



Musk Deer

Musk deer can be viewed as living fossils, as they are the ancestors of European deer. They used to inhabit the cold and mountainous areas of Europe in the **Oligocene** epoch, but became extinct in the **Pliocene**. Unlike European deer they haven't grown **antlers** and possess a **musk gland**. This releases a substance with a persistent, pleasant odor that has been used as incense material and **perfume** fixative since ancient times. Musk is extremely expensive and owes its name to the Persian word **moshk**, meaning 'deer's navel'. Nowadays musk deer chiefly inhabit the woods and mountains of Asia, notably **Russia** the **Himalayas**. Males have **tusks** that they use as weapons when competing for mates.



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