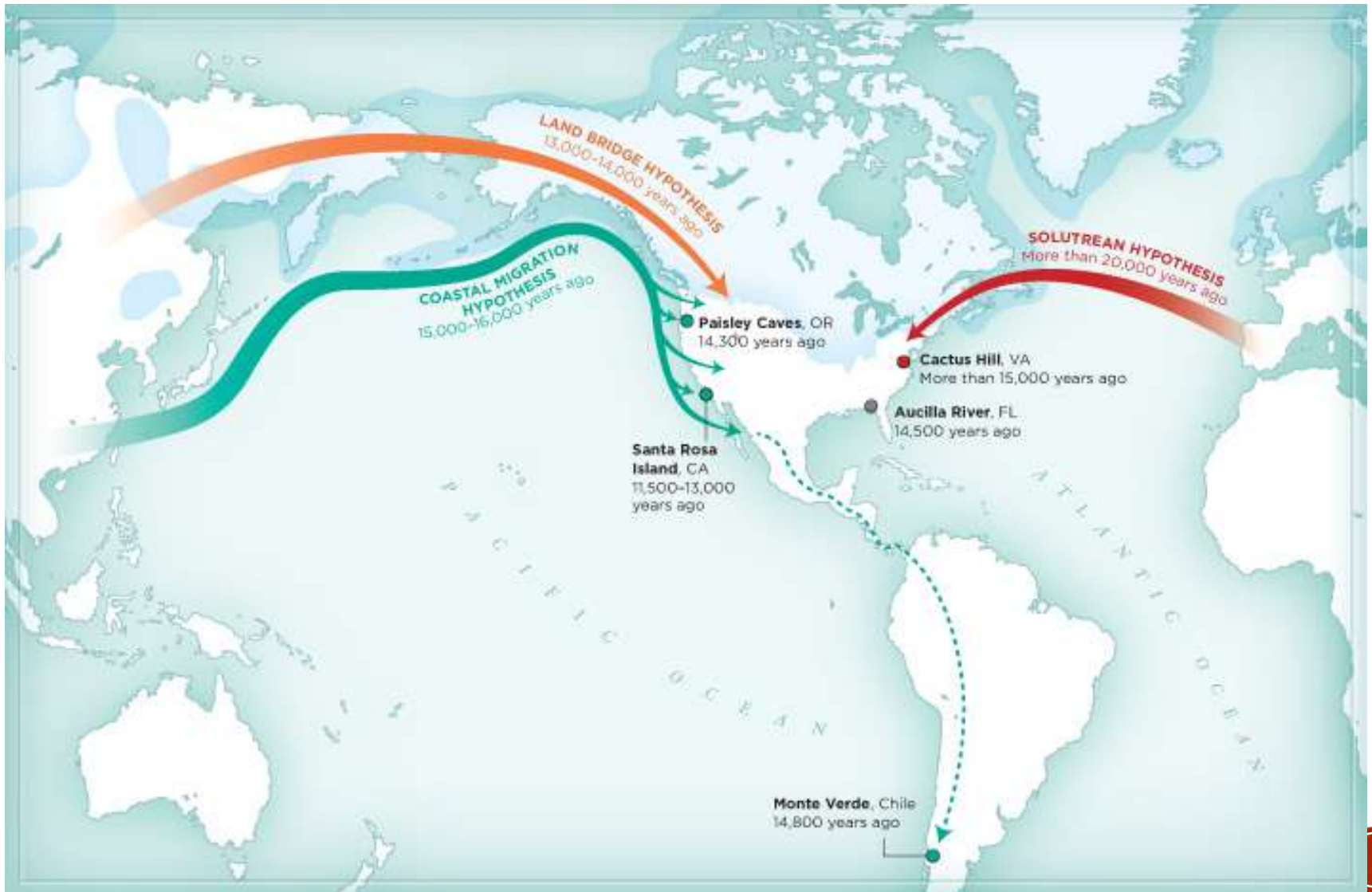


# THE FIRST AMERICANS

- Who were they?
- How did they get here?
- When did they arrive?
- Where did they come from?

