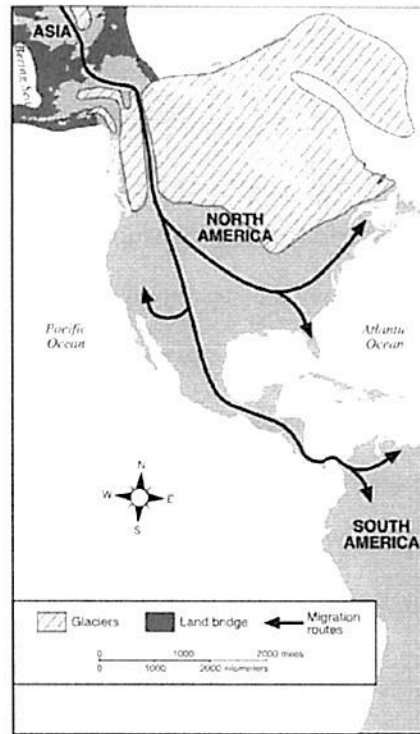


THE LAND BRIDGE THEORY



Source: James Davidson et al., *The American Nation*, Prentice Hall, 2000 (adapted)

The Migration Begins

- Archaeologists use artifacts to tell the story of the first Americans
- Theory - first humans came to Americas 20,000 or more years ago

A Land Bridge Revealed

- Ice Age - glaciers held water so sea level was lower
- Beringia - strip of land connecting northeastern Asia to present day Alaska
- Early people traveled from Asia to North America across the land bridge

Searching for Hunting Grounds

- people migrated in search of food
- Nomads were hunters of animals and gatherers of wild grains and fruits

Earth Warms

- 15,000 years ago Ice Age began to end. Temperatures rose, glaciers melted, and the land bridge was covered.
- Large animals disappeared so early Americans needed to find new food sources.

Settlement

- Farming began and changed nomadic lifestyle

Learning To Farm

- Crops provided a steady supply of food
- People became permanent settlers

Establishing Unique Cultures

- Carbon dating helps estimate age of artifacts
- Cultures developed among people living in the Americas