

MONDAY

Who are these people?

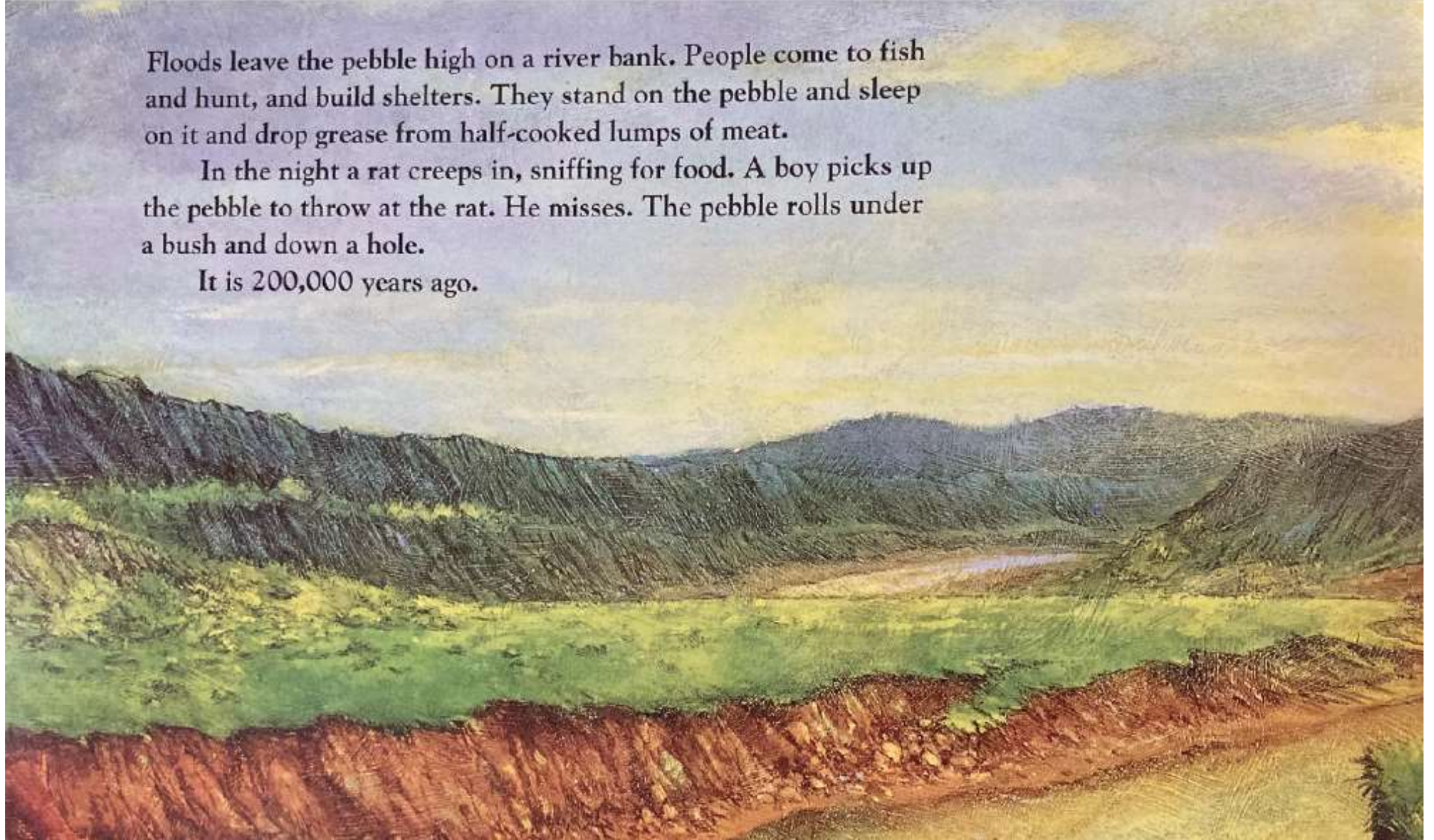
What do you know about them from this illustration?



Floods leave the pebble high on a river bank. People come to fish and hunt, and build shelters. They stand on the pebble and sleep on it and drop grease from half-cooked lumps of meat.

In the night a rat creeps in, sniffing for food. A boy picks up the pebble to throw at the rat. He misses. The pebble rolls under a bush and down a hole.

It is 200,000 years ago.



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What can we learn from the text about this group of people and the era in which they live?

TUESDAY

Focus on each character one at a time...



Using what you have learnt, act out what they might say.
How do you think they feel? How might they speak?
Look closely at their facial expressions and body language to help.

Write a speech bubble pretending you are living in the Stone Age...



