

# Peopling of the Americas

## Bering Land Bridge

Hunters crossed the marshy land bridge from Asia around 13kya during the retreat of the glaciers.

ALASKA EDITORIAL PHOTOGRAPHY / © MARK MEYER PHOTOGRAPHY



### Evidence :

Clovis people were Mammoth hunters thought to have crossed the land bridge after the opening of an ice-free corridor around 13.8kya. Named after the archaeological evidence of their flint spearheads dated to 13kya discovered in Clovis, New Mexico.

Stone, R. (2021). A Land Bridge to Nowhere?  
*Science.org*. [online]  
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1126/article.35167>.

## Coastal Route Theory

Migration occurred by boat, people island hopped along the pacific coast of Asia up to Beringia and across (16kya).

Galen Rowell / Getty Images



### Pre-clovis Evidence :

Evidence of human presence in Southern Chile was found too soon after the retreat of ice sheets (14ka) that were blocking access into Eastern Beringia (modern Canada) from Asia which meant an earlier dispersal. DNA from skeletons in Colombia dated to 8kya suggests via Bayesian Coalescent Analysis that a small population originally isolated in eastern Beringia entered Americas around 16ka (before overland was possible).

Llamas, B. *et al.* (2016) 'Ancient mitochondrial DNA provides high-resolution time scale of the peopling of the Americas', *Science Advances*, 2(4). doi:[10.1126/sciadv.1501385](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.1501385).

## Multiple founding populations

People dispersed from Australasia by boat using Polynesian wayfaring techniques.

Hannah Hillam / INSTAGRAM



### Evidence :

It was found that some modern Amazonian Native Americans were descended from a founding population with more genetic similarity to indigenous Australians than North or Mesoamericans. This world indicate that South America was established by several distinct founding populations some journeying from the other side of the pacific.

Skoglund, P. *et al.* (2015) 'Genetic evidence for two founding populations of the Americas', *Nature*, 525(7567), pp. 104–108. doi:[10.1038/nature14895](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature14895).