

LIFE IN THE STONE AGE

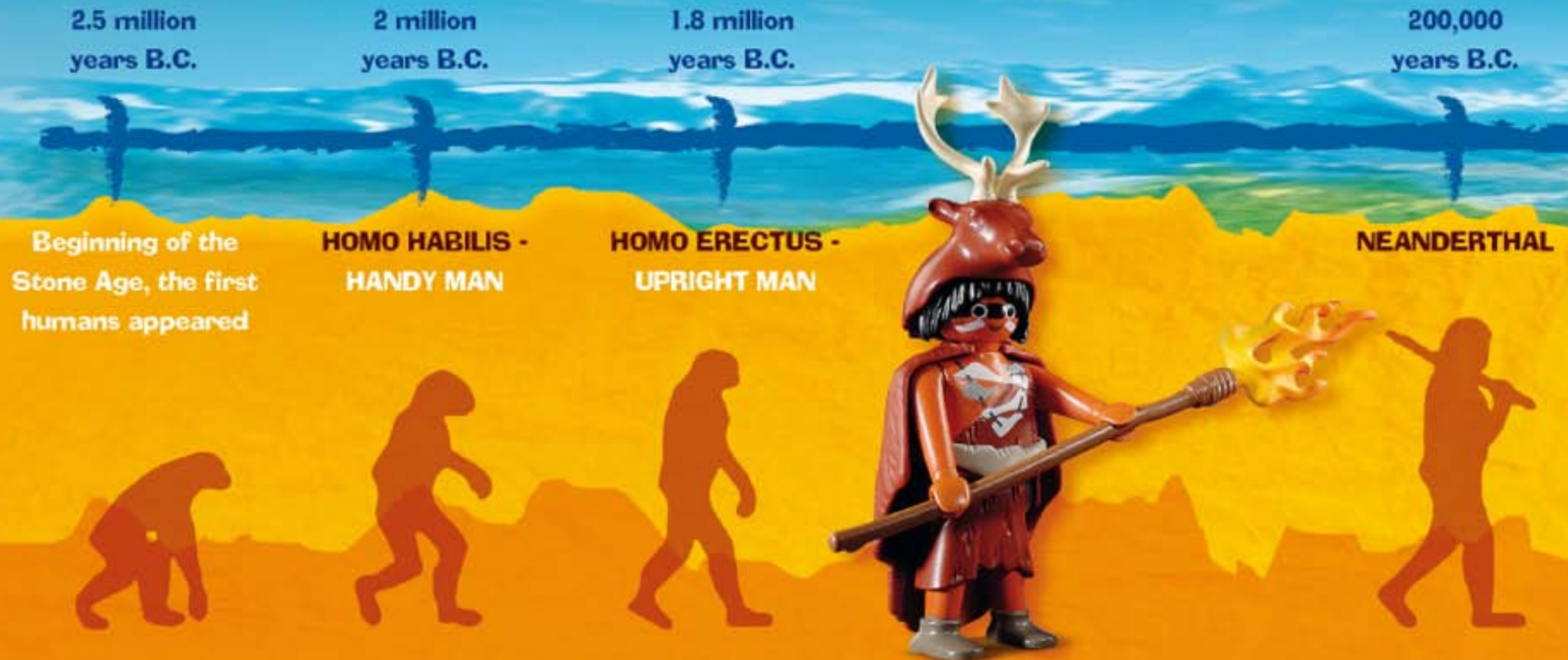


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THE STONE AGE

The Stone Age started in 2.5 million B.C. and ended 4,000 years ago. During this time the first humans, who resembled monkeys, appeared. Over many years they evolved and developed to become today's human beings.

The Stone Age people lived in family groups. Everyone had a particular duty. The strongest went hunting, the smartest gathered fruit and the elders looked after the children and shared their knowledge.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAN

DID YOU KNOW...?

At that time humans made their tools mainly out of stone. That's why this period was called the "Stone Age".

