



The fossil elephant, or mammoth, is the most remarkable of the ancient herbivorous quadrupeds, both from its vast size, and the amazing number of bones of this genus, which are found in the northern parts of Europe, and in America. The mammoth must have existed in herds of hundreds and thousands. According to Pallas, there is scarcely a river, from the Don or the Tanais, to the extremity of the promontory Tchuskoinosa, in the banks of which the bones of the mammoth are not abundant. There are two large islands near the mouth of the river Indigerska, which are said to be entirely composed of the bones of the mammoth, intermixed with ice and sand: the tusks are so perfect, that they are dug out for ivory. With the bones of the mammoth are intermixed those of the elk, the rhinoceros, and other large quadrupeds. The body of a fossil elephant has been found entire, with the flesh preserved, buried in ice: it had a mane along its back, and was covered with coarse red wool, protected by hair of a coarser kind, indicating that it was an inhabitant of cold or temperate climates; indeed, the circumstance of the body being preserved in ice, is a further proof of this; for had it been conveyed from distant regions, the flesh must have been speedily decomposed, before it could have been enveloped in ice. The height of this animal was from fifteen to eighteen feet. Bones and teeth of the mammoth are not unfrequently found in England in beds of diluvial gravel and clay, and in caverns: they are chiefly found in low situations, such as the vale of the Thames, and the vale of the Severn. The mammoth bears a near resemblance to the Indian elephant, but Cuvier regards it as a distinct species.

The rhinoceros, of which there are three large species, and one smaller, appears to have lived with the fossil elephant: their bones are found together; but it is in Siberia that the bones of the rhinoceros are most numerous, and best preserved. In the year 1771, the entire body of one of these animals, was found in the frozen sands of that country.

Bones and teeth of the hippopotamus, are found both in England, France, Germany and Italy: there are two species, the largest resembles the African hippopotamus, the smaller is of the size of the wild