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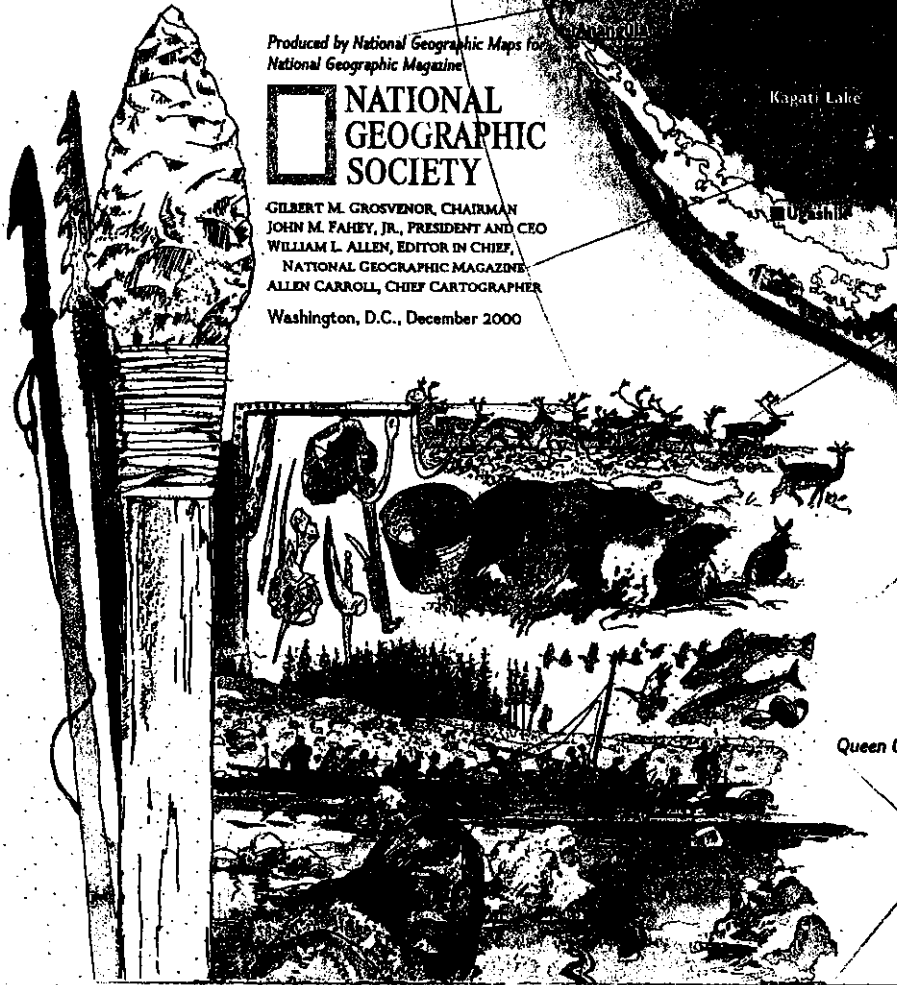
THE DAWN OF HUMANS

Peopling of the Americas

Produced by National Geographic Maps for
National Geographic Magazine



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ALLEN CARROLL, CHIEF CARTOGRAPHER
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ASSEMBLY NATURAL RES., AGRICULTURE & MINING
DATE: 3/24/03 ROOM: 3161 EXHIBIT I 1-4
SUBMITTED BY: Terri Robertson

STONE STORY

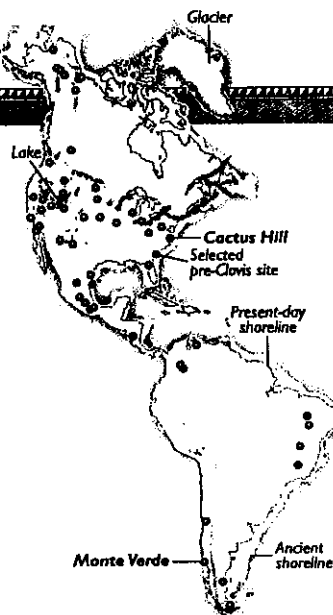
Most items in the early American toolkit were perishable; the human-modified objects unearthed by archaeologists are those likely to survive long burial—stone tools. Among the most common tools

found in digs dating to the last ice age are points and blades chipped from chert and other rocks. Some were hide-piercing projectile tips; others were used to cut or scrape. Many could be used for multiple tasks. The points,

says archaeologist Michael Collins, have an "elegant lethality." Ancient tools have been found from Alaska to Chile (major sites shown on maps below and right) where melting glaciers yielded land habitable by humans.

COOL TIMES

At the peak of the last ice age around 20,000 years ago, glaciers would have stopped humans from migrating along inland routes from Beringia, the land linking Asia to the Americas. Temperatures were about ten degrees cooler than they are now; sea levels were more than 400 feet lower. Sites of possible human habitation that may predate that time have been found in the Americas—all have been challenged.



CACTUS HILL, VIRGINIA; ABOUT 15,000 YEARS OLD; LENGTH 1.4 INCHES

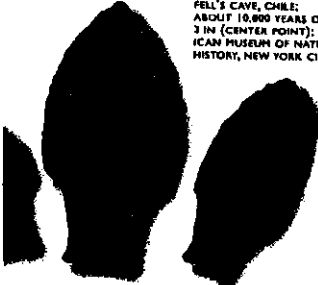
