

LOST WORLD MUSEUM PRESENTS



The “Lone Star Mastodon” - The Worlds Largest 4-Tusked Mastodon

Q: **What is it?**

A: It is a replica fossil of the world’s largest 4-tusked mastodon.

Q: **How was the “Lone Star” mastodon found?**

A: A caterpillar operator uncovered this fossil while excavating in a sand and gravel pit near LaGrange, Texas. The huge skull with its jaws still attached meant this big boy was buried alive suddenly! He was nicknamed “Lone Star” because he was found in the Lone Star state of Texas!

Q: **Is it real?**

A: No, it is a cast - an exact copy. In Feb. 2004, bone digger Joe Taylor of Mount Blanco Fossil Museum carefully received this massive hunk of fossil and stone for restoration. Using a Dremel tool to remove the harder stone matrix off of the softer fossil material was quite challenging. This painstakingly slow process took 18 months to complete - over 1500 man-hours. Once complete, a plaster cast of the beast’s head was created.

Q: **Where is the original?**

A: After the reconstruction was completed there was a public exhibition on *December 5th 2005*. Shortly afterwards, a crafty wealthy businessman swooped down and with a legal maneuver took the mastodon away. Before he did, 3 replicas were created. In 2006, the Lost World Museum was privileged to acquire one!

Q: **How big would he have been?**

A: He stood **13 - 14 ft.** at the shoulder. He must have been an impressive sight!

Q: **Why is it called “4-tusked”? I only see 2 tusks.**

A: What makes “Lone Star” unusual, other than his massive size, is that in addition to his upper two tusks, he had two smaller tusks extending out of his lower jaws. At some point during his watery death, the two main larger tusks went missing. To create the tusks, very conservative estimates were made as to the length. Another slightly smaller size mastodon known as the Burning Tree Mastodon, supplied the necessary mold. These tusks were 5 feet in length, but most likely the Lone Star’s ivories would have been **10 or even 15 feet long!**

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