



MAMMOTHS ON THE MOVE

AUTHOR: LISA WHEELER

ILLUSTRATOR: KURT CYRUS

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Mammoths on the Move](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Join a pack of woolly mammoths as they trek south for the winter, braving fierce storms, deadly predators, and raging rivers while making their slow journey across the gorgeous unspoiled lands of this continent until finally they reach their goal. With the same jouncy and joyous rhythms of her youngest picture book texts, Lisa Wheeler introduces readers to one of the most awesome beasts to ever walk the earth: the massive, hairy, legendary, wonderful woolly mammoth! ([goodreads.com](#))

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lisa Wheeler grew up in the suburbs of Pittsburgh. She didn't have a library in her town, but she had a regular library class in her school, where she could check out books. Writing books for children is her dream come true. "I am doing exactly what I am supposed to be doing with my life. Just like when I was a child in Pennsylvania, I love everything about children's books -- even the smell!" – Lisa Wheeler ([lisawheelerbooks.com](#))

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kurt Cyrus was born in 1954. He first received a job in illustration with the accepted publication of Tangle Town, a children's book he both illustrated and wrote. He has since illustrated twelve picture books. In addition to books for young readers, Kurt Cyrus has done interior illustrations for M.T. Anderson's Thrilling Tales series, and cover art for various titles. Cyrus lives in Cottage Grove, Oregon with his partner Linnea and a pet dog. ([advunderground.com](#))

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- Let's see what the back flyleaf of the book jacket tells us about the author and illustrator.
- What is this book going to be about? What clues did you use?

MAMMOTHS ON THE MOVE

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Mammoths
- Migration

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- (p. 1-2) I thought it interesting that the illustrator drew the bottoms of the animals. I wonder if he had a reason for this?
- (p. 4) Do you think the author's use of alliteration (repeating letters) make this story more interesting? Why? Why not?
- (p. 6) Is a mammoth packing a trunk the same as how we pack a trunk?
- (p. 7) What did the mammoths have to be worried about?
- (p. 12) How did swimming with their trunks above water help the mammoths?
- (p. 13) What dangers did the mammoths face?
- (p. 17) How did the mothers warn the family of danger?
- (p. 20) The illustrator used *italics* to show another meaning of mammoth. What way is the word used?
- (p. 22) Why did the male mammoths, the bulls, seem to be fighting?
- (p. 28) How long had the trip taken?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:

- I am going to go around the room and ask each person to say something they learned about mammoths. Try not to repeat something a classmate already said. I will begin: "Mammoths lived fourteen thousand years ago."

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- If you think mammoths are alive today, put your finger on your nose. If you think they lived a long time ago, pull your ear.
- Have you ever had to move from one home to another?
- What would be reasons for humans moving from one place to another?
- How could humans get from the old home to the new one?
- A mammoth was 9-11 feet high. Can you think of anything that high?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Turn to your neighbor and whisper in their ear what animal you think the mammoth looks like. What did you come up with?

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Why do scientists study mammoths today?
- Is there an animal that has many of the same characteristics as the mammoths?
- How do you think scientists know so many facts about mammoths?
- The author used many strong descriptive words in the book. Why do you think she did this?
- Is this book considered fiction or nonfiction? Why do you think so?
- What ways was a mother mammoth like the head of a human family?
- What was your favorite illustration? Why?
- Can you think of a word to describe a mammoth?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Create a 4 or 5 panel comic strip showing the trip of the mammoths in this story. Use onomatopoeia (words that sound like what they describe).

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write a two or more stanza poem about any prehistoric animal using an AABB pattern (lines one and two rhyme and lines 3 and 4 rhyme).

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- On a large piece of paper, draw a woolly mammoth. Underneath the drawing, write down the characteristics you included in your drawing.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy .RL 3.1,3.3.3.4,3.7