What are some of the common theories to explain why mammoths and mastodons went extinct?

Check out the buried mammoth. What can you see that identifies this creature as a mammoth? What is still hidden under the dirt?

Use your powers of observation to compare and contrast the Columbian Mammoth skeleton to the model. List your observations below!

Find the Pygmy Mammoth. Have your adult take a picture of you next to it—how do you size up?!

We have two complete mammoth tusks that were excavated from Project 23, but one is still wrapped in a protective plaster jacket. Sketch what you think our scientists might find on that tusk when it is opened.

What are some of the common theories to explain why mammoths and mastodons went extinct?

Explore the gallery near the Fossil Lab. Can you find which predator in the gallery is considered the most successful hunter of mammoths?
Go to the Trunks and Tusks gallery and try out the trunk interactive. Can you steer the trunk to pick up items?

Visit the Pleistocene Garden and trace or make a rubbing of an ice-age plant that a mammoth or mastodon might have eaten as a snack!

Visit the Columbian Mammoth and American Mastodon and match the feature to the creature! (Draw a line from the feature to the creature.)

What surprised you most about the Mammoths and Mastodons exhibit?

- This creature has a high single dome-shaped skull.
- This creature’s tusks were only slightly curved.
- This animal had conical-shaped teeth, great for snapping twigs and eating shrubs.
- This creature could weigh 4-5 tons, half as much as its proboscidean cousin.

- Zed is the nickname of this creature, the most complete found at the Tar Pits.
- This creature’s flat teeth were perfect for grinding grasses.
- This creature could stand up to 13 feet tall!

- Fossil remains of these creatures show they lived in the woodlands of North America.