100,000
years B.C.

4,000
years B.C.

HOMO SAPIENS -
WISE, KNOWING MAN



HOW STONE AGE PEOPLE LIVED

The Stone Age people were nomads. It depended on the migration of animals where they lived. They set up their camps near watering holes, rivers or lakes, as this is where animal herds gathered. During the winter time they lived in elevated caves. These offered protection against the cold and dangerous animals. In the warmer months the Stone Age people lived in big tents. In areas without trees they built their tents from bones and tusks of mammoths, using their coats and skin as covers.

STONE AGE ARTISTS

When the Stone Age people stayed in a cave for a longer period of time, they started painting pictures of animals and hunting scenes on the walls. They used natural materials for paint, red and yellow soil, charcoal, ochre, limestone, juice of berries and plants.

DID YOU KNOW...?

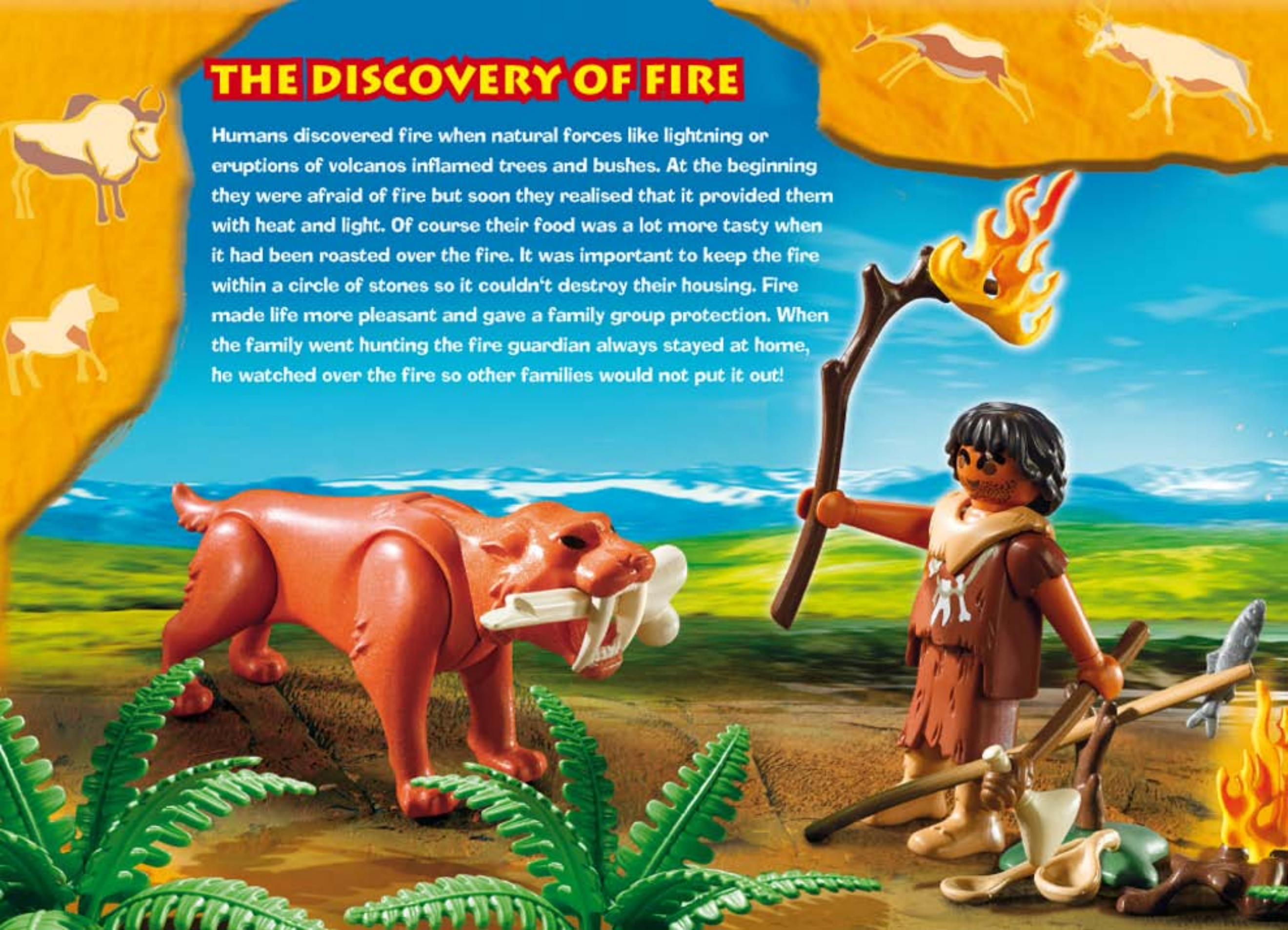
The first humans lived on the warm continent of Africa. Due to climate changes it became warmer in the North and people started to move to other parts of the world. In the course of time, humans got used to cooler temperatures.





