

LAND FAUNA

At around 800,000 years ago, Sangiran had completely to be land. At those times, Sangiran experienced the golden period, evidenced by abundant animal fossils findings in various species in great numbers. The diversity of species, along with pollen fossils from various plants, indicated Sangiran environment at those times was open forest with meadows and filled with rivers. Homo erectus was more progressive. They were more able to make hand axe, in additional to flakes from chalcedony.

Vertebrate animals from some species lived in Sangiran at that golden period. Bovidae and cervidae from some species and in great numbers lived in Sangiran. Other animals such as rhino, hippo, pig, tiger, and other.

Ancient Elephants (Mastodon sp.)

Mastodon is the most primitive elephants in Sangiran. They lived in Miocene around 5 mya, and became extinct in early Pleistocene or at around 10,000 years ago. Mastodon is predominantly forest dwelling animals. Mastodon has the similar size compare to modern elephants, but more heavily muscled and have hair on their skin. The maxilla has two long curved tusks, and the smaller tusks in the mandible. Another characteristic is the teeth. The bunodont and brachydont molars indicated the simple teeth of early herbivore. Mastodon is herbivorous, and the main diets are leaves, the shoots, and smooth parts of plants. Mastodon's fossils were first found in Sangiran at January 5, 1992, by Marjono in Pucangan Formation], dated to 1,8 mya, in the form of maxilla and molar fossils.

