

The Ice Age: A Very Short Introduction

By Jamie Woodward

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- Discuss the significance of the Adams Mammoth.
- What was known about glaciers before 1837 and why did the glacial theory fail to generate much interest until Agassiz came on the scene?
- Buckland was the first to recognise evidence for glaciation in Britain but this achievement is commonly overlooked. Why?
- Assess Charles Darwin's contribution to the glacial debate.
- Why did it take the glacialists so long to defeat Lyell's drift ice theory?
- Why did the Penck and Brückner model of four glacials and four interglacials persist for so long?
- Why did it take the geological establishment so long to accept the Milankovitch theory of climate change?
- Study the transects shown in Figure 4. How useful are these as representations of Quaternary environmental change?
- What does the oxygen isotope record from V28-238 tell us about ice sheet dynamics?
- What is ice rafted debris (IRD)? What does it tell us about ice sheet history?
- Why did the Earth's climate change from hothouse to icehouse conditions during the course of the Cenozoic Era?
- What are Heinrich layers? Are they a vindication of Lyell's drift ice theory?
- How did the ice core records change our understanding of Quaternary climate change?
- Why were interglacials stressful times for Europe's large herbivores?
- What are refugia? Discuss their significance in Europe.
- Is the present the key to the past?

Further Reading

For further reading titles please see the titles at the back of *The Ice Age: A Very Short Introduction*

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