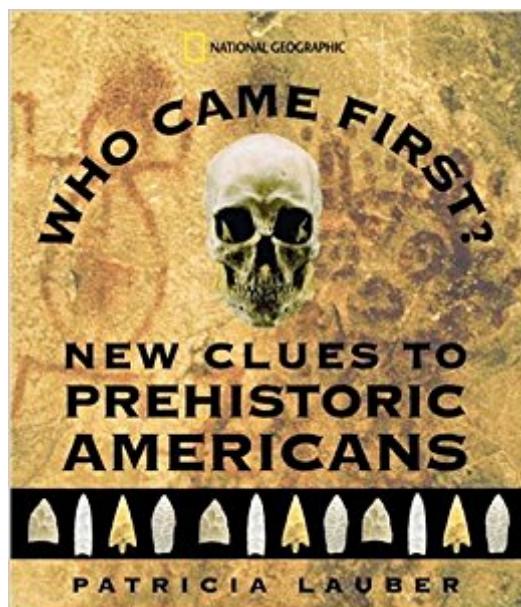


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Who Came First? New Clues To Prehistoric Americans



Synopsis

All of the people who came to the Americas many thousands of years ago walked across the Bering Land Bridge between Siberia and Alaska. Right? Wrong! Some early Americans did come that way, but tantalizing evidence shows that many did not. How do you explain a settlement 14,800 years old near the southern coast of Chile when glaciers still covered most of Canada and made land travel virtually impossible? Or that the oldest human skull found in the Americas is that of a woman who lived in southern Brazil? Or that the oldest human settlement in North America is located near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, not in the West as one would have expected? New evidence is pouring in, as archaeologists dig further and combine their work with that of linguists, geneticists, climatologists, and scientists in other related disciplines. Come along with Pat Lauber as she explores what new evidence is being found and what it means for one of history's most intriguing mysteries: Where did early Americans come from and how did they get here?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 910L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: National Geographic Children's Books (March 1, 2003)

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Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.1 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Excellent book that introduces several theories as to how the Americas were first populated. Gives the reader a basic introduction to many excavation sites and scientific and archeological theories. Colorful illustrations, photographs, and maps to help clarify theories regarding migration and glacial movement as well as give the reader visual representations of ancient artifacts, etc. Excellent tool to

help show students how scholars can come up with theories and supporting evidence and yet still not be able to reach solid conclusions. The simple language and concise nature of the book is also beneficial to someone who is only mildly interested in the topic or who has never dealt with the Bering Land Bridge or similar theories. Very well done.

We are using this as our first book in our home school American history study. It raises more questions than it answers, which is how we like to learn history. The book discusses where the first Americans came from (both in North and South America), and a few different finds and locations are examined. The Bering Land Bridge theory is examined, as are the Clovis and pre-Clovis people. One chapter discusses genetics, linguistics, and skull structure. While the topics are pretty complex, the text is clear enough for my nine-year-old to read on his own without problems. Overall, we are very pleased with this book; I've made out a study guide for each chapter so that this serves as a textbook.

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