

## Mastodon Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Mastodon trivia offers a fun introduction to an ancient mammal that belonged to the genus *Mammuthus* and roamed North America from the late Miocene to the early Holocene. As members of the order Proboscidea, mastodons were part of the same broader group as elephants and mammoths, making them a fascinating branch of prehistoric life.

### HARD MASTODON TRIVIA

1. What term describes mastodon molars, contrasting with the strongly lamellar pattern seen in mammoths?

Answer: They are bunodont.

2. Which line of evidence is often cited in support of browsing as the dominant feeding strategy in American mastodons?

Answer: Isotope studies.

3. Pleistocene mastodon fossils are especially abundant in which broad region?

Answer: Eastern North America.

4. Cut marks and embedded objects in a few mastodon bones have been cited as evidence of what?

Answer: Human interaction.

5. In discussions of the Manis mastodon, the rib lesion has been interpreted by some researchers as what specific kind of object?

Answer: A bone projectile point.

6. What can serial sampling of mastodon tusk chemistry help reconstruct?

Answer: Seasonal movement.

7. How did an adult mastodon's permanent molars erupt?

Answer: From back to front in conveyor-like succession.

8. Life-history studies suggest that American mastodon males experienced what kind of periodic condition?

Answer: Musth-like periods.

9. What kind of molecular evidence has been recovered from mastodon remains in some studies, despite limited preservation?

Answer: Ancient DNA fragments.

10. *Mammuthus pacificus*, the Pacific mastodon, is known mainly from which two states?

Answer: California and Idaho.

11. Who named *Mammuthus americanus* in 1792?

Answer: Kerr.

12. The generic name Mammut should not be confused with what mammoth genus?

Answer: Mammuthus.

13. Compared with mammoth teeth, mastodon cheek teeth generally have what enamel-ridge pattern?

Answer: They have fewer enamel ridges.

14. Paleoecological studies link mastodon population changes to the spread and retreat of what?

Answer: Late-glacial forests.

#### FUNNY MASTODON TRIVIA

1. If a mastodon wanted a snack from a branch overhead, what body part probably did the reaching because its neck was no help at all?

Answer: It likely used a trunk, because its neck was short.

2. Mastodon molars look bumpier than mammoth teeth because they were built with what?

Answer: Pointed cusps.

3. In the mastodon size department, who was usually bigger?

Answer: Males were usually larger than females.

4. A young mastodon probably treated which family member like the original VIP section?

Answer: Its mother.

5. What were mastodons likely grabbing with their trunks: branches, fish, or moonbeams?

Answer: Branches.

6. Some museum-mounted mastodon tusks are so dramatically bent that they nearly do what?

Answer: They nearly frame the face.

7. What kind of menu do worn mastodon teeth point to: softer grass or tougher woody food?

Answer: Tougher woody food.

8. A mastodon's feet were broad for what practical reason?

Answer: They helped support its heavy body on soft ground.

9. Which teeth were the mastodon's heavyweight champions compared with its earlier ones?

Answer: Its last molars.

10. When a mastodon skeleton turns up with bones still cozy and close to life position, what does that suggest happened?

Answer: It was buried quickly.

11. Mastodon enamel was basically built for repeat chewing of what kind of plants?

Answer: Coarse plants.

12. About how tall at the shoulder could a large adult mastodon get?

Answer: Around 2.5 to 3 meters.

13. On the bathroom scale of prehistory, a large American mastodon could weigh about how much?

Answer: Several tons.

#### FUN MASTODON TRIVIA

1. If you translated the name "mastodon" super literally, what odd phrase would you get?

Answer: Breast tooth.

2. Which French naturalist gave the mastodon genus its name in the early 19th century?

Answer: Georges Cuvier.

3. Which U.S. president got curious about giant fossil mammals from North America?

Answer: Thomas Jefferson.

4. What Kentucky fossil hotspot is a classic place for mastodon finds?

Answer: Big Bone Lick.

5. Which species made history as the first mastodon named from the Pacific coast?

Answer: Mammut pacificus.

6. In what year was Mammut pacificus formally described?

Answer: 2019.

7. What was the name of the Ohio mastodon discovered in 1989 that became especially famous?

Answer: The Burning Tree Mastodon.

8. The Burning Tree Mastodon was famous for tusks reaching what remarkable length?

Answer: Over 5 meters long.

9. Which named mastodon was discovered in Indiana in 1968?

Answer: The Overmyer Mastodon.

10. If you were planning a mastodon-themed trip to New York, which site is especially famous for such discoveries?

Answer: The Hiscock Site.

11. In which U.S. state would you find the Manis Mastodon Site?

Answer: Washington.

12. A famous mastodon rib tied to debates about early human hunting comes from which site?

Answer: The Manis site.

13. What unexpectedly unglamorous material from mastodons has actually been preserved at some fossil sites?

Answer: Dung.

## MASTODON FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What family did mastodons belong to?

Answer: Mastodons belonged to the family Mammutidae.

2. Which word best describes the bumps on mastodon molars?

Answer: Mastodon molars had rounded conical cusps.

3. If a mastodon was nibbling twigs and leaves, what kind of feeding was it most likely doing?

Answer: It was browsing.

4. From what broad range have mastodon fossils been found?

Answer: From Alaska to central Mexico.

5. What kind of places did the American mastodon call home?

Answer: Forests and woodlands.

6. What material were mastodon tusks made of?

Answer: Ivory.

7. How would a mastodon calf have entered the world?

Answer: By live birth.

8. What kind of legs helped mastodons support their great weight?

Answer: Pillar-like legs.

9. True or false: A mastodon's trunk had bones inside it.?

Answer: False

10. During a mastodon's life, what happened to its cheek teeth?

Answer: They were replaced in sequence.

11. Many mastodon fossils turned up in what soggy kinds of places?

Answer: Bogs and wetlands.

12. Which year is associated with a key milestone for Mastodon?

Answer: The species name americanum came later.

## EASY MASTODON TRIVIA

1. What genus does a mastodon belong to?

Answer: Mammut

2. Mastodons were part of the same broader group as elephants. What is that group called?

Answer: Proboscidea

3. On which continent did mastodons live?

Answer: North America

4. Mastodons are related to what modern animals?

Answer: Elephants

5. True or false: A mastodon is the same animal as a mammoth.?

Answer: False

6. What is the best-known species of mastodon called?

Answer: American mastodon

7. What is the scientific name of the American mastodon?

Answer: Mammut americanum

8. What long feature stuck out from a mastodon's mouth?

Answer: Tusks

9. Were mastodons plant-eaters, meat-eaters, or both?

Answer: Plant-eaters

10. How many legs did a mastodon have?

Answer: Four

11. Did mastodons live on land or in the sea?

Answer: On land

12. How do scientists know mastodons existed?

Answer: From fossils

13. Mastodons lived during what famous chilly stretch of prehistory?

Answer: The Ice Age

Source: <https://triviagong.com/trivia/mastodon-trivia>