

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Studies**

Historians and Scientific Evidence | "First Peoples" Background Essay

**2. What are primary sources?**

**1. How do historians write history when they don't have primary sources?**

Historians often use textual evidence, especially from reliable primary sources, to support their claims about the causes and effects of what happened in the past. What do historians do, however, when there aren't any written texts, and they have to rely on scientific data instead? An especially difficult question for historians is what they should do when scientists disagree with each other and use the same data to support conflicting theories.

The dilemma for historians is how to use the available scientific evidence, especially when newer evidence comes to light. Scientists often change their theories when fresh evidence appears and when evidence for old theories is shown to be unreliable. How do historians accommodate their conclusions about the past based on changing scientific evidence?

**3. How can new scientific evidence create a dilemma for historians?**

**4. What types of new evidence are historians utilizing when they investigate the first Americans?**

In this episode of *First Peoples*, different teams of scientists present new archaeological and genetic evidence collected from remote caves and ancient burial sites to paint a detailed picture of how and when Homo sapiens arose in Africa before migrating to each of the world's continents. Historians must weigh the scientists' claims based on fresh evidence including: DNA from ancient human bones, the distinctive shape of human bones and how they have changed over millennia (especially skulls and teeth), animal bones with arrow head or butchering marks, scraping tools, cave paintings, observations of present - day hunter - gatherer peoples, prehistoric artifacts (jewelry and leather clothing), and geological scale climate data. All of these different types of evidence support theories that both scientists and historians make about early human migration waves and exchange networks of early humans.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 1 - Lesson 1

Social Studies

Period \_\_\_\_\_

## First Peoples - Theories of Migration

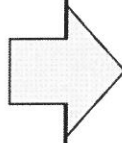
*The Clovis Peoples*

1st theory - Describe this theory.

When did this group arrive?

What evidence supports this theory?

Where was this evidence found?



*Coastal Migration*

2nd theory - Describe this theory.

When did this group arrive?

What evidence supports this theory?

Where was this evidence found?

