide
- Three reproducible student activities
- A reproducible family letter
- A standards chart

Concepts and Skills

- Ice Age climate, animals, and habitats
- Measurement, estimation, and calculation
- Creative thinking and artistic interpretation
- Science vocabulary
- Reading informational text

How to Use This Program

Make photocopies of the activity sheets. Send home the family letter to extend the learning and fun. Activity 1 requires string, scissors, and yardsticks. Activity 2 requires scissors, markers or crayons, glue, and wooden craft sticks.

Program Introduction

Begin by sharing facts about the Ice Age:

- The Ice Age occurred during the Pleistocene Epoch, beginning around 2.5 million years ago and lasting until around 11,500 years ago.
- The Ice Age included alternating periods of cold (glacial) and warmth (interglacial). There was no sustained period of cold and ice during this time.
- Today's glaciers are remnants of the last glacial period.
- Climate changes that occurred during the Ice Age affected and even helped create many different habitats.
- This period was a constant struggle for survival for animals as they had to continually adapt to the impact on resources.

Activity 1: Animals of All Shapes and Sizes

Engage students in a discussion about Ice Age animals and their sizes. Share pairs of animals from the list below and ask students which they think was larger. Then have them put all the animals in size order. Check out the gallery at apple.com/tv-pr/news/2025/07/apple-tv-announces-prehistoric-planet-ice-age/ for images. Have a yardstick available for further visual comparisons.

Animal	Approximate Height	Approximate Weight
Saber-toothed cat	3 ft tall, 6 ft long	160-280 lbs.
Glyptotherium	4 ft tall, 6 ft long	880 lbs.
Woolly rhino	6.6 ft tall, 10 to 12 ft long	4,000-6,000 lbs.
Elephant bird	9 to 10 ft tall	1,000 lbs.
Gigantopithecus	9 ft tall	660 lbs.
Woolly mammoth	11 ft tall	13,000 lbs.
Giant ground sloth	12 ft tall, 20 ft long	8,800 lbs.

Distribute the activity sheet and review the instructions together. Have students complete Part 1 on their own. For Part 2, have them work with a partner to take height measurements, record them, and determine the difference between their height and each animal's height.

Answers: Part 1: 1. 7 inches, 2. 130 degrees. Part 2: Answers will vary.

Activity 2: Ice Age Puppets

Distribute the activity sheet and read the animal facts with students. Then have them color and cut out the animal pictures and use craft sticks and glue to create puppets. Students can then work in groups to create Ice Age stories and adventures with their puppets.

Extension: Pass out a second set of activity sheets for students to color and cut out. Have them design each animal's habit on a separate paper and glue the cutouts into the habitats.

Activity 3: Woolly Word Search

Distribute the activity sheet and have students work with a partner or in small groups to match the Ice Age terms to their clues before completing the word search.

Answers: 1. b, 2. a, 3. g, 4. h, 5. e, 6. j, 7. d, 8. c, 9. F, 10. i
A completed word search is available at ymiclassroom.com/prehistoricplanet.

Extension: Challenge students to write and illustrate their own sentences featuring the Ice Age vocabulary.

Resources

- Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age: <https://tv.apple.com/us/show/prehistoric-planet/umc.cmc.4lh4bmztavukooqz400akxav>
- ymiclassroom.com/prehistoricplanet



Animals of All Shapes and Sizes



Woolly Mammoth



Saber-Toothed Cat



Dwarf Elephant

Part 1 Solve the following word problems to learn more about the giants of the Ice Age!

- Your teeth are less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. The saber-toothed cat's upper canine teeth were about this long: $1 + 2 + 2 + 2 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ inches
- On average, children can open their mouths around 30 degrees wide. The saber-toothed cat could open its mouth about this wide: $10 + 10 + 20 + 40 + 50 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ degrees

Part 2 Work with a partner to compare your height to these incredible Ice Age animals! Follow these steps:

- Use yarn or string to measure your partner's height from head to toe. Cut the string at this height.
- Place the string against a yardstick to determine your height. Record this measurement in the chart.
- Calculate your height measurement total in inches only and record it in the chart.
- Convert each animal's approximate height to inches only.
- Determine the difference between your height and each of these mighty Ice Age animals!

