LANGUAGE IN ACTION

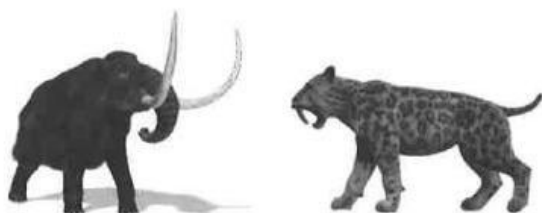*was/were, there was/were*

1 ✷ (Circle) the correct options.

1 The polar bears *was* / (were) in Churchill in November because (there wasn't) / *there weren't* enough food for them to eat in the river.

2 In the past, the weather *was* / *were* always cold in November and *there was* / *there were* a lot of ice on the river.

3 When it *was* / *were* colder, *there was* / *there were* seals for the polar bears to eat in the river.

4 In the past *there was* / *there were* more ice because the temperatures *wasn't* / *weren't* as high.

2 ✷ Match the questions with the answers.

1 Was it hotter in the past? ☐   a Yes, there were.

2 Were they wild animals? ☐   b No, there wasn't.

3 Was there ice in summer? ☐   c Yes, they were.

4 Were there seals? ☐   d No, it wasn't.

3 ✷✷ Complete the text with *was(n't)* / *were(n't)*.

Thousands of years ago there were mammoths in Europe. They ¹ _were_ large mammals with very big tusks. They ² _____ very strong. They ³ _____ like the elephants we see today because they ⁴ _____ much bigger and had fur. The sabre-toothed tiger also lived in Europe at the same time. It ⁵ _____ really a tiger, it ⁶ _____ a big cat. Its teeth ⁷ _____ very long and it ⁸ _____ a very dangerous animal.

4 ✷✷ Complete the text with the correct form of *there was* or *there were*.

When I was a girl, I lived in South Africa. Around my house ¹ there wasn't a lot to do but ² _____ lots of animals to see because we lived next to a wildlife park. In my bedroom ³ _____ a big window, and in the mornings, I could see lots of animals. ⁴ _____ hippos in the water and ⁵ _____ enormous elephants sleeping. ⁶ _____ always a big giraffe next to a tree and a strange bird sitting on the tree that looked angry! My favourite animals are tigers, but ⁷ _____ any tigers in the wildlife park. That's because there are no tigers in South Africa. ⁸ _____ a lot of time to see the animals because I was at school all day, but I remember all of them.

5 ✷✷ Put the words in the correct order to make questions. Then write answers for you in your notebook.

1 were / Where / on Saturday / you / ?
Where were you on Saturday?

2 your / favourite / six / What / was / animal / when / you / were / ?
What was _____

3 people / were / there / How / many / last year / your / class / in / ?
How many _____

4 in 2011 / were / you / How / old / ?
How old _____

5 your town / in / Was / there / were / you / when / young / a zoo / ?
Was there _____

6 ✷✷✷ Find out about an animal from the past, like mammoths or sabre-toothed tigers. Write three sentences about them. Use *was* and *were*.

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_____

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