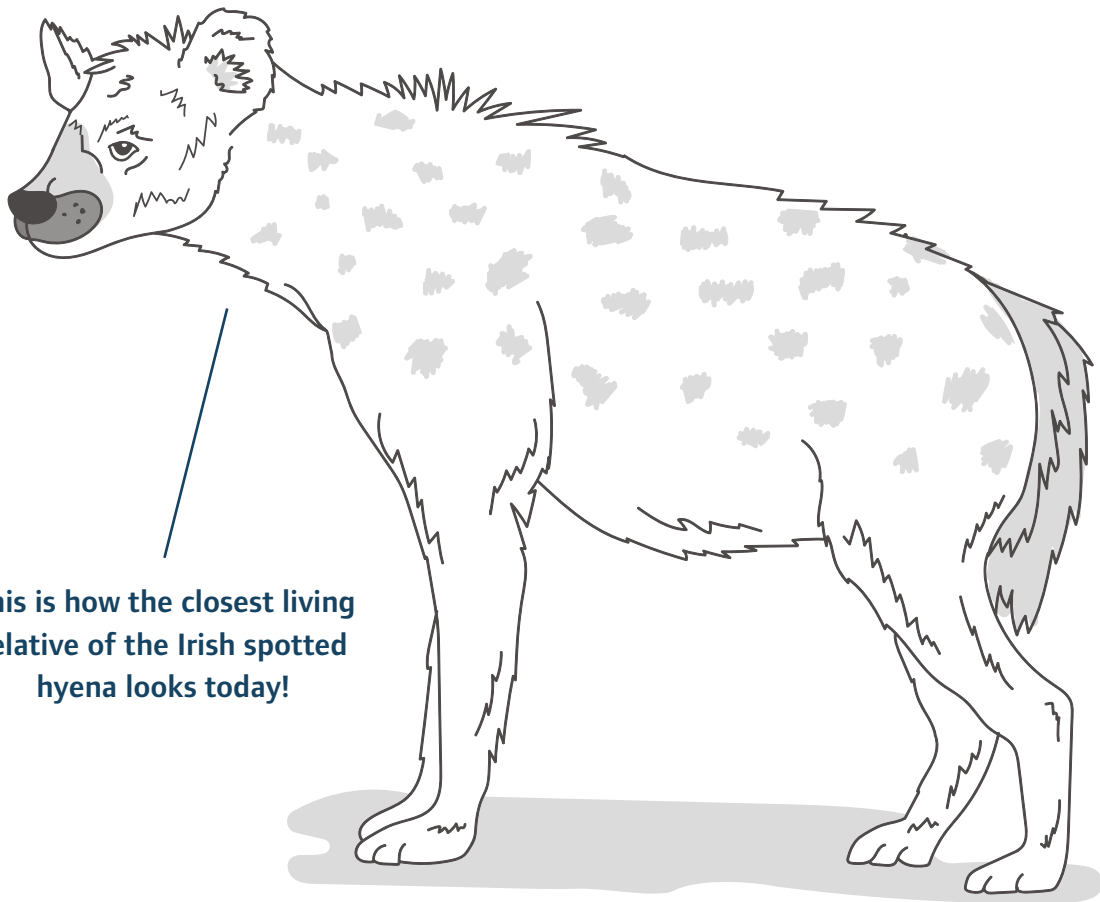


# Ice Age Ireland Cool Fossils!

## What happened to the Irish Spotted Hyena?



This is how the closest living relative of the Irish spotted hyena looks today!

To find a spotted hyena today you would have to visit Africa. Around 45,000 years ago, these predators were living in Ireland, in homes called dens in caves. These ice age animals disappeared from Ireland when the climate changed and the ice and snow started to return about 30,000 years ago.

# Ice Age Ireland Cool Fossils!

## Hungry Hyenas in Cork?



This is a fossil jawbone of a spotted hyena that is in the National Museum of Ireland – Natural History.

Locations of Fossil Evidence of Ice Age Spotted Hyena found in Ireland.



Spotted Hyenas are scavengers but they also make great hunters. Scientists think the Irish hyena would have hunted giant deer and even young woolly mammoth!



This is ancient hyena poo from the Museum's collection. It is thousands of years old. Another word for fossilised poo is coprolite.

We know that the spotted hyena used to live in Ireland long ago as people found fossils in a cave in Co. Cork. These fossils are proof that that this predator lived in Ireland long ago.

# Ice Age Ireland Cool Fossils!

## Spot the Spotted Hyena Poo!

Look at the puzzle. Can you spot this pair of ancient hyena poo within the puzzle? It only appears once in the puzzle. Study the pair of ancient poo very closely before you begin your investigation. Take your time as you scoop and explore!



Fossilised poos come in different shapes, sizes, colours and patterns. They are even used to make jewellery! Scientists study the ancient poo to understand secrets from the past. By examining the tiny parts inside the fossil, they can discover what an extinct animal had for its dinner thousands of years ago!