

Pathway to the Americas



Pathway to the Americas

- Main Idea (Objective):



- It is believed that the first people in the Americas came from Asia during the last Ice Age.

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- **Lecture Focus (Essential Question):**



- When and how did the first people travel to the Americas? Lets investigate this secret because nobody truly knows for sure and the story of their arrival remains one of History's greatest mysteries.

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- We know that people came to the North and South American continents a long time ago, but how did they get here?



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- Today, America is not connected by land to the rest of the world, however, in the past it was.



- Scientists have studied the earth's geography during the last **Ice Age**, a period when temperatures dropped sharply.

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- There have been at least five ice ages in the Earth's history, the earliest occurring about **2.1 to 2.4 billion** years ago.



- Believe it or not, the Earth is actually in an ice age now that began about **2.58 million** years ago.

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- A **Glacial Period** is time in the earth's history when polar and mountain ice sheets were unusually widespread across the earth's surface.



- The last glacial period ended about 10,000 years ago.

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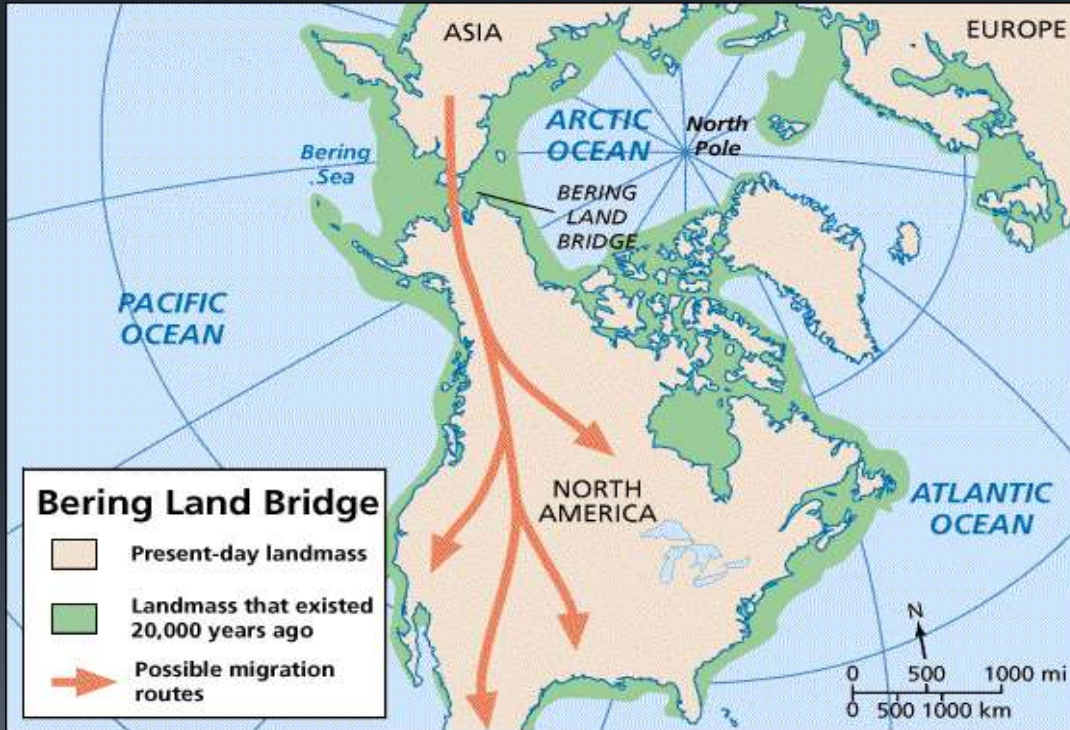
- At the time of the end of the last Glacial Period, much of Earth's water froze into huge sheets of ice, or **glaciers**.



- Glacier** - a large body of ice moving slowly down a slope or valley or spreading outward on a land surface

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- As the ice froze and the seas fell, an area of dry land was exposed between Asia and Alaska.



- Scientists call this land bridge **Beringia**, after **Vitus Bering**, a famous European explorer.

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- **Vitus Bering** - was a Danish navigator in the service of the Russian Navy and commanded the first **Kamchatka Expedition**.

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- The goal of this expedition was to determine how far the Siberian mainland went, since much of the world was uncharted and it was unknown whether Asia and North America were connected or whether they were separate land masses.

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- Historians think that people in Asia followed the animals they were hunting across the land bridge that was created during the last Ice Age into the Americas.



- By testing the age of bones and tools at ancient camp sites, scientist estimate that the first people arrived between **15,000 to 40,000** years ago.

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- How did Scientist and Historians test these bones and tools found in ancient camp sites?



- Carbon Dating** - a chemical analysis used to determine the age of organic materials based on their content of the radioisotope carbon-14; believed to be reliable up to 40,000 years

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- When the Ice Age ended about 10,000 years ago, the glaciers melted and released water back into the seas.
 - The land bridge that had been created into the America's had disappeared beneath the waves.



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- **Questions:**

- **1)** What are large sheets of moving ice?
- **2)** How was a land bridge created between Asia and North America?
- **3)** When did the first people arrive in the Americas?
- **4)** When did the last Ice Age end?

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- **Questions:**

- **1) What are large sheets of moving ice?**

 - **Glaciers**

- **2) How was a land bridge created between Asia and North America?**

 - **Water froze into large ice sheets and left dry land behind**

- **3) When did the first people arrive in the Americas?**

 - **15,000 to 40,000 years ago**

- **4) When did the last Ice Age end?**

 - **10,000 years ago**

Hunting and Gathering

- Hunters in the Americas were constantly on the move in search for food.



- They fished and gathered nuts, fruits or roots to eat as well.