Think about...

What might they have done during their day? What might they be pleased about? What might they be scared of? What do they want?

WEDNESDAY Read the next part of the story:

The cold comes back. People move away. Massive ice sheets cover the land, burying forests and meadows. When warmth returns, the melting ice drops the pebble in a lake. It sinks into the soft mud, while hippos wallow above in the warm water.

It is 125,000 years ago.

A new glacier gouges the pebble out of the bottom of the lake and pushes it, clasped in its clear blue depths, for thousands and thousands of years. Then the ice retreats, leaving the pebble on the slope of a valley.

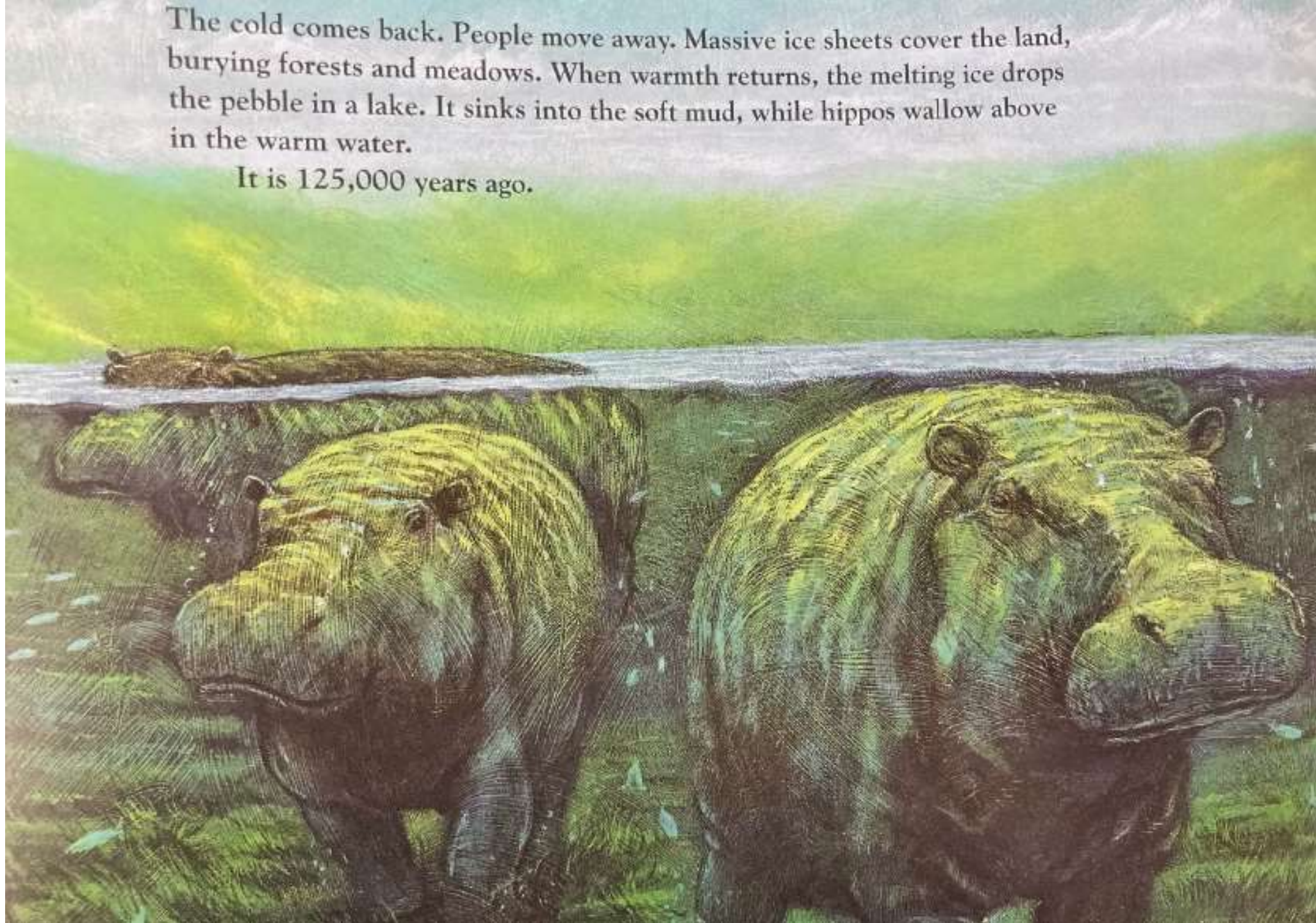
Shaggy bison graze the long grass. New people come, hunting for food. Sabre-tooth tigers watch. They can hunt what they like.