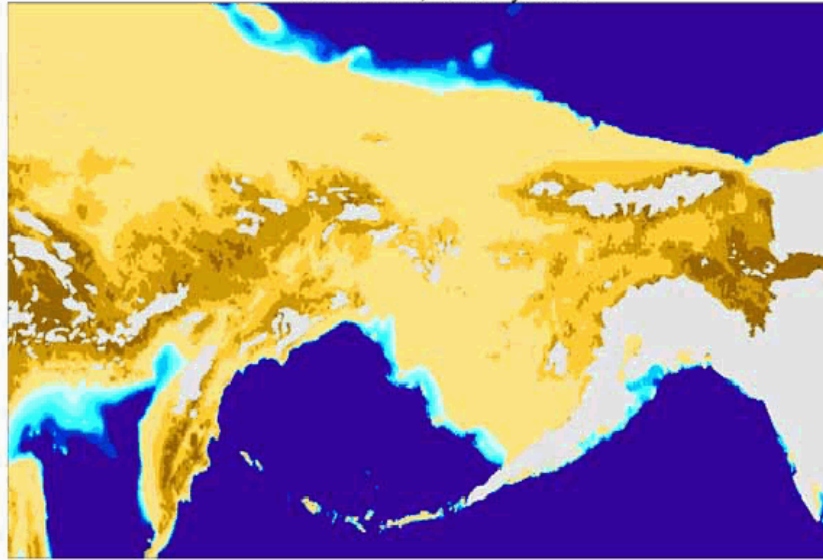


# HOW DID THEY ARRIVE IN THE AMERICAS? WHAT ARE THE THEORIES?



# BERINGIA LAND BRIDGE THEORY: LONG-STANDING STORY OF THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE AMERICAS

PALE Paleoenvironmental Atlas of Beringia  
Coastline 21,000 Cal years BP

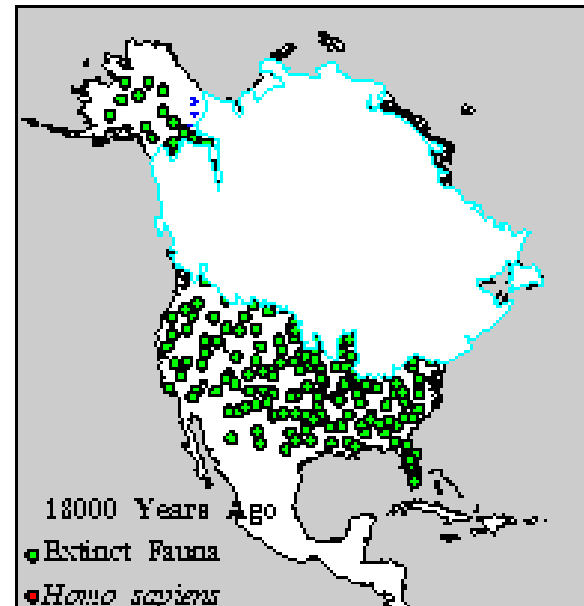


# WHY WOULD THEY CROSS BERINGIA?

- Cold and arid, Beringia was clothed in the hardy grasses, herbs, and willows of the Mammoth Steppe.
- This plant life supported such extinct species as the woolly mammoth, the mastodon, the steppe bison, the giant beaver, the North American horse, and camel.



# WHEN COULD THEY HAVE CROSSED?



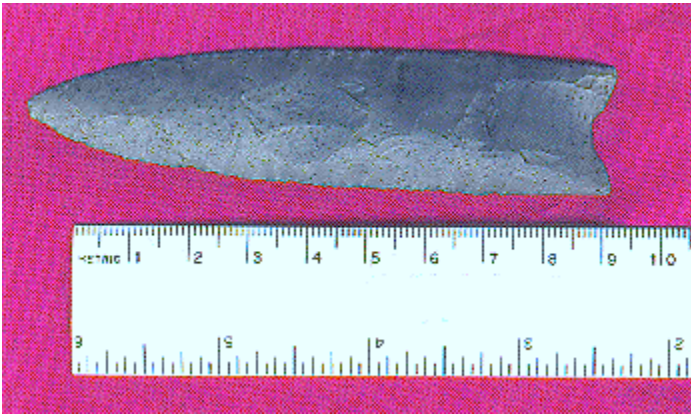
It is theoretically possible for people to have entered North America from Asia at repeated intervals between 40,000+ and 13,000 years ago.

<http://www.nps.gov/bela/html/history.htm#glaciation>



# THE CLOVIS PEOPLE WERE THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN CULTURE.

Or so we used to think!

