

The irish elk (Megaloceros Giganteus)

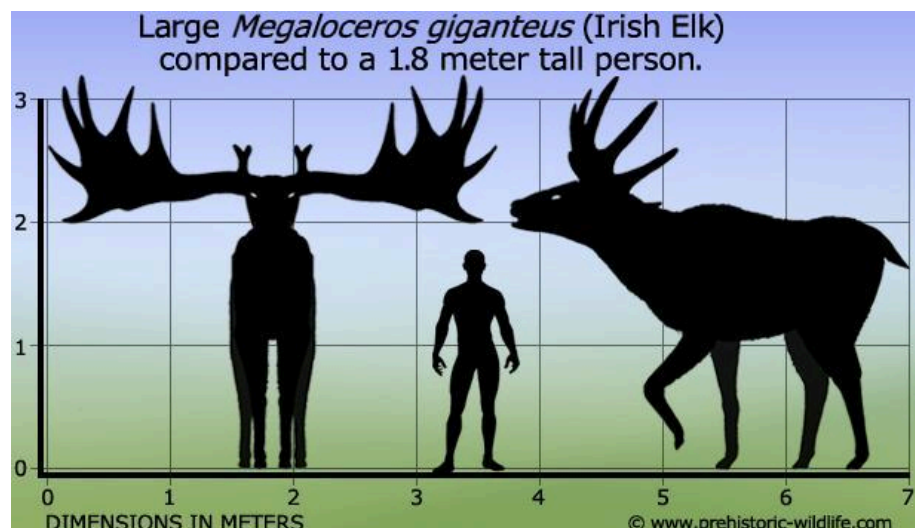
Many years ago, a huge animal lived in Ireland: The *irish elk* or Megaloceros, an awesome extinct species .

HOW WAS IT? PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The megaloceros was and similar to a deer or a moose, but it had a much larger body and huge and beautiful antlers. The male was more than 3 metres tall and reached a length of 3 or 4 metres long from the nose to the tail. Females were smaller and hadn't antlers.

An orange/brown fur covered its body (it was a mammal). Its legs were thin and it had a very short tail too.

Compare its size with that of a person!



WHEN AND WHERE DID IT LIVE?

The megaloceros became extinct 7,700 years ago, possibly due to hunting and climate changes. It live in grasslands and hills in open lands.

WHAT DID IT EAT?

It was a herbivore species but also ate fruits such as berries.

