



Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions using details from the text.

## Veryovkina Cave: Earth's Deepest Journey

Deep beneath the Gagra mountain range in Abkhazia, a small, often overlooked region near the Black Sea, lies a hidden world that plunges further into the Earth than any other known cave. This is Veryovkina Cave, the deepest natural cavity on our planet. Its entrance, a modest opening high on a mountainside, belies the colossal underground labyrinth that extends an astonishing 2,212 meters (7,257 feet) straight down. To put that in perspective, imagine stacking nearly eight Eiffel Towers one on top of the other, then descending into the very bottom.



The journey into Veryovkina is not for the faint of heart. Explorers, known as cavers or speleologists, face immense challenges. The initial sections involve tight squeezes and vertical drops, requiring specialized rope techniques and equipment. As cavers descend, the air grows colder, and the darkness becomes absolute, broken only by the beams of their headlamps. Water is a constant companion, forming underground rivers, waterfalls, and deep pools that must be navigated or bypassed.



Further down, the cave transforms into a series of massive chambers and intricate passages. The pressure of the rock above is immense, and the environment is entirely cut off from the surface world. This isolation creates a unique ecosystem where life forms, if any, must adapt to perpetual darkness and extreme conditions. Scientists hope to discover new species of bacteria or invertebrates that have evolved in this alien environment.



Exploration expeditions can last for weeks, with teams setting up underground camps at various depths. They carry all their supplies, including food, water, and specialized gear, through treacherous terrain. Communication with the surface is often impossible, adding to the sense of isolation and the need for meticulous planning and teamwork. Every step is carefully calculated, as a single mistake could have severe consequences in such a remote and unforgiving place.

Veryovkina Cave represents the extreme frontier of human exploration and scientific discovery. It offers a rare window into the Earth's deep geological processes and the resilience of life in the absence of sunlight. The ongoing efforts to map and study this subterranean marvel continue to push the boundaries of what we know about our planet's hidden depths, revealing the astonishing wonders that lie beneath our feet.



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### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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(1) **What is the main idea of this passage?**

- (A) Veryovkina Cave is the deepest cave on Earth, offering significant challenges and scientific insights.
- (B) Cavers use specialized equipment to explore deep caves.
- (C) Abkhazia is a region with many interesting natural features.
- (D) Underground rivers are common in very deep caves.

(2) **Which detail best supports the main idea?**

- (A) It extends an astonishing 2,212 meters (7,257 feet) straight down.
- (B) Explorers set up underground camps at various depths.



- C The air grows colder as cavers descend.
- D Caves are formed by water eroding rock over millions of years.

**(3) What would be the best title for this passage?**

- A Veryovkina Cave: Exploring Earth's Deepest Abyss
- B The Mountains of Abkhazia     C How Cavers Explore Underground
- D Discovering New Cave Species

**(4) Which sentence does NOT belong in this passage?**

- A Its entrance belies the colossal underground labyrinth that extends 2,212 meters down.
- B Explorers face immense challenges, requiring specialized rope techniques.
- C Veryovkina Cave is a popular tourist destination for adventure seekers.
- D Scientists hope to discover new species of bacteria or invertebrates.

**(5) Write the main idea in TWO sentences. Include one supporting detail.**

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