THE DISCOVERY OF FIRE

Humans discovered fire when natural forces like lightning or eruptions of volcanos inflamed trees and bushes. At the beginning they were afraid of fire but soon they realised that it provided them with heat and light. Of course their food was a lot more tasty when it had been roasted over the fire. It was important to keep the fire within a circle of stones so it couldn't destroy their housing. Fire made life more pleasant and gave a family group protection. When the family went hunting the fire guardian always stayed at home, he watched over the fire so other families would not put it out!





DID YOU KNOW...?

Many years later humans learned how to start a fire themselves, using flintstones or two wooden sticks. From that time on they didn't have to depend on natural forces anymore.

WEAPONS AND TOOLS

The first hand made tool was a biface - a sharpened flintstone. They produced hunting spears and axes from stones, wood and bones. They tied stones and bones to wooden sticks using twine.

They used simple crotches for fishing. Weapons were also used to protect the family. Torches and fires were very popular because animals were afraid of them.

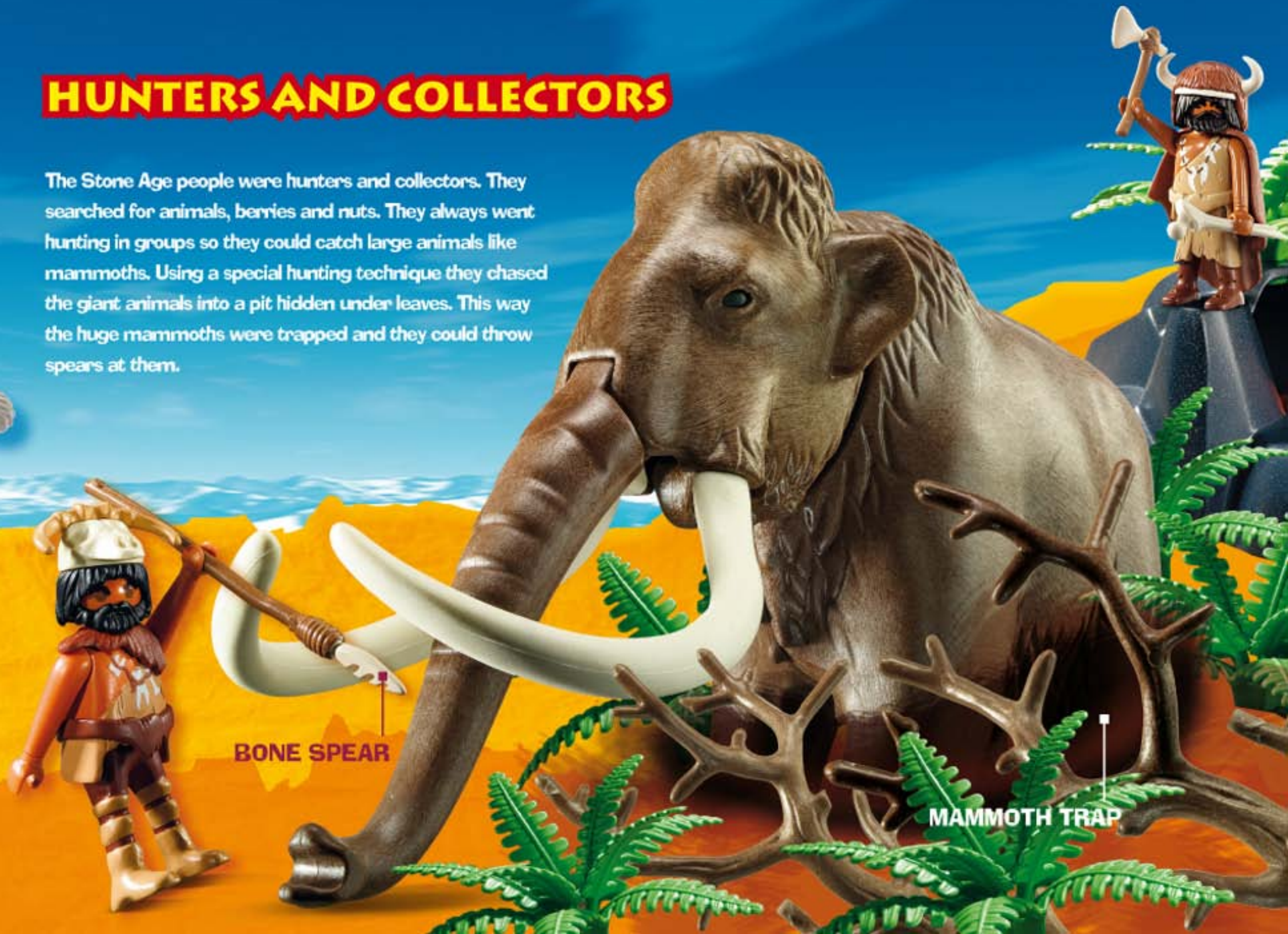
DID YOU KNOW...?

Sharpened stones and bones were of great help when cooking meals. It was easy to cut meat from bones this way.



HUNTERS AND COLLECTORS

The Stone Age people were hunters and collectors. They searched for animals, berries and nuts. They always went hunting in groups so they could catch large animals like mammoths. Using a special hunting technique they chased the giant animals into a pit hidden under leaves. This way the huge mammoths were trapped and they could throw spears at them.



