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## Fossils reveal elephant-like animals once roamed Texas



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During the Great Depression, around 15 million people (20 percent of the workforce) were jobless which led to the creation of the [Works Project Administration \(WPA\)](#) by President Roosevelt in 1935.

With the WPA, people were put to work building roads, bridges, parks, hospitals and schools, laying new sewer lines and storm drains, and for workers in a few Texas counties, digging up fossils.

From 1939 to 1941, the WPA in partnership with the [University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology](#) funded the State-Wide Paleontologic-Mineralogic Survey where county residents were paid to [dig up fossils](#).

Thousands of fossils were uncovered in dig sites across Texas even though the project was in operation for just three years, and a large majority of the fossils are stored in the [Texas Vertebrate Paleontology Collection at the Jackson School](#)

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