



☺ The world is full of animals. Go to a forest, or beach, or even your own back yard, and you will see all kinds of creatures. They are very busy, finding and eating food, building homes, hiding from danger, and taking care of their young.



Animals live almost everywhere—in grass, trees, underwater, even underground and in dark dens.

All animals need food to eat and water to drink. They also need a safe place to live and sleep.





☺ For some animals, finding food, water and a safe home is very easy.

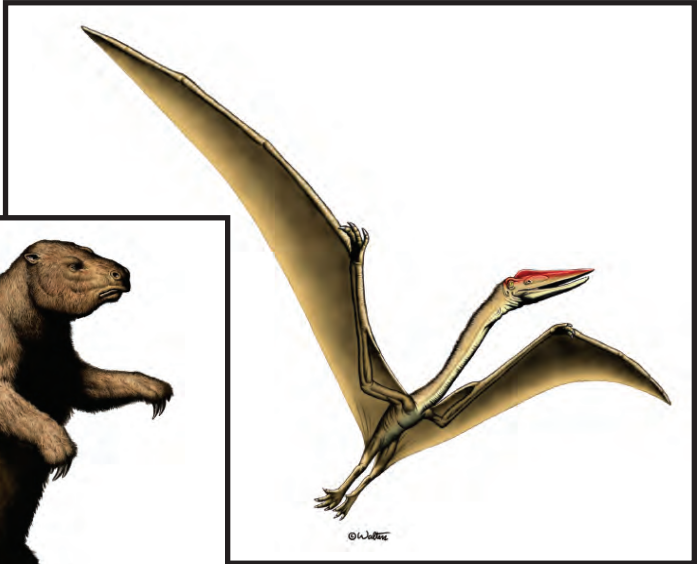
This **squirrel** lives in a tree in a park. She drinks from a nearby creek and eats the nuts and fruit that grow in the trees. The park is big and she has lots of space where she can search for food and play. Even if a dog runs after her, she can scamper up a tree trunk and be safe.

Red squirrel

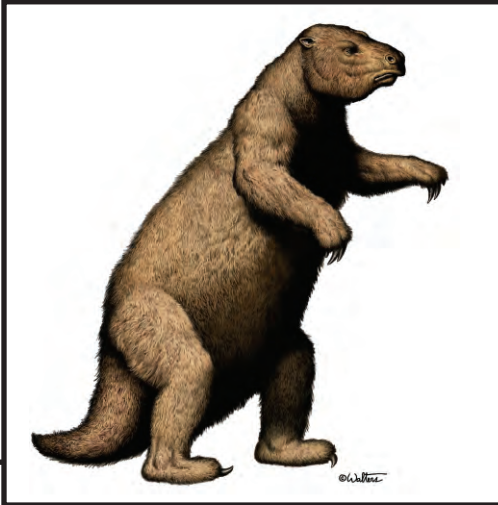


☺ If all the trees in the park were cut down, the **squirrel** would have no home. It would be hard for her to find food. If a dog ran after her, she wouldn't have a place to hide.

