

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

was/were, there was/were

1 Circle the correct options.

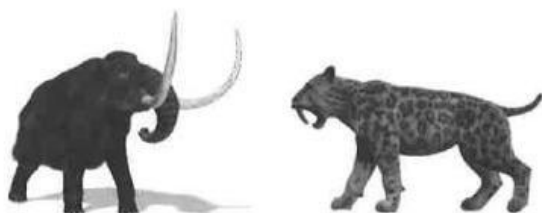
- The polar bears *was* / *were* in Churchill in November because *there wasn't* / *there weren't* enough food for them to eat in the river.
- In the past, the weather *was* / *were* always cold in November and *there was* / *there were* a lot of ice on the river.
- When it *was* / *were* colder, *there was* / *there were* seals for the polar bears to eat in the river.
- 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 *were* very strong. They ³ *were* like the elephants we see today because they ⁴ *were* much bigger and had fur. The sabre-toothed tiger also lived in Europe at the same time. It ⁵ *wasn't* really a tiger, it ⁶ *was* a big cat. Its teeth ⁷ *were* very long and it ⁸ *was* 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 *there were* lots of animals to see because we lived next to a wildlife park. In my bedroom ³ *there was* a big window, and in the mornings, I could see lots of animals. ⁴ *there were* hippos in the water and ⁵ *there were* enormous elephants sleeping. ⁶ *there was* 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 *there weren't* any tigers in the wildlife park. That's because there are no tigers in South Africa. ⁸ *there was* 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.

- were / Where / on Saturday / you / ?
Where were you on Saturday? _____
- your / favourite / six / What / was / animal / when / you / were / ?
What was _____
- people / were / there / How / many / last year / your / class / in / ?
How many _____
- in 2011 / were / you / How / old / ?
How old _____
- 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*.
