

Ice Age Elections

Waco Mammoth Site—Third to Fifth Grade Enrichment Activity

Summary

Three animals are running for Coolest Critter of the Ice Age. Students will split into three groups, each assigned to run an animal's campaign, ending with a campus-wide election. This activity is ideal for pull-out, enrichment classes of 9 or more students.



Objectives

- Work as a team to research an animal
- Use civic skills to run a campaign
- Engage in friendly competition
- Use math skills to calculate votes

In this pack, you will find:

- Lesson plan and TEKS alignment
- Info sheets to jumpstart research
- Ballots to use on Election Day
- Worksheet to analyze votes

Preparation

This activity is largely self-guided, but some preparation is needed.

Arrangements will need to be made in advance for your group to present to a larger student body, such as at an assembly, and permission to display posters and distribute campaign materials will need to be secured. A date will need to be set for the larger student body to cast votes, which your class will count.

Procedure

1. Explain to students that it is Election Season, and that three animals are running for Coolest Critter of the Ice Age. These animals need help with their campaigns, so the class will split into three groups, and each group will manage a different animal's campaign.
2. Distribute info sheets to each group. Tell them they will need to research their animal so they can convince others to vote for it.
3. Instruct each group to devise their strategies. Encourage them to think of methods used in political campaigns, such as:
 - a. Stump speeches
 - b. Posters
 - c. Buttons
 - d. Flyers
4. The day before Election Day, have each team present their animal to the voting body.
5. On Election Day, have your students collect ballots and count votes. Announce the winner to the voters.
6. Wrap up! Have your students fill out the worksheet to analyze the votes cast. Have an open class discussion about which campaign methods worked best, what each group liked about the other groups' presentations, and what was most fun.

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TEKS Alignment

Grade 3

§110.14 ELA: 2.A-C, 11, 13.A-D, 16.A-C, 21, 26.A, 27, 28, 29.A, 30, 31

§111.15 Math: 1.AB, 3.AB, 13.AB, 14.A, 15.AB

§111.5 Math: 1.AEF, 8.AB

§112.14 Science: 2.ACF, 3.B, 10.AB

§113.14 Social Studies: 3.A, 4.A, 11.AC, 17.A-F, 18.A-C, 19.AB

Grade 4

§110.15 ELA: 2.AB, 9, 11.ACD, 14.A-C, 19, 24.A, 25, 26, 27.A, 28, 29

§111.16 Math: 1.AB, 3.A, 13.AB, 14.A, 15.AB

§111.6 Math: 1.AEF, 9.A

§112.15 Science: 2.ABCF, 3.BC, 10.A

§113.15 Social Studies: 7.BC, 17.C, 21.B-E, 22.A-E, 23.AB

Grade 5

§110.16 ELA: 2.AB, 9, 11.A-E, 14.AB, 19, 24.AC, 25.AB, 26.A-C, 27.A-C, 28, 29

§111.17 Math: 1.A, 3.A, 13.C, 14.A, 15.AB

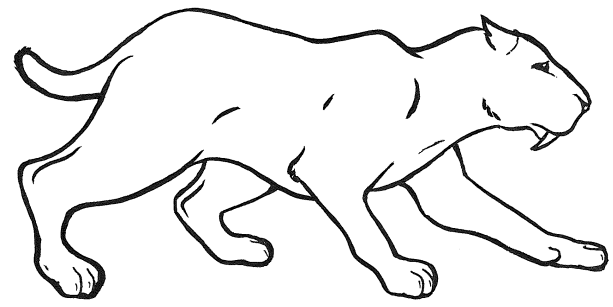
§111.7 Math: 1.AEF, 9.A

§112.16 Science: 3.B, 9.A, 10.A

§113.16 Social Studies: 24.B-D, 25.A-E, 26.AB

COOLEST CRITTER
OF THE ICE AGE

SABER-TOOTH CAT



Candidate: *Smilodon fatalis*,
AKA The Saber-Tooth Cat

Appeared: 1.8 million years ago
Went Extinct: 10,000 years ago

Range: Lived in North America
and western South America

The saber-tooth cat was a 600-pound *ambush predator*, a carnivore that hides in trees or bushes and waits for prey. It preferred to hunt large animals, such as bison and camels, which it killed with its 8-inch-long, dagger-like teeth.

Where to Start Looking for More Information

Books

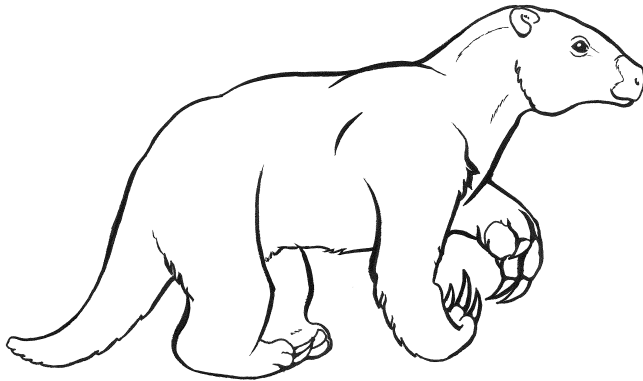
- Saber-toothed Cats*** by Susan E. Goodman
- Prehistoric World: The Ice Age*** by Dougal Dixon
- National Geographic Prehistoric Mammals*** by Alan Turner

Online

- BBC Nature**—<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Smilodon>
- Nat Geo**—<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/media/sabertooth/>
- Page Museum**—<http://www.tarpits.org/la-brea-tar-pits/timeline>

COOLEST CRITTER OF THE ICE AGE

GIANT GROUND SLOTH



Candidate: *Megatherium americanum*, AKA The Giant Ground Sloth

Appeared: 1.2 million years ago
Went Extinct: 10,000 years ago

Range: Lived in South America, Central America, and south Texas

The giant ground sloth was the largest *xenarthran*, a group of animals that include modern sloths, anteaters, and armadillos. It could grow up to 20 feet long and could stand on its back legs, allowing it to eat from high tree branches.

Where to Start Looking for More Information

Books

Prehistoric World: The Ice Age by Dougal Dixon
National Geographic Prehistoric Mammals by Alan Turner
Prehistoric Scary Creatures by John Malam

Online

BBC Nature—<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/wildfacts/factfiles/456.shtml>
BBC Nature—<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Megatheriidae>
Natural History Museum of London—<http://tinyurl.com/leo8jfv>

**COOLEST CRITTER OF
THE ICE AGE**

- Saber-Tooth Cat
- Giant Ground Sloth
- Columbian Mammoth

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Name: _____ Date: _____

★ ELECTION STATS ★

Now that the votes are cast,
let's look at the numbers!

Above each animal, write the number of votes that animal received. Then,
color in the bars above each number to match the number of votes.

100			
90			
80			
70			
60			
50			
40			
30			
20			
10			

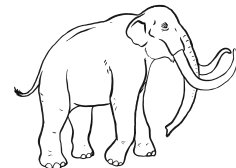
Votes: _____
Saber-Tooth Cat



Votes: _____
Giant Ground Sloth



Votes: _____
Columbian Mammoth



1. Which animal had the most votes? _____
2. Which animal had the second most votes? _____
3. Subtract #2 from #1. How many more votes did the winner get? _____
4. Find the average: add all 3 totals, and then divide by 3. _____
5. If the 2nd place and 3rd place animals combined their votes, would they beat the 1st place animal? _____