Student Worksheets

You will visit life-size models and fossils in the exhibition to observe elephants and their relatives and explore the environments in which they lived. Using your observations and the supporting text, describe how the animals' physical traits are adapted to the conditions of their habitats.

1. African Savanna Elephant
2. Woolly Mammoth
3. Dwarf Elephant and Straight-Tusked Elephant
STOP 1  African Savanna Elephant

**Draw** how tall you are relative to this animal.

**Observe** the large banner on a wall near the model. **Describe** the environmental conditions of this animal’s habitat:

How are this animal’s physical traits (e.g. body size, ears, tusk, trunk, hair) adapted to these conditions? **Note** them on the drawing.

STOP 2  Woolly Mammoth

**Draw** how tall you are relative to this animal.

**Observe** the painting behind the model. **Describe** the environmental conditions of this animal’s habitat:

How are this animal’s physical traits (e.g. body size, tusk, trunk, ears, hair) adapted to these conditions? **Note** them on the drawing.

**BONUS:** Explore the nearby tusk interactive to see how scientists determine where one woolly mammoth lived and the conditions of its habitat.
STOP 3 Dwarf Elephant and Straight-Tusked Elephant

Observe the two life-sized models of dwarf elephants. They show a fully-grown adult and a baby.

Draw how tall you are relative to these animals.

Label and note the following on the drawing:

- What stands out to you about their physical traits?
- What questions do you have about these traits?

Observe the two fossil skulls next to the models. One skull was found on the mainland of modern day Italy. The other fossil was found on a nearby island. Read about the species each fossil represents.

Note the age of each fossil.

Species represented by fossil found in Pignataro Interamna:
- Common name: straight-tusked elephant
- Scientific name: *Palaeoloxodon antiquus*
- Age of the fossil: _____________________________

Species represented by fossil found in Sicily:
- Common name: dwarf elephant
- Scientific name: *Palaeoloxodon falconeri*
- Age of the fossil: _____________________________

Compare the fossil skulls and read the text below them. Even though these two species are very closely related, why is one species so big and the other so small? Write or draw about it: