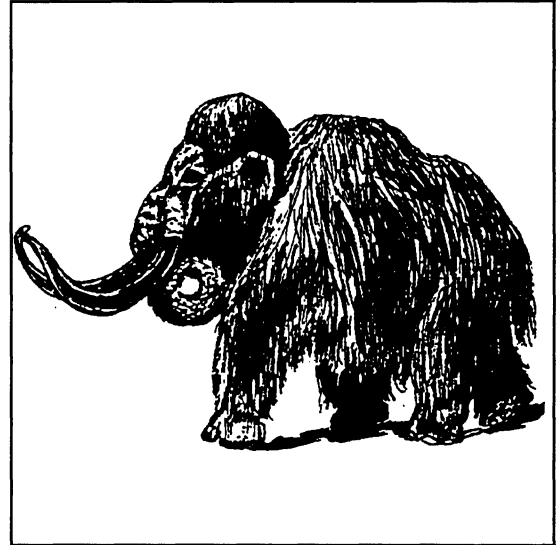


## COMBINATION LOCKS

In October of 1992, two large white-tail bucks were found drowned in a shallow pond. They had battled over the territorial rights and the breeding rights of the females in the vicinity. As they smashed their heads together, their **antlers** became **entangled**; and they stumbled into the pond. The weight of the weaker one pulled the other under the surface, and they both died. These battles are a natural **instinct** and are common among all species, especially among the males.

A discovery in the western part of the state of Nebraska, near the city of Crawford has revealed a similar battle **millenniums** ago between two giant mammoths. Mammoths are animals from which elephants **evolved**. The enemies will be displayed as they were found--with their giant tusks locked together. Scientists believe that the central part of the United States was once covered by a huge inland sea.

A new museum called the *Trailside Museum* is planned in Nebraska to show "The Clash of the Titans" and other interesting discoveries from the past. Among other exhibits are a **mesohippus** and a **saber**-toothed tiger.



Nebraska **paleontologists** near the city of Royal have discovered that the state is a real treasure chest of fossil remains. At the Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park, scientists have carefully **excavated** the remains of animals that were killed and buried by a volcano. Skeletons of more mesohippuses, prehistoric rhinoceroses and camels have been uncovered. Rather than build a museum to display the discoveries, scientists at Royal have left the animals exactly as they were found and have built barns over them to protect them from the weather.

### Story Specific Glossary Entries

antlers--rack of horns

entangled--hooked together

evolved--came to be through gradual change

excavated--dug out of the earth with care so as not to destroy  
instinct--something that animals are born with--no training needed

mesohippus--a three-toed horse

millenniums--thousands of years

paleontologists--scientists who study fossils

saber--long, curved and sharp

# activities for science shorts: animal life #1

## COMBINATION LOCKS

### Vocab Corner

Use these words in one or more puzzle, riddle, or poem.

excavated	entangled	millenniums
evolved	antlers	instinct
saber	mesohippus	paleontologist

### Just for Fun!

Use the clues below to fill in the blanks. Then, keeping the boxed letters in order, place them in the Secret Word Box to find the name of a scientist who looks for clues to the past.

- rack of horns  \_\_\_\_\_
- long, curved and sharp \_\_\_\_\_
- top of the water \_\_\_\_\_
- They fought in Nebraska. \_\_\_\_\_
- came to be   \_\_\_\_\_
- Fighting is common for \_\_\_\_\_ animals. \_\_\_\_\_
- three-toed horse \_\_\_\_\_
- hooked together \_\_\_\_\_
- almost the same  \_\_\_\_\_
- fossil scientist \_\_\_\_\_
- animals have natural \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Secret Word Box

\_\_\_\_\_

(a scientist who looks for clues to the past)

### In Your Words

1	T																				
	E	M																			
	R	I	3	4	5																
	R	L	E	S	V	6	7														
	I	L	X	T	I	S	S	8													
	T	E	C	U	C	M	P	M	9												
	O	N	A	M	I	A	E	U	T	10											
	R	I	V	B	N	S	C	S	U	P											
	I	U	A	L	I	H	I	E	S	O											
	A	M	T	E	T	E	E	U	K	N											
	L	S	E	D	Y	D	S	M	S	D											

Write clues for the above puzzle answers.

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### A Science Stretch

The word *mammoth* means giant, huge, immense or very large. Mammoth Cave in the state of Kentucky is so named because it is a giant hole in the ground. Mammoth Redwood trees grow to three hundred sixty feet in California. Make a list of ten other mammoth things.