BONE SPEAR

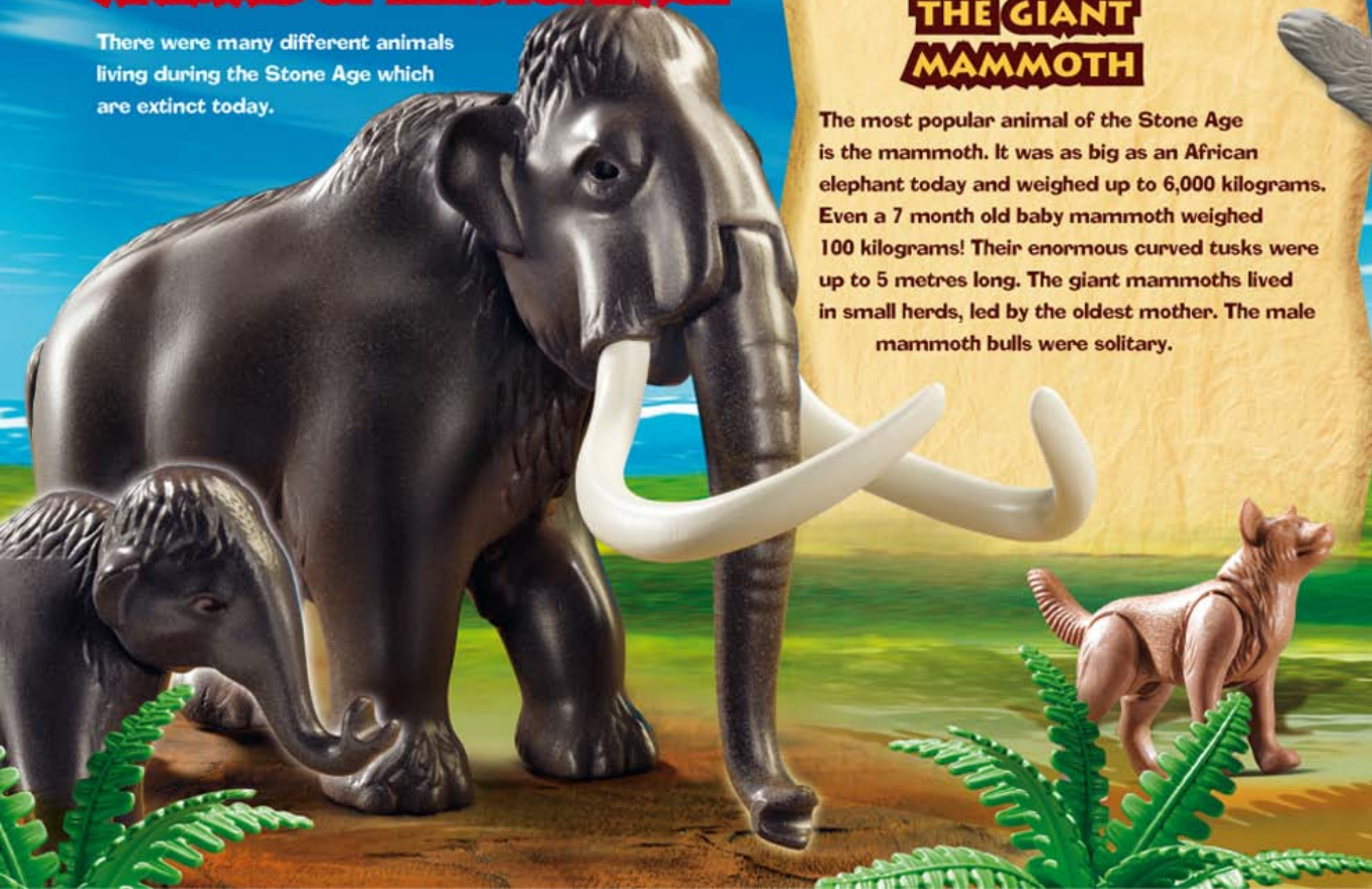
MAMMOTH TRAP

ANIMALS OF THE STONE AGE

There were many different animals living during the Stone Age which are extinct today.

THE GIANT MAMMOTH

The most popular animal of the Stone Age is the mammoth. It was as big as an African elephant today and weighed up to 6,000 kilograms. Even a 7 month old baby mammoth weighed 100 kilograms! Their enormous curved tusks were up to 5 metres long. The giant mammoths lived in small herds, led by the oldest mother. The male mammoth bulls were solitary.



DID YOU KNOW..?

It is said that the Stone Age people tamed and raised a wolf puppy. They then realised that a wolf can be a faithful companion and good at hunting.

THE BIG CAVE BEAR

The cave bear, a close relative of the brown and polar bear, grew to 3.5 metres in height.

He was an omnivore but mainly lived on plants but sometimes also ate small animals. He lived outside but hibernated in a cave where his name originated from.



THE DANGEROUS SABER-TOOTHED CAT

One of the most dangerous animals of the Stone Age was the saber-toothed cat. The name originates from the bent canine teeth, which were up to 28 centimetres long. The saber-toothed cat lived and hunted in packs and was led by the strongest male.



The Stone Age world of PLAYMOBIL



5100 Stone Age Cave with Mammoth



5101 Mammoth Skeleton Tent with Hunters



5103 Bear with Caveman



5105 Mammoth with Baby



5102 Saber-Toothed Cat with Hunters



5104 Fire Guardian with LED Fire Rock

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