Famous Fossils: Clovis Points

Evidence of the first people in Washington

Clovis spear points found in East Wenatchee, ca. 1987

When did the first people get to Washington?

The evidence comes in the form of stone tools found near East Wenatchee Washington. Archeologists have estimated the age at about 11,000 to 12,000 years ago.

What direction did they come from to get to East Wenatchee?

Not all scientists agree.

One idea is they walked through the middle of what is now Canada.

Another idea is they used boats to move down the coastline.

Both ideas have supporting evidence.
Did the Clovis people cause mammoths and other prehistoric animals to go extinct?

Again not all scientists agree. Mammoth bones and tusks have been found with Clovis tools. Did they hunt the mammoth or did they get them from an already dead mammoth?

Did the Clovis stay in Washington or were they just passing through?

Once again scientists don’t all agree. Most Clovis sites are farther south, or east of Washington. Look at the map of Clovis sites and then ask a question you could research or investigate.

Who was Kennewick man? Was he one of the first people in Washington?

Kennewick man’s skeleton is thought to be 8,000 years old.

DNA test suggest he is more closely related to today’s native Americans than to the Clovis people.

What questions do you have about the first people in Washington?
Where Clovis stone tools have been found.

Do the sites suggest a walking pathway or a boating pathway?
Asking questions about stone tools.

Look at the collection of stone tools. If you were an archeologist what would you want to know about them? Ask a question that you investigate about these stone tools. Write your question here.