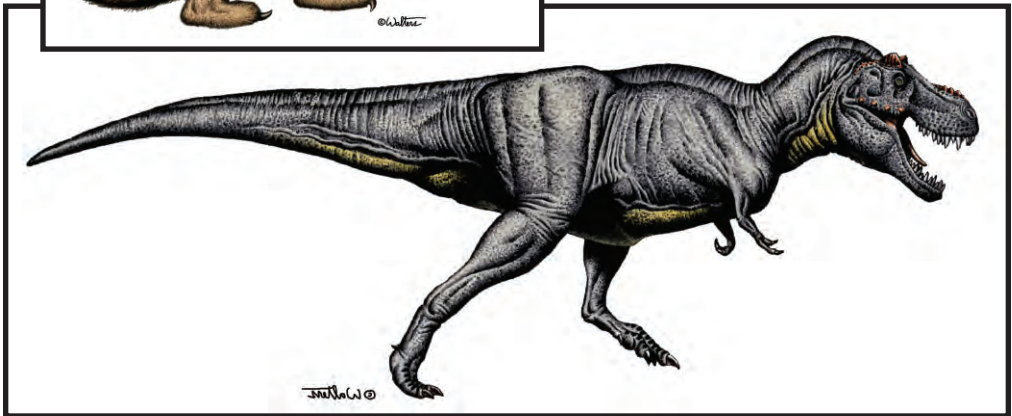
Quetzalcoatlus



Megatherium



Tyrannosaurus Rex

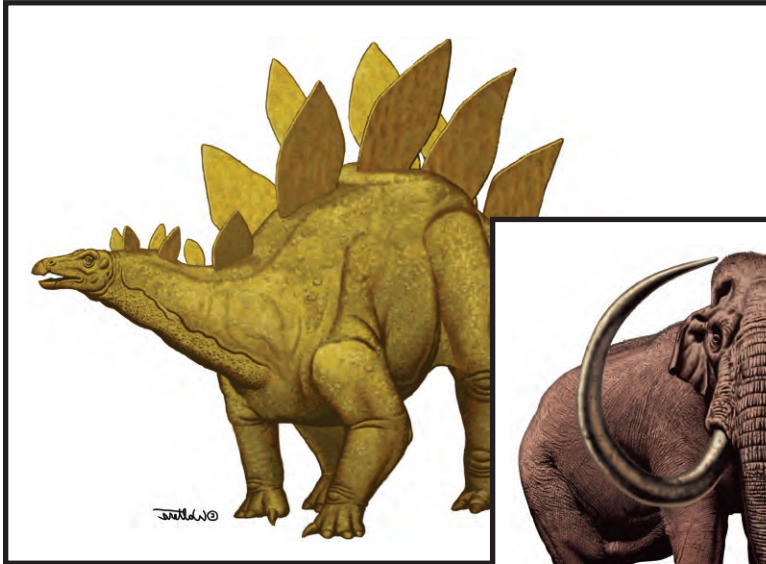


☉ When animals cannot find enough food or water or a safe place to live, they often die. When all of one kind of animal dies, we say the animal species is **extinct**.

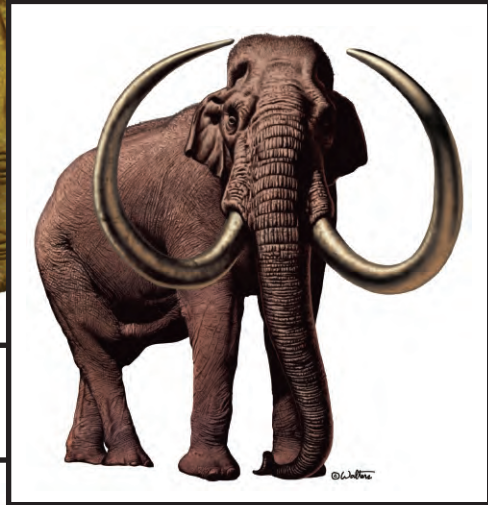
Long ago, the animals in this picture lived in various parts of the world, but the land, water and air changed and these animals became **extinct**.



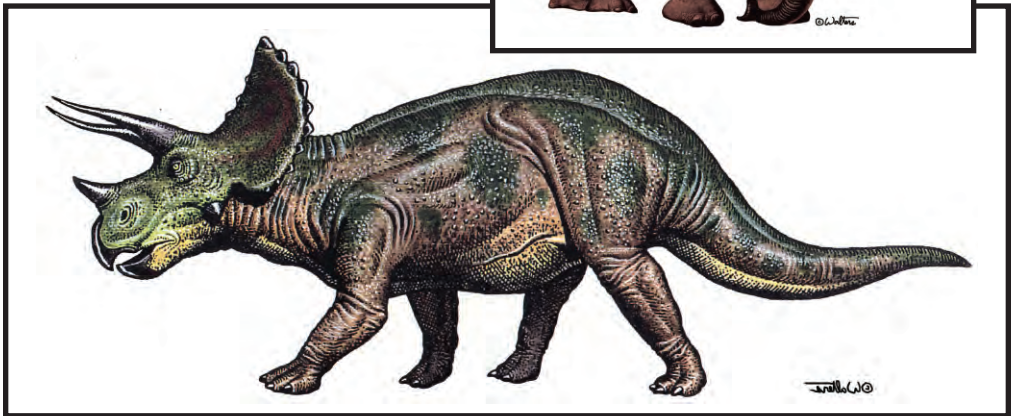
Stegosaurus



Mammoth



Triceratops



There are many ways for animals to become **extinct**. The air can get too cold or hot. Water can dry up. Plants that the animals eat can die.

An animal that is extinct is gone for all time.



☹ Sometimes animals become extinct because people interfere.

**Dodo** birds lived not so long ago on a faraway island, called Mauritius, near India. Dodos were very gentle birds that could not fly. Since the dodos didn't have any natural predators on their island, the dodos were not frightened by the sailors who arrived in 1505.





☺ Soon more people came on boats with dogs and rats. The **dodos** did not run away from them. The people killed the dodos for food. The rats and dogs ate dodo eggs. The last dodo died in 1681. Dodos are now extinct.