My Height	Saber-Toothed Cat	Dwarf Elephant	Woolly Mammoth
Feet: _____ Inches: _____	3 feet tall	6 feet tall	11 feet tall
Total in inches: _____	Inches: _____	Inches: _____	Inches: _____
Difference between my height and the animal's height	_____ inches	_____ inches	_____ inches

Families: Watch **Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age**, a five-episode documentary event on Apple TV+ premiering November 26! See the saber-toothed cat, dwarf elephant, and woolly mammoth come to life!

Ice Age Puppets

During the Ice Age, megafauna (big animals) roamed the earth. Read about some of these Ice Age giants. Then color and cut out each animal to make Ice Age puppets. Create and share stories using your puppets!

1. Saber-toothed Cat (Smilodon)

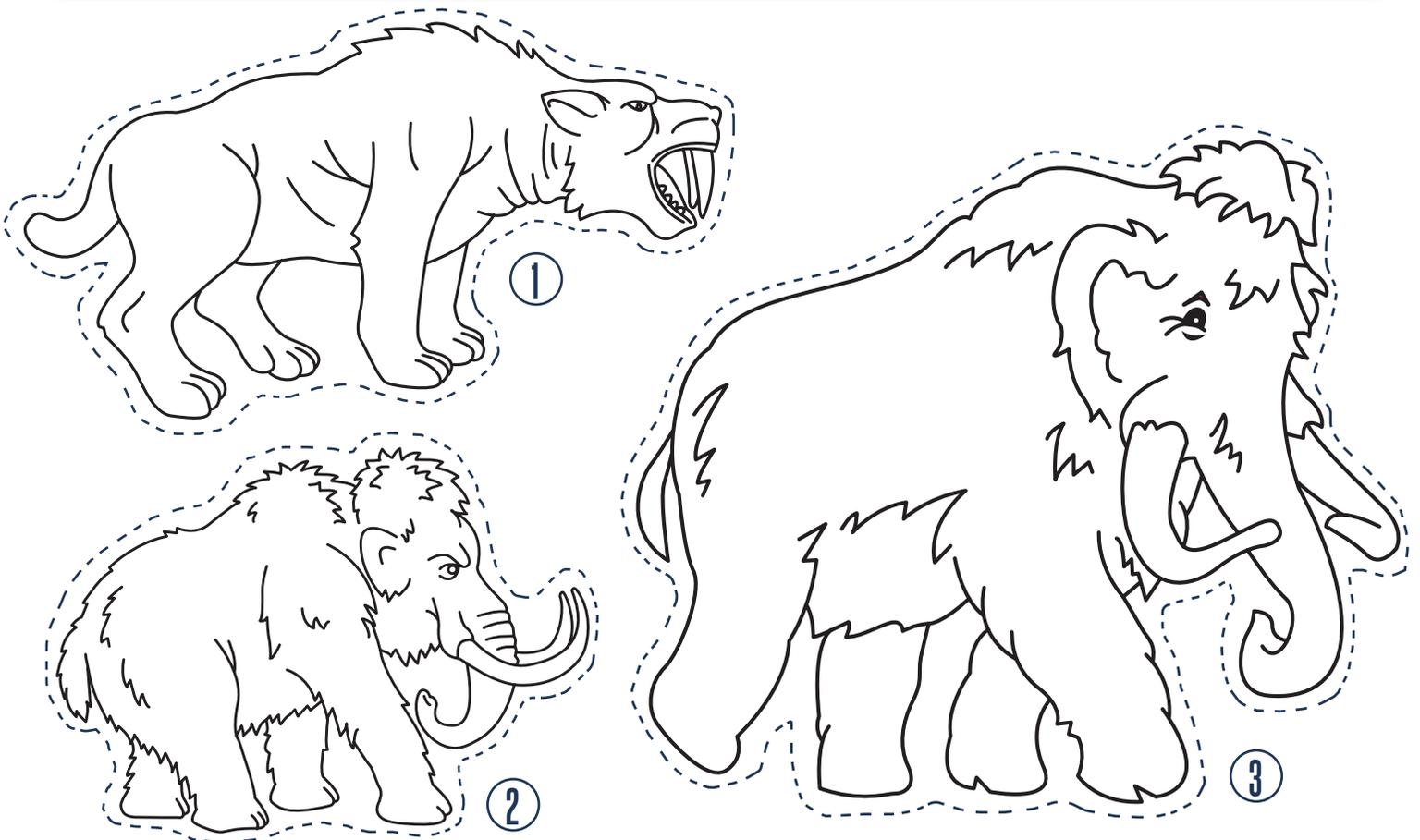
- *Habitat:* grasslands, coastal sage, and forests
- *Fun Facts:* Carnivores. Young saber-toothed cats had baby called “milk sabers.” The fur of the cat was most likely spotted, not striped.

