**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  ALIVE TODAY

**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:

- Hills in background
- Hot, dry
- Grassy, flat plains
- Dry shrubs

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  EXTINCT

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

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

- Stream
- Springtime
- Pine trees, flowers
- Mountains in background

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. **Read** about the species each fossil represents.

On the map, **note** the following information about the fossils.

**Species represented by fossil found in Pignataro Interamna:**
- **Common name:** straight-tusked elephant
- **Scientific name:** Palaeoloxodon antiquus
- **Age of the fossil:** 800,000 years old

**Species represented by fossil found in Sicily:**
- **Common name:** dwarf elephant
- **Scientific name:** Palaeoloxodon falconeri
- **Age of the fossil:** 450,000 years old

**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:

**Answers may include:**
- **The larger species swam from the mainland to the island.**
- **Islands have limited space, water and food, making it hard for giant animals to survive.**
- **Because of a lack of predators on the island, smaller offspring were more likely to survive and multiply.**
- **In each generation, the smallest offspring did better than their larger sibling, until a lineage of dwarf elephants eventually evolved.**