

St Joan of Arc School
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## Which of these prehistoric life forms is NOT extinct?



STEGOMASTODON -- a six-ton elephant-like behemoth. MEGATHERIUM -- a four-ton giant ground sloth. And the AVOCADO?! The first two are extinct -- and the third probably should be. The avocado plant developed its large seed (it was even larger back then) because very big animals would eat the fruit whole in one gulp, seed and all, and help the plant spread to new areas. When most of the big mammals died off 10,000 or more years ago, the avocado should have disappeared with them -- birds and tiny mammals can't begin to swallow and disperse a seed that big! But somehow the wild avocado survived thousands of years until humans learned to cultivate the delicious fruit. And the avocado's future survival was guaranteed when man discovered the Super Bowl and started cranking out lots of guacamole every winter!!
Learn more at www,CHOOSEMYPLATE.gOV or https//kidshealth.org/kid/stay_healthy/food/pyramid.html

