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\_\_\_\_\_ United States History—Period \_\_\_\_\_\_

Date in Full: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

# Document-Based Question Worksheet—Beringia: American Beginnings

**“History is the memory of things said and done.” ‐Carl L. Becker**

Task: Assess the validity and accuracy of the quote above.

* base your answer on the documents and prior knowledge
* use CLOSE reading annotation to find the main idea and supporting details
* answer the scaffolding questions below each
* complete the graphic organizer

## Document A

**“10,000-Year-Old Skeleton Found in Undersea Caribbean Cave”-2006**

Anthropological research on an ancient skeleton may cause scientists to rethink ideas about the peopling of the Americas: who were the first humans to live in the region, and where they came from. The skeleton, estimated to be more than 10,000 years old, was discovered in an underwater cave along the Yucatán coast south of Cancún in 2006. It has finally been brought to the surface to undergo more extensive study.

Dubbed the “Young Man of Chan Hol” – the skeleton is thought to be that of a young male—it is believed to date to the last Ice Age, when the caves were well above sea level. The discovery in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo supports the idea that multiple groups of prehistoric nomads crossed the Bering land bridge between Alaska and northeastern Asia at different times. Both this skeleton and another found nearby possess anatomical markers that link them to South Asian people, rather than the North Asian ancestors of other early Native Americans.

Before being moved from the cave, the skeleton was studied closely by scuba-diving archaeologists for any and all clues that might be revealed from its surroundings. Evidence of bonfires and the unusual position in which the bones were found indicate that the corpse may have been placed there during a funeral rite. The skeleton includes bones of the arms, legs, and torso, as well as the skull and several teeth. The relative lack of wear on the teeth suggests a young age at time of death. Lab tests should provide a more precise age, verification of its sex, and possibly even the cause of death.

1. What kind of social scientists found the skeleton? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Approximate the years when the skeleton was human. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. In what country was the skeleton found? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. What evidence was used to identify the skeleton? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Give 3-5 theories stated in the passage:
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Document B

**“Peopling of the Americas Jumps Back in Time”- 2011**

Scientists used to be confident that the First Americans arrived from northeast Asia roughly 13,000 years ago, after **trudging** across the Bering land bridge and slowly **meandering** southward careful to dodge the vast ice sheets. Theories change, however, and this one now seems threatened by the DELETE key.

The “Beringia” theory drew support from the findings named for an archaeological site near Clovis, New Mexico. Archaeologists have long held that makers of finely crafted stone tools called Clovis points were the Americas’ earliest settlers. For years, though, archaeological research has been turning up **artifacts** that are much older than the oldest Clovis points—some by at least 1,000 years—indicating that people have been in the Americas for a much longer time. This earlier date also means that the first people probably did not get to the Americas **via** a land bridge; it would have been blocked by ice at the time. More likely, some of them arrived from Asia by water, perhaps hugging the coastline in small boats.

Now a site on Buttermilk Creek in Central Texas has produced artifacts that **predate** the oldest Clovis points by about two millennia. One of the researchers called it “the oldest credible archaeological site in North America.” Archaeologists used a new technique for determining the artifacts’ age—optically stimulated **luminescence**, which measures light energy trapped in minerals to reveal how long ago they were last exposed to sunlight. These ancient tools are certainly shining new light on the story of America’s settlement.

1. Use the context clues (the way a word in the reading based on the words around it) to write a meaning for bolded words in Document B.
2. **trudging** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. **meandering** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. **artifacts** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. **via** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. **predate** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. **luminescence** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the author’s conclusion about the earliest settlement of the Americas? \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. What evidence does he cite (give) for his theory? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. How does Document B agree with Document A in terms of the origin of the first Americans? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Document C

**“New Findings on the Peopling of the Americas”- 2011**

If you have ever thought that history is static, here’s proof that it is a living, changing thing. For many years, we have learned that toward the end of the Ice Age, people trudged over the so-called Bering land bridge that linked northeastern Asia to what is now Alaska. From there they spread out to become the first inhabitants of North and South America. These hardy folk hunted with well-shaped stone tools, called Clovis points for the site near Clovis, New Mexico, where they were first found.

For years, though, puzzling evidence has indicated that the Americas were not empty of human life when these skilled, stalwart migrants arrived. Archaeologists have found site after site that have artifacts thousands of years older than any Clovis points. Was someone here already when the Clovis people arrived? If so, where did they come from? How did they get here?

Reevaluation of a mammoth bone and the weapon lodged in it has now answered the first of these questions once and for all. Using the most recent dating methods, archaeologists have determined that the mammoth was killed 13,800 years ago—give or take 20 years. That’s at least 800 years older than the very earliest Clovis artifacts. So the so-called “Clovis first” theory is defunct. The new finding sheds light on another mystery too—why the “megafauna,” such as mammoths, giant sloths, and saber-toothed cats, disappeared so quickly from the Americas about 12,700 years ago. The early inhabitants, whoever they were, had been hunting these animals for hundreds, if not thousands, of years before the Clovis people arrived. The Clovis people just finished them off!

1. Restate the “clincher” in the last two sentences of Document C. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does this author feel about the Beringia land bridge theory? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. What evidence does he give for his conclusion about the earliest times human inhabited the Americas? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. In what ways do Documents B and C agree about Clovis points? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. How do Documents B and C differ in analyzing when the first humans arrived in the Americas? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. In what way does Document A differ from Documents B and C in regard to the Beringia land bridge theory? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Comparing and Contrasting Documents for Validity

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Document A | Document B | Document C |
| When did the first humans appear in North America? |  |  |  |
| Where did the first humans come from? |  |  |  |
| What evidence is cited (given) for the conclusions above? |  |  |  |
| What is the author’s belief about the Beringia land bridge? |  |  |  |
| What is the main idea of the passage (document)? |  |  |  |
| How valid (believable) is the document and why do you say that? |  |  |  |