



Ted Alejandro, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

JUDY D. WHITE, Ed.D. County Superintendent of Schools

Tuesday, April 28

1:00pm

Uncovered in the Archives “Valley of the Mastodons”- 4th – 8th grade

On this episode of Uncovered in the Archives, we visit the Western Science Center, located in Hemet, which houses record-setting collections of mastodons. In fact, this has earned Hemet the nickname “Valley of the Mastodons”.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What is a Mastodon?
- What is unique about this area and this Science Center?
- What is your opinion about the program? What evidence do you have to support your opinion?
- Where is the *Western Science Center* and what is their primary role?
- What is an “archaeologist dig”? What are the tools of the trade?
- What other “archaeological treasures” were found in Diamond Valley?
- How were these “treasures” uncovered and why?
- What purpose does Diamond Valley serve today?

Question Box 2

- How much did you know about the subject before the show started?
- How do you feel about this episode?
- What parts of it did you particularly like? Dislike? Why?
- What do you think it would have been like to live with Mastodons in the area?
- What the one thing do you particularly want people to know about this episode?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Compare and contrast a Mastodon to a modern day elephant include its size, what it ate, and the environment that each lived in.
- Draw and label a diagram of a Mastodon.
- Write a review of this episode as if you would be sharing this on a TV show.

Continued on the next page...



Ted Alejandro, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education



- What were the needs of mastodon and mammoths? Research the location of Diamond Valley and the surrounding area. Why was this location a good place for these prehistoric mammals to live?
- Research the “Ice Age” and describe how this biome changed for these prehistoric giants?

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Design an infographic that describes the Epoch in which the Mastodon lived.
- Research and discuss the cause of the Mastodon extinction.
- Learn more about the Western Science Center in Hemet at:
<https://www.westernsciencecenter.org/>

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Research, then discuss, the possibility of using Mastodon DNA along with modern elephants to generate a modern day Mastodon
- Take a field trip to Diamond Valley, think like a curator, record artifacts found in a journal and describe as an archaeologist would.
- Research the career of an archaeologist: what is their importance? What type of education is needed to become an archaeologist? What schools provide the best training for someone interested in this career path?
- Research and describe the benefits to modern science of exploring and understanding the environment of the Mastodon.