Between 13,000 and 12,600 years ago, members of the Clovis culture appeared in North America, where they made and used distinctive stone-tipped spears to hunt mammoth, bison and mastodon. Until recently, all that archeologists knew about the Clovis people came from studying their tools, which have been unearthed at wide-ranging sites across the country. Now, DNA analysis of a single human skeleton—that of a one-year-old boy buried in a rocky field in modern-day Montana—has allowed scientists to link the Clovis culture to Native Americans throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Construction crews first discovered the ancient remains of an infant in 1968 on private property owned by the Anzick family in western Montana. Dubbed Anzick-1, the one-year-old boy is the only human skeleton that has been identified as a member of the widespread, sophisticated Ice-Age culture known as Clovis. Now, a team of scientists has succeeded in mapping the infant’s DNA, in the oldest genome sequence of an American individual ever performed. According to their findings, published in the journal Nature in February 2014, the Clovis people are direct ancestors of many Native Americans now living in North America, and can be linked to many native peoples in Central and South America as well.

Up to this point, all scientists studying the Clovis culture had to go on were the stone and bone tools that have been found at sites ranging from Washington State to Florida, along with many states in between. By sequencing the genome of the infant recovered at the Anzick site, the
international team of researchers gained the most vivid insight yet about who these people might actually have been. They compared the DNA of the Clovis infant to several different genomes, including a 24,000-year-old sample from a young man buried on the banks of Lake Baikal in Siberia, a 7,000-year-old sample from Spain and a 4,000-year-old sample from Greenland. The Clovis DNA showed the most similarity with that of the Siberian youth, whom scientists genetically linked with today’s Native Americans in 2013.

The new study adds to existing archeological evidence that Native Americans descended from humans who migrated to North America from Asia through Siberia around 15,000 years ago. They are believed to have made the voyage across the Bering land bridge, which connected Asia with North America during the last Ice Age. According to archeologist Michael Waters of Texas A&M University, a member of the team who conducted the new study, the genetic evidence “strongly suggests that there was a single migration of people into the Americas….These people were probably the people who eventually gave rise to Clovis.”

Such evidence casts doubt on other theories arguing that Clovis’ ancestors came from Europe, rather than Asia. Such hypotheses rely partially on the fact that the “Clovis points” found on their tools and weapons are so similar to the flint tools used by the Solutrean culture, which flourished in Spain and France during the Ice Age.

While Anzick-1 showed the most genetic similarities with Native Americans in North America, the study also revealed ties with the indigenous peoples of Central and South America. The team’s data indicates that sometime between 13,000 and 24,000 years ago, the same ancient people that arrived from Asia split into two lineages: One gave rise to Clovis and today’s Native Americans of North America, and the other became the ancestors of Central and South American tribes.

The scientists studying Anzick-1 have worked closely with Native American tribes in Montana, sharing the results of the study with them and ensuring that the remains were treated appropriately. The infant will be reburied later this year, on the same property from which he was unearthed. For their part, the tribes have shown little surprise at the scientists’ conclusions. Shane Doyle, a professor of Native American History at Montana State University and co-author on the study, is also a member of the Crow tribe. As he told NBC News, after conversations with more than 100 tribe members, the main reaction was “We have no reason to doubt that we’ve been here for this long.”
1. What was Clovis?

A  a widespread, sophisticated Ice-Age culture in North America  
B  a culture that existed in Greenland about 4,000 years ago  
C  a culture that flourished in Spain and France during the Ice Age  
D  a culture that gave rise to Central and South American tribes

2. The text describes a possible sequence of human descent. At the end of the sequence are Native Americans. What people are at the beginning of the sequence?

A  people who migrated from Asia to North America about 15,000 years ago  
B  tribes living in Central and South America today  
C  people who were living in Greenland about 4,000 years ago  
D  people who were living in Spain about 7,000 years ago

3. The Clovis people descended from humans who migrated to North America from Asia through Siberia around 15,000 years ago.

What evidence supports this theory?

A  the similarity between the DNA of a Clovis infant and the DNA of a member of the Crow tribe  
B  the similarity between the DNA of a Clovis infant and the DNA of a person from Iceland who lived 4,000 years ago  
C  the similarity between the DNA of a Clovis infant and the DNA of a person from Spain who lived 7,000 years ago  
D  the similarity between the DNA of a Clovis infant and the DNA of a Siberian youth who lived 24,000 years ago

4. The Clovis people descended from humans living in Europe.

What evidence supports this theory?

A  the similarity between the tools of the Clovis people and the tools of people in Siberia  
B  the similarity between the tools of the Clovis people and the tools of people in Montana  
C  the similarity between the tools of the Clovis people and the tools of people in France and Spain  
D  the similarity between the tools of the Clovis people and the tools of people in Greenland
5. What is the main idea of this text?

A. Construction crews discovered the ancient remains of an infant in 1968 in western Montana.
B. Similarities exist between the tools of the Clovis people and the tools used by members of the Solutrean culture.
C. DNA analysis of an ancient infant's remains has allowed scientists to link the Clovis culture to Native Americans.
D. Scientists studying the remains of an ancient infant worked closely with Native American tribes in Montana to ensure that the remains were treated appropriately.

6. Read this sentence from the text.

"According to their findings, published this week in the journal Nature, the Clovis people are direct ancestors of many Native Americans now living in North America, and can be linked to many native peoples in Central and South America as well."

What does the author mean by writing that the Clovis can be linked to many native peoples in Central and South America?

A. The author means that many native peoples in Central and South America could communicate with the Clovis people.
B. The author means that many native peoples in Central and South America are related to the Clovis people.
C. The author means that the Clovis people used the same technology as many native peoples in Central and South America.
D. The author means that the Clovis people got along well with many native peoples in Central and South America.

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"While Anzick-1 showed the most genetic similarities with Native Americans in North America, the study also revealed ties with the indigenous peoples of Central and South America. The team’s data indicates that sometime between 13,000 and 24,000 years ago, the same ancient people that arrived from Asia split into two lineages: One gave rise to Clovis and today’s Native Americans of North America, and the other became the ancestors of Central and South American tribes."

What word could best replace "While" in the first sentence?

A. Currently
B. Although
C. Consequently
D. Finally
8. Who is Anzick-1? Be sure to mention the Clovis people in your answer.
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

9. Scientists discovered a link between the DNA of Anzick-1 and the DNA of a Siberian youth. Who else has been genetically linked with the Siberian youth?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

10. How likely is it that the ancestors of today's Native Americans came from Asia? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________