

Name: _____

Date: _____

Native Americas Migration to America

Land Bridge Theory

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions from the reading.



Fig. 1

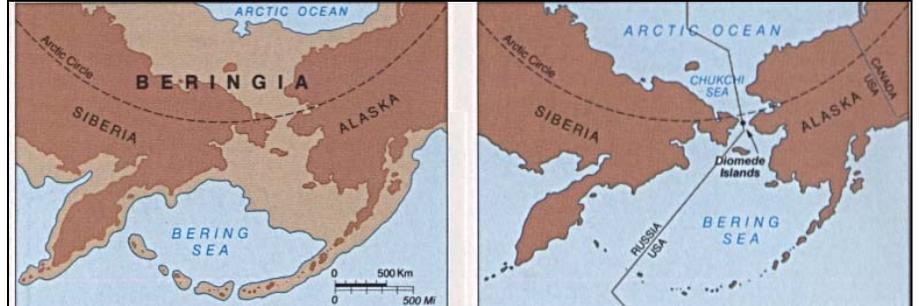


Fig. 2

Old World View with Land Bridge

Today's view without Land Bridge

It is believed that the first people to arrive in America travelled from Asia (Siberia) to Alaska, and then spread throughout North and South America (see fig. 1). At some point during the last Ice Age, about 17,000 years ago, as glaciers advanced and sea levels fell, people were able to cross between the two continents by an exposed land bridge (see Beringia, fig. 1) that existed between Siberia and the western coast of Alaska. At this time, ocean levels were 200 ft lower than today which exposed shallow sea floors and enabled people to walk over a land bridge! The first humans (or Native Americans) to enter North America were big game hunters following game such as bison, mammoth, caribou, and horses. This was a natural move that happened over thousands of years as these nomadic people (people that move from place to place) followed the animals in which they hunted. These early Americans soon spread throughout the Americas, diversifying into hundreds of culturally distinct nations and tribes that spoke many different languages and lived in very different ways.

1. Which continent did the Native Americans come from?

2. What was the name of the land formation that allowed people to cross into America?

3. Why did people cross the land bridge?

4. Name the group of people that move from place to place.

5. Where did the land bridge end in America?

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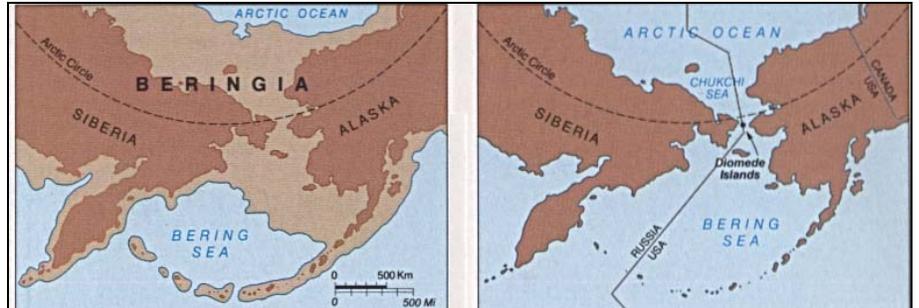


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1. Which continent did the Native Americans come from?

Asia

2. What was the name of the land formation that allowed people to cross into America?

Land Bridge or Beringia

3. Why did people cross the land bridge?

They followed the animals they hunted

4. Name the group of people that move from place to place.

Nomadic people

5. Where did the land bridge end in America?

Alaska