

**Grade: 8 UNIT 4: from Journey to the Centre of the Earth SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. The three men were walking on bones; yet the scene is not gruesome. Why?**

The scene is not gruesome because the cavern had the appearance of a tropical country at midday in summer. The glowing fluid gave off a brightness and left no shadows on the landscape.

**2. Describe the mastodons and their keeper.**

The mastodons were gigantic elephants. They tore down the boughs and uprooted the trees easily with their huge tusks. They swallowed the whole mass of branches and leaves. Their keeper was a human giant, twelve feet tall, with head as big as a buffalo’s and a mane of matted hair. He held a branch of a tree and looked calm and still.

**3. Why do you think was the dagger left behind? Was it done on purpose?**

Yes, I think the dagger was left on purpose by someone who wants others to discover this world and find their way through it. A dagger would prove very useful in the journey.

**4. There are three different terrains described in the story. How are these different from each other?**

The first terrain mentioned is the great cavern where the narrator walked on beds of bones. Bright light illuminated every nook and cranny of the place. After about a mile they came to the edge of a vast forest. There they found huge palms and cone-bearing trees bound by creeping vines. However, this landscape lacked colour. It was a dull brown all over. The third terrain the narrator passed through had a new type of soil with some rocks which looked familiar to him. Maintaining a direction became difficult as this coastal area had a uniform panorama and they could not decide which way to go.

**5. What was the most important discovery in this story? Why do you think so?**

I think the most important discovery in the story would be the existence of twelve-feet tall men. It would question the theory of evolution and the origin of mankind.

**6. Write a foreshadowing example from the story.**

Examples of foreshadowing from the story: Suddenly, I stopped short and restrained my uncle. The long, spreading light enabled me to see the smallest objects in the distant copses. I thought I saw—no, I really did see with my own eyes—immense, gigantic animals moving about under the mighty trees.

**7. In the extract, it is perseverance that guides the men along the way. As a result, they gain knowledge. Justify.**

The narrator is quite lost in the coast. All the rocks and landscape looked alike and they found it impossible to find their way out. A careful examination of the creek made him believe that they had reached their starting point but to their dismay his uncle pointed out that their previous footsteps could not be seen. They discovered the dagger then. Reason and perseverance led them to a dark tunnel where they found the initials ‘A.S’. carved on a granite slab.

**8. The lesson you just read is a piece of fiction but it also has some scientific truths. What are these?**

The vegetation of the Tertiary period comprising huge palms and palmacites is accurately depicted. The herd of mastodons described here lived in the Miocene era in the Quaternary period.