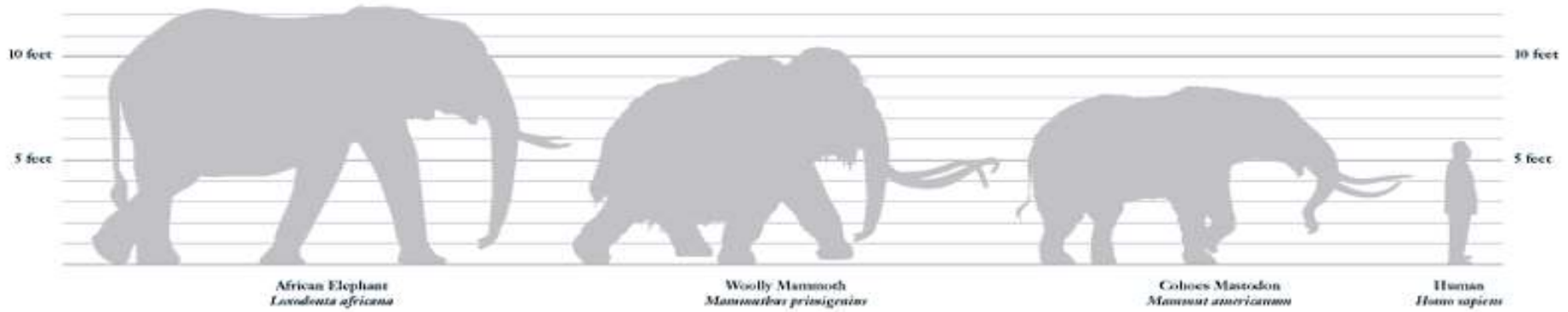
Hunting and Gathering



- They also hunted massive prey, such as the Woolly Mammoth, Antelope, Caribou and Bison.

Hunting and Gathering

SIZE COMPARISON



Hunting and Gathering

- It took several skilled hunters to kill a Woolly Mammoth, which could actually weigh up to 9 tons.



- These big animals provided meat, hides for clothing and bones for tools.

Hunting and Gathering



Hunting and Gathering

- As the Ice Age ended, some animals became extinct, or disappeared from the Earth completely.



- The warm weather, however, opened new opportunities to these early Americans.

Hunting and Gathering



- **Reading Check:**

- Answer the following question in short answer form, using 2-3 sentences.
 - **Explain why is there no longer a land bridge between Asia and America?**

History Mystery Time: **The Baby Mammoth**



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History Mystery Time: **The Baby Mammoth**

- **Lyuba** is a female woolly mammoth calf who died 41,800 years ago at the age of 30 to 35 days.



- She is by far the best preserved mammoth mummy in the world, surpassing Dima, a male mammoth calf mummy which had previously been the best known specimen.

History Mystery Time: **The Baby Mammoth**

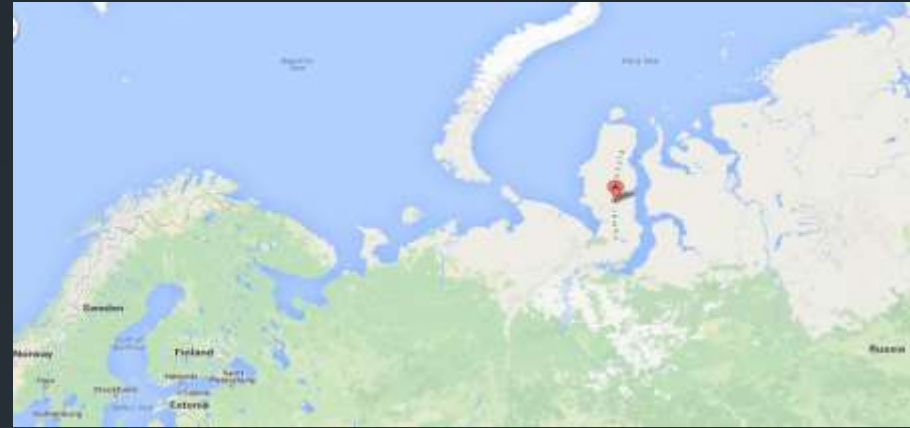
- Lyuba was discovered in May 2007 by a **Nenets (Indigenous people in northern arctic Russia)** Reindeer breeder Yuri Khudi and his sons, in Russia's Arctic Yamal Peninsula.



- Khudi recognized that Lyuba was a mammoth carcass and that it was an important find; he refused to touch the carcass because Nenets beliefs associated touching mammoth remains with bad omens.

History Mystery Time: **The Baby Mammoth**

- Khudi travelled to a small town 150 miles away to consult his friend, on how to proceed.
- They notified the local museum director about the find, however, when they returned to the body, they found that Lyuba's remains had disappeared.
- Suspecting that profiteers may have taken the mammoth, Khudi drove on a snowmobile to a nearby settlement **Novy Port**.



History Mystery Time: **The Baby Mammoth**

- There they discovered Lyuba's carcass displayed outside a local store.
- It turned out that the store owner bought the body from Khudi's cousin, who removed the body from its original location, in exchange for two snowmobiles.
 - Lyuba's body suffered minor damage in the process, with dogs having chewed off her right ear and a part of her tail, but the mummy remained largely intact.
- With the help of the police, Khudi and Serotetto reclaimed the body and had it transported by helicopter to the Shemanovsky Museum in Salekhard.



History Mystery Time: **The Baby Mammoth**



- **History Mystery Focus**

- Answer the following questions in a two to three paragraph open ended response. Draw on your knowledge of the various elements that we have discussed in class this year.
- Antiquities are rare and precious. It is up to us to protect our collective histories. What do **YOU** think is the appropriate punishment for people who loot historical grave sites.