It is 12,000 years ago.

How has the world changed? Is there anything that surprised you?
Now let's focus on² the illustrations...

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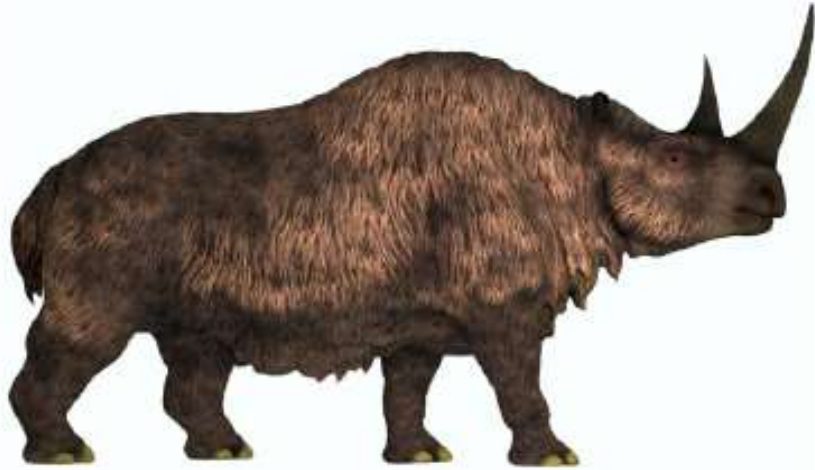
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Here are some extinct mammals that lived in the Cenozoic Era:

Woolly Rhino



Eurohippus Horse



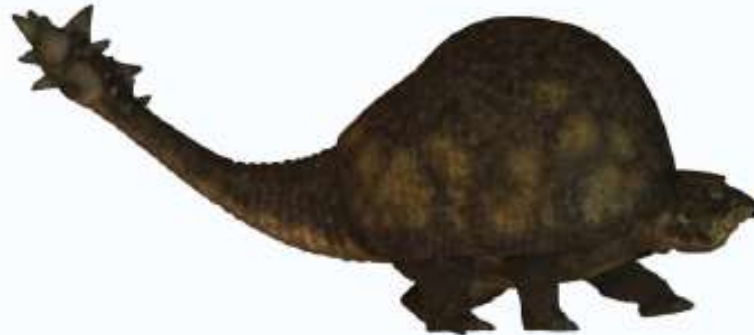
Sabre-Toothed Tiger



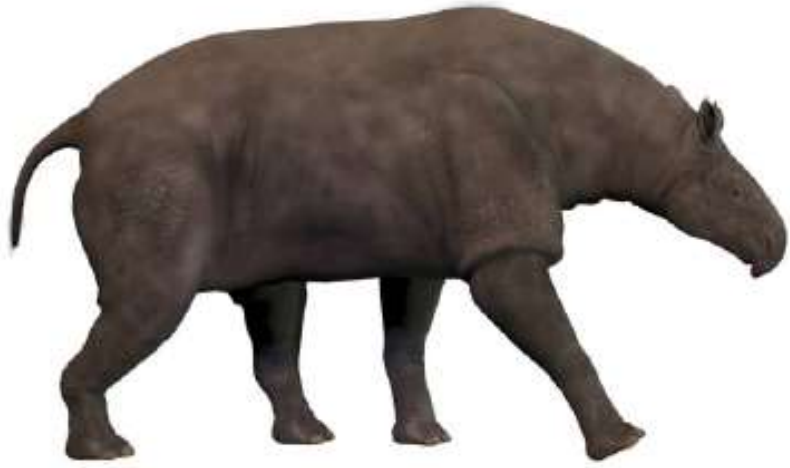
Megalodon Shark



Glyptodont



Paraceratherium



Phorusrhacus



Macrauchenia Patagonica



Woolly Mammoth



What do you notice? How are these animals similar to ones you know nowadays? How are they different?

FRIDAY



The pebble hasn't moved much since the last ice age.

It has been kicked and trodden on, by animals and people. Cattle have grazed over it. Farmers have grown crops on it. A new road runs near it. Houses are built next to the road, and their foundations cover rocks and earth, pebbles and gravel.

But the houses miss the pebble. It lies, smooth and warm, in the sun.



Why do you think the pebble might not have moved much since the last ice age (nearly 12,000 years ago)?

Use the illustrations to help you make a list of causes of change to the Earth's surface.

Since human civilisations developed, what changes do you think have caused the biggest impact to our environment?

You might consider:

- early settlements
- farming
- animals
- villages and towns
- factories (industrial revolution)
- population growth
- buildings (eg. hospitals and schools)
- developments in transport (eg. roads and railways)

