READING COMPREHENSION

You are going to read an article about a summer camp for teenagers where they can learn about a prehistoric animal. For questions **43–52**, choose from the sections (**A–D**). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet.**

Which section

includes praise for the learning environment provided? **43** ☐

says a discovery has been long awaited? **44** ☐

explains why the mastodon may have been in the area? **45** ☐

mentions that the students are carefully supervised? **46** ☐

mentions a physical feature of mastodons that was related to their diet? **47** ☐

demonstrates the great impact the camp has had on certain people? **48** ☐

says someone's initial belief later turned out to be mistaken? **49** ☐

shows that difficult conditions failed to put people off? **50** ☐

describes how suitable places to dig are chosen? **51** ☐

points out that something was hardly unexpected? **52** ☐

Summer camp for teenagers – looking for prehistoric animal bones!

A special summer camp in the US gave high school students the chance to look for the remains of mastodons – a prehistoric relative of the elephant.

A

Lying on her stomach, Victoria Bochniak kept digging until she hit something hard. She tapped the object with her trowel, assuming it was a piece of wood. She was wrong. 'We were like: "Wait a second. This is bone!" said Bochniak. In fact, what she found this week nearly 60 cm beneath a boggy prairie was the bone of a mastodon, an extinct relative of the elephant, believed to be more than 11,000 years old. Bochniak was excited but not entirely surprised. After all, this is why she attended Mastodon Camp. With about 30 other high school students, she has been given the hands-on opportunity to help excavate a mastodon. Under the watchful eyes of experts, students have not only unearthed pieces of mastodon, they've also discovered their inner paleontologist, inspiring them to pursue their newfound curiosity about Ice Age secrets.

B

Mastodon Camp is meant to help students and teachers improve their understanding of scientific inquiry and research and their familiarity with scientific technology and tools, as well as teach them about evolution and changes in the ecosystem over time. 'We've changed some folks' lives,' said Tom Pray, education outreach manager at the camp. 'They've decided: "I'm not going to do art history anymore. I'm going to go into archeology."' This fall, Bochniak, 18, plans to study geology and anthropology at university and do field work at a nearby nature reserve. Kaitlyn Hornik, 16, said Mastodon Camp is more engaging than a typical classroom setting. 'Textbooks are boring,' said Hornik, 'You come out here and you find things out for yourself.'

C

American mastodons stood 2.4 to 3 m tall at the shoulder, similar to elephants, but were stockier and covered with thick hair. A ground-penetrating radar was dragged over the area to pinpoint where the students would excavate, Pray said. Soil surveys of the site by the Illinois State Geological Survey have determined that the mastodon was discovered at the shoreline of a glacial 'kettle lake'. These were formed when chunks of ice broke off and melted during the glacial retreat. 'Whether he came down for a drink or fell through the ice, we don't know,' said Jack MacRae, a naturalist with the Forest Preserve District. Pollen samples in the lake demonstrate that plant species in the region were in a time of transition from a spruce forest ecosystem containing trees like pines to the deciduous trees that lose their leaves in winter prevalent today. Mastodons, which had teeth strong enough to crush pine cones, preferred spruce forests as their habitat, experts say. So the site may provide clues as to why the beasts became extinct in North America about 10,000 years ago: possibly disease, human overhunting or loss of habitat caused by climate change.

D

Although this year's camp was plagued by heavy rains, the weather did little to dampen the students' enthusiasm. On Tuesday, Pray arrived at the site at 6:30 a.m. to pump water out of the trenches and was joined a few hours later by students who helped by bailing water. Then they continued digging, using shovels, trowels and their own hands. On Tuesday, the piece of bone that Bochniak had discovered protruded from the black mud. Pray said it could be a rib or the top of a femur. 'This could be what we've been looking for over the last few years,' he said. A discovery like this makes all the hard work worthwhile. 'This gives people the idea that anybody can do science,' Pray said.