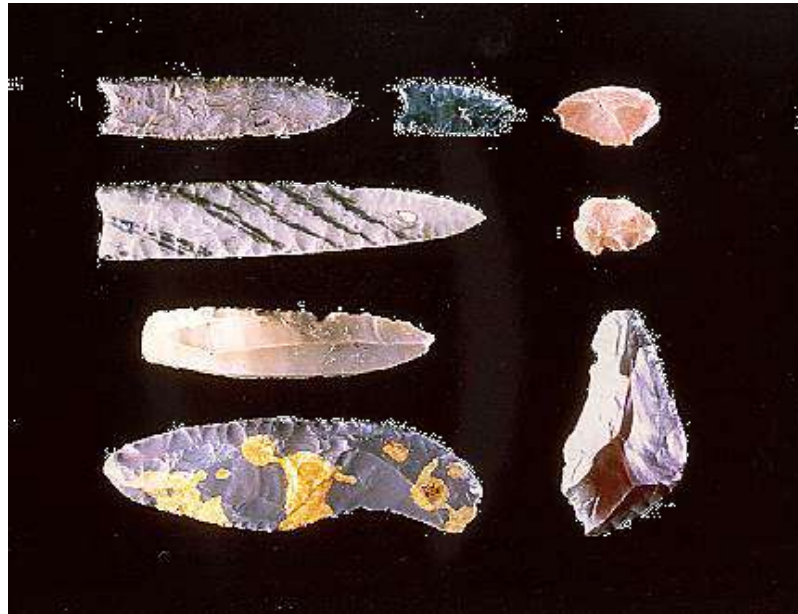


➤ Named for the flint arrow heads and spear points found near Clovis New Mexico



# THEY ARRIVED AND POPULATED THE CONTINENT AROUND 13000-14 000 YBP!

They left stone and flint tools, beautifully crafted.



SO WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS WITH THE THEORY?



# **POSSIBLE CONTRADICTIONARY EVIDENCE!**

- Linguistic - evidence of language diversity
- Recent dating of Siberian site
- DNA markers traced through populations in Europe, Asia and America
- Evidence showing earlier entry (ancient remains and other evidence)
- Glaciers blocked path southward until 13 000 years ago.





# LINGUISTICS- LANGUAGE STUDIES

- One migration populating North and South America, would take 35 000 years for all languages to develop. (Beringia was passable at 40 000 years ago, then not until 13 000 years ago!)
- There appear to have been earlier and later arrivals. (3 different migrations possibly)



# SIBERIAN SITE NOT AS ANCIENT AS THOUGHT! ONLY 13,000 YBP (YEARS BEFORE PRESENT OR YEARS AGO)



# DNA

- Geneticists can track gene mutations.
- By this measure, the modern Native Americans can only have been here 18 000 years.
- Some sites appear older?!?
- They say they have always been here!



# **SOME REMAINS AND ARTIFACTS ARE TOO OLD FOR THE BERINGIA THEORY.**

- **Penyon III Woman dated 13 000 YBP in Mexico. Too far south for the Beringia time frame**
- **Monte Verde in Chile dated 12 000 YBP also too far south**
- **Meadowcroft Rock Shelter contains Paleo-Indian artifacts dated 16 000 YBP (Pennsylvania USA)**



# ICE FREE CORRIDOR TO THE SOUTH?

- It may not have been open at the time of the supposed Clovis “migration.
- It *may* have been open 40-20 000 YBP
- It may have been passable 15 000 YBP but really nasty to travel.



# **SO WHEN DID THEY GET HERE AND HOW!**

- **What options or other theories could account for earlier arrival?**
- **Or! If they didn't walk, how else could they get here?**
- **And! Where else could they have come from?**



# BY WATER?

- Earlier by boat along the Pacific Coast? (Coastal Theory)
- Across the Atlantic? (Solutrean Theory)
- From Africa? (Luzia)
- Across the Pacific from Japan, Polynesia, or Australia?
- Beringia then down the coast along the ice using boats occasionally?



# COASTAL THEORY

- Could they have followed the edge of the ice after crossing Beringia instead of the difficult or non-existent Ice Free Corridor?
- Did they have boats to skirt the coast?  
(evidence of ocean travel from 40 000 YBP exists)
- Evidence is now underwater if it exists!
- Some sites in Alaska seem to show the possibility.





# HOW ABOUT CROSSING THE ATLANTIC?

- Solutrean spears and flint knapping appear similar to Clovis.
- The Solutrean Culture inhabited today's Spain, 20 000 YBP.
- Separated from Clovis by 4800 k and over 5000 years.



# SOLUTREAN POINTS



This was considered silly a few years ago but is gaining credibility as new evidence is found.



# ARCHEOLOGY AND THE LATEST NEWS!

- **Penyon III Woman is 13,000 Years old. Dated recently in Mexico!**
- **DNA testing will be done because Mexico does not have laws allowing the Native Peoples to repossess the bones.**
- **Skull shape, not Native American**



# LATEST NEWS CONTINUED

- South American dates at Monte Verde, 12 000 YBP. Confirmed!
- Other South American sites support early settlement.



# HOW ABOUT JAPAN?

- Several sets of skulls resemble the Jomon (Ainu today) people of ancient Japan.
- Kennewick Man is of this type.

Right - Members of the Chippewa & Omaha Tribes with Jomon features.

- Also pottery excavated in some South American sites matches the exact style used by the Jomon people in Japan.



## **SO WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?**

- You decide!
- Was there more than one migration?
- How did they arrive? Land, Sea or Coast?
- When were these arrivals?
- Who were or are they? Are today's Aboriginals related to Kennewick man, Penyon Woman, Spirit Cave Man and other Ancient Americans?
- What evidence supports this?

