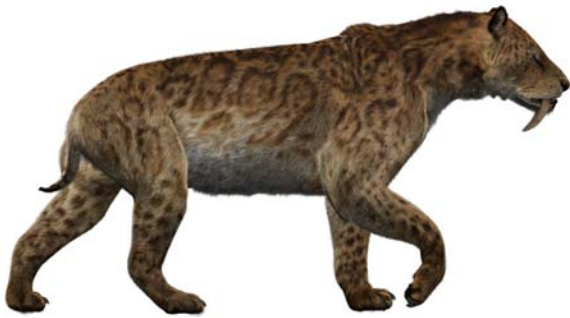


Meet the stars of the exhibition



Smilodon

Meaning:	Knife Tooth
Pronunciation:	SMY-loh-don
Time Range:	1.5 – 0.1 million years ago
Dietary Type:	Carnivorous – large grazing or browsing animals
Size and weight:	2.5 metres long 240kg
Closest living relative:	Cats

Their teeth maybe the size of carving knives but Smilodon can't bite whilst the prey is struggling for fear of breaking their teeth. So if you even find yourself up against a sabre-tooth – keep wriggling.

Woolly Mammoth

Meaning:	Earth Mole
Time Range:	139,000 – 19,000 years ago
Dietary Type:	Herbivorous
Size and weight:	3 metres tall; 6 tonnes
Closest living relative:	Elephant

Such is the bond between the caring, sharing Mammoths that if one of the herd is dying they will all risk their own lives to stay behind and comfort the wounded animal. This compassion helps see the Mammoths through on the long journey south to escape the harsh climate during the Ice Age.



Megatherium

Meaning:	Giant beast
Pronunciation:	Meg-Ah-Theer-Eee-Um
Time Range:	1.9million – 8,000 years ago
Dietary Type:	Herbivorous
Size and weight:	6m long; 3.8 tonnes
Closest living relative:	Tree Sloth

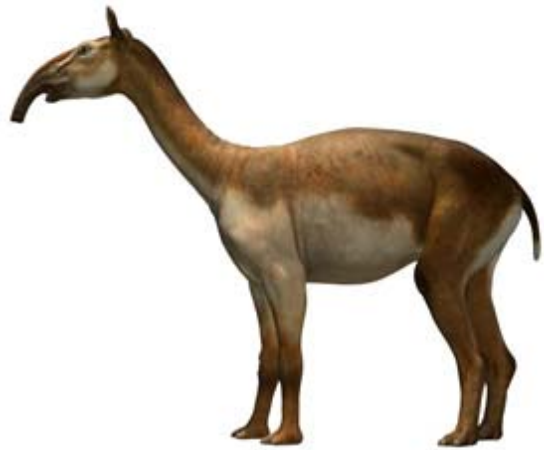


Imagine a bear like creature so big it could rest its chin on top of a double-decker bus. Skin like chain mail and claws the size of daggers – even the Smilodon steers clear of this laid-back vegetarian.

Macrauchenia

Meaning:	Long Llama
Pronunciation:	Mak-Raw-Kee-Nee-Ah
Time Range:	7 million – 20,000 years ago
Dietary Type:	Herbivorous – browsed on trees
Size and weight:	1.5 metres, 250 kg
Closest living relative:	Died out

Imagine an animal that looks like a horse with camel's fur and a floppy snout – the length of a Wellington boot. Not blessed with the fastest four legs or the smartest brain, Macrauchenia often end up as a tasty meal for the Smilodon.



Phorusrhacos

Meaning:	Rag bearer
Pronunciation:	For-Uss-Rah-Kuss
Time Range:	27 million – 15,000 years ago
Dietary Type:	Carnivorous – small mammals
Size and weight:	2.5 metres; 150kg
Closest living relative:	Seriema birds

The last of the 'terror birds', Phorusrhacos has razor sharp talons and a hooked beak large enough to swallow a cat whole. Not willing to risk confrontation with the sabre-toothed Smilodon, however, she is often a scavenger, picking at leftover carcasses.

Doedicurus

Meaning:	Pestle tail
Pronunciation:	Dee-Dik-Yoo-Russ
Time Range:	2 million – 15,000 years ago
Dietary Type:	Herbivorous
Size and weight:	4 metres long, 1.5 tonnes
Closest living relative:	Armadillo

Looks like an armadillo but is the size of a small car. The most heavily armoured animal ever – you'd be lucky to dent it with a sledge hammer. Its tail is a vicious weapon, a giant spiked club of solid bone used for clobbering predators or each other – which comes in handy during the mating season.