2. Dwarf Elephant (Stegodon)

- *Habitat:* forested islands of Indonesia and the Philippines
- *Fun Facts:* Herbivores. Stegodons became smaller in size compared to non-island species. They had small, short legs compared to the rest of their bodies. This helped them scramble over brushy island areas.

3. Woolly Mammoth

- *Habitat:* Arctic tundra, from Eurasia to North America
- *Fun Facts:* Herbivores. Males had large curvy tusks to fight off other males, but female tusks were smaller and straight. Both male and female had small ears, to conserve energy in their cold habitat.



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Woolly Word Search

Match the Ice Age vocabulary to the clues. Write the matching letter on the line. Then find these words in the puzzle.

Word Bank:

1. Glacier _____
2. Ground sloth _____
3. Giant otter _____
4. Woolly mammoth _____
5. Smilodon _____
6. Glyptotherium _____
7. Cave bear _____
8. Grasslands _____
9. Island _____
10. Desert _____



Clues:

- a. I was a slow-moving grass-eating animal and the largest mammal to ever walk on two feet.
- b. I am thick ice that covered large areas of the planet during the Ice Age.
- c. I was a large ecosystem created by dry Ice Age air and made mostly of grasses.
- d. I was about the size of a modern polar bear.
- e. My name comes from root words that mean "two-edged knife" and "tooth."
- f. Changing sea levels helped create me — small areas of new land where dwarf animals might live.
- g. Dry Ice Age air forced me to move from the water to the land to hunt.
- h. I survived extreme cold due to a special protein in my blood that acted like anti-freeze.
- i. I was an ecosystem created when ice sheets grew and made dry areas barren.
- j. I was the size of a small car but am related to armadillos of today.



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ICE AGE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Get ready for **Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age** premiering on Apple TV+ on November 26!

Two million years ago, with the dinosaurs long gone and a third of the world covered in ice, the world's coolest animals inherited the earth. Based on brand new science, this is the Ice Age as you've never seen it before. The third installment of the **Prehistoric Planet** franchise, executive produced by Jon Favreau and the BBC, narrated by Tom Hiddleston, and scored by Hans Zimmer, takes audiences to a new era: The Ice Age.

Your child is learning about the Ice Age with with classroom materials from curriculum specialists Young Minds Inspired and Apple TV+. You can continue the learning and excitement at home — each episode of **Prehistoric Planet** makes a great family activity to watch together and discuss.

EPISODE SYNOPSES

- 1. The Big Freeze** — In a world covered in ice, woolly mammoths and saber-toothed cats fight to survive the coldest temperatures in millions of years.
- 2. New Lands** — As sea levels drop and continents shift, animals begin migrating to unknown territories full of new possibilities—and new threats.
- 3. Desert Lands** — With much of the planet's water supply frozen, rock-climbing sloths and marsupial lions must find a way to withstand barren landscapes.
- 4. Grass Lands** — Giant herd animals thrive with the expansion of the grasslands, dominating the plains—but fearsome hunters shadow their every move.
- 5. The Big Melt** — Rising temperatures mean every habitat on the planet is transforming, and for the Goliaths of the Ice Age, the world as they know it is ending.

Enjoy family viewing and extend your child's learning with these tips:

- Build imagination by asking: Which animal would you most/least like to see if you could time travel to the Ice Age? Which animal's survival story surprised you the most?
- Build critical-thinking skills by challenging children to recount at least three new things they learned and one question they have after viewing each episode.
- Learn more together! Take a virtual field trip to the La Brea Tar Pits (tarpits.org/virtual-field-trip), the only active Ice Age excavation site in an urban area.
- Make an Ice Age-themed popcorn snack to share while watching together!

Melting Glacier Popcorn Trail Mix

Mixing these simple ingredients together is a tasty way to think about how melting glaciers could make things a little messy!

Ingredients:

8 to 10 cups popped popcorn (packaged, or pop your own)

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup chocolate chips

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup pretzel balls or mini pretzels

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup mini marshmallows

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sunflower seeds

Chocolate syrup

3 to 4 crushed peppermint candies

Mix everything in a bowl except the chocolate syrup and peppermints. Place small servings in bowls or cups. Lightly drizzle with chocolate syrup, add a pinch of crushed peppermint, and enjoy!

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Activity 3: Woolly Word Search Answer

