

WHO DISCOVERED THE AMERICAS?

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What were the environmental/ecological conditions when people likely entered the Americas?

We'll trace the potential routes people took to get here and what the conditions and barriers were at the time.

What's the Clovis Culture and its relevance to understanding the earliest settlers in North America?

A unique, gorgeous, and apparently lethal type of spear point is the signature of the Clovis Culture (the earliest of the *Palaeoindian* people) found over much of North America. What have archaeologists learned about the people who made them? Clovis people were once thought to be the very first settlers of the Americas. Some scholars argue over the nuances of its dating: either 13,100 to 12,660 BP or 12,900 to 12,760 BP (By the way, BP means *Before Present* and "present" is defined as 1950). It's a long story, but I can share it with you on Friday.

Palaeoindians in Canada and Nearby

Were the Clovis people the first, or were they the descendants of others who came before?

We'll explore the evidence of "Pre-Clovis," some of which is controversial. The evidence is mounting for small populations of people in the Americas before 13,000 years ago. Sites are found everywhere from South America to Eastern North America.

Is there any truth to Dennis Stanford's (Smithsonian Institution) view that Palaeoindian technology has its roots in Europe?

What can we say about the biological connections of indigenous populations (including Inuit and their ancestors)? Is there any biological evidence of European connections?

Last week a new publication detailed insight on the peopling of Newfoundland. Why is this important?

Recommended reading:

<http://popular-archaeology.com/issue/summer-2015/article/new-light-on-first-peopling-of-the-americas>

<https://www.archaeology.org/issues/145-1409/features/2366-peopling-the-americas-preclovis>

Storck, Peter (2004). *Journey to the ice age discovering an ancient world*. (pp. xix, 356 p.). Vancouver: Published by UBC Press in association with the Royal Ontario Museum.

Meltzer, D.J. (2009). *First peoples in a new world: Colonizing ice age America*. Berkeley: University of California Press.