

STEM**Grades: K-6****Date of Lesson: 11/18****Title: Of Mastodons and Men****Prepared by: Craig Montgomery****Background:**

In 1989 Licking County made national news with the discovery and excavation of an Ice Age mastodon skeleton. Nicknamed the Burning Tree Mastodon for the golf course on which it was found; the discovery was remarkable for several reasons. The skeleton was nearly complete with about 95% of the bones present. It was preserved so well that not only was gut material recovered from the site but living bacteria were later discovered within that material (a Guinness World Record for oldest living bacteria for a while). Evidence indicates that the BT Mastodon met his demise at the hands of Paleo-Indians that hunted him for food about 13,000 years ago. That evidence includes slash marks on the ribs made by a flint blade during the butchering process. This made the discovery of interest to both paleontologists and archeologists. The last Ice Age, or Pleistocene Epoch, started about 2.5mya and ended about 12,000 years ago. Mastodons and mammoths both lived at this time but the smaller mastodons were common in this area along with sabre toothed cats, dire wolves, and other now extinct animals. Paleo-Indians were the first inhabitants of this area. They were nomadic hunters and gatherers adept at living in the Ice Age.

Activity:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iRbgoYd6cw>

Attached coloring pages.