

## **2016 Released Items: Grade 3 M/L Informational Text Set**

The Medium/long (M/L) informational text set requires students to read an informational text and answer questions.

The 2016 blueprint for the grade 3 M/L informational text set includes Evidence-Based Selected Response/Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response items.

### **Included in this document:**

- Answer key and standards alignment
- PDFs of each item with the associated text

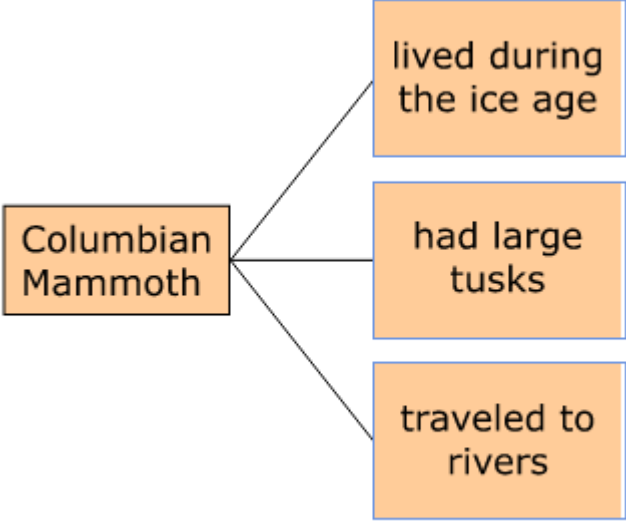
### **Additional related materials not included in this document:**

- PARCC English Language Arts/Literacy Assessment: General Scoring Rules for the 2016 Summative Assessment

### **Note:**

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**PARCC Release Items Answer and Alignment Document**  
**ELA/Literacy: Grade 3**

<b>Text Type: M-E Info</b>		
<b>Passage(s): Touching a Mammoth</b>		
<b>Item Code</b>	<b>Answer(s)</b>	<b>Standards/Evidence Statement Alignment</b>
0820_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: B</b> <b>Part B: A</b>	RI 3.4.1 L 3.4.1 RI 3.1.1
0818_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: C</b> <b>Part B: A</b>	RI 3.4.1 L 3.4.1 RI 3.1.1
0312	<b>Item Type: TECR</b>   <pre> graph LR     A[Columbian Mammoth] --- B[lived during the ice age]     A --- C[had large tusks]     A --- D[traveled to rivers]           </pre>	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.2.2 RI 3.7.1
0314_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: B</b> <b>Part B: B</b>	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.2.2

0315_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR</b> <b>Part A: A</b> <b>Part B: C</b>	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.2.1
0313_A	<b>Item Type: EBSR (additional item)</b> <b>Part A: B, D</b> <b>Part B: D</b>	RI 3.1.1 RI 3.2.2

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**Part A**

What is the meaning of the word **fragile** as it is used in paragraph 4 of “Touching a Mammoth”?

- A. common
- B. breakable
- C. clumsy
- D. soiled

**Part B**

Which evidence from paragraph 5 of the article helps the reader understand the meaning of the word **fragile**?

- A. “. . . crushed and broken . . .”
- B. “. . . to remove dirt . . .”
- C. “. . . paint brush to clean . . .”
- D. “. . . white object appeared . . .”

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**Part A**

What is the meaning of the word **jumbled** as it is used in paragraph 6 of “Touching a Mammoth”?

- A. unfamiliar, not the usual way
- B. unknown, not previously seen
- C. unorganized, to be out of order
- D. unclean, to have a covering of dirt

**Part B**

Which evidence from paragraph 6 of the article helps the reader understand the meaning of the word **jumbled**?

- A. “. . . the bones were all mixed up. . . .”
- B. “. . . parts of animals are discovered.”
- C. “. . . before the bones became fossilized.”
- D. “. . . before they were covered . . .”

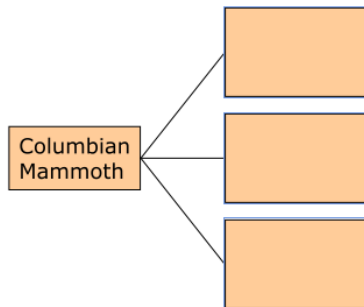
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Based on the article and the picture at the end of the article, what were **three** characteristics of a Columbian mammoth?

Drag the phrases that describe the mammoth from the list into the empty boxes in the graphic organizer.

Mammoth Characteristics

had small rib bones	lived during the ice age	lived in South America
had large tusks	stayed in pits	traveled to rivers



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**Part A**

How were the fossil bones at the dig site different from the fossil bones discovered at the Girl Scout Camp?

- A. The fossils were extended.
- B. The fossils were squishy.
- C. The fossils were light in color.
- D. The fossils were disorganized.

**Part B**

Which detail from the article provides evidence of the difference between the fossil bones found at these two sites?

- A. “The bones were too big to be a cow or horse.” (paragraph 1)
- B. “. . . as soft as boiled fish bones.” (paragraph 4)
- C. “. . . jumbled its bones before they were covered in sandy clay.” (paragraph 6)
- D. “Before removal from the site, a plaster ‘jacket,’ like the cast on a broken arm . . .” (paragraph 7)

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**Part A**

What is the main idea of the article “Touching a Mammoth”?

- A. Conducting excavations on a paleontological dig requires attention to detail and cautious work.
- B. Excavations are successful with the work of many skilled people and precise machines.
- C. An unexpected discovery can bring excitement to a small town and the scientific community.
- D. Unique animals from long ago are fascinating to discover and study.

**Part B**

Which key detail from the article **best** supports the main idea?

- A. “Destiny Walker held her breath as she stepped into the pit.” (paragraph 1)
- B. “An area high school science teacher, Clark has worked on dinosaur digs for many years and encourages student participation with his group, the ‘Abilene Boneheads.’” (paragraph 3)
- C. “Destiny used a small scraper to remove dirt from around the rib and a paint brush to clean the bone.” (paragraph 5)
- D. “Museums sometimes display real fossils, but often copies are used in exhibits so that scientists can continue studying the original bones.” (paragraph 8)



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**Part A**

Why does it take years to excavate a mammoth? Choose **two** answers.

- A. The fossils are ancient.
- B. The fossils are easily broken.
- C. The fossils are mostly hidden under clay.
- D. The fossils are near human artifacts.
- E. The fossils are wet from ground water.
- F. The fossils are most often found in a river bed.

**Part B**

Which statement of important ideas from the article provides evidence to support the correct answer to Part A?

- A. Prehistoric mammoths look like larger, modern elephants.
- B. During the last ice age, mammoths roamed North America.
- C. Currents of water move bones before sand covers them.
- D. Care must be taken in removing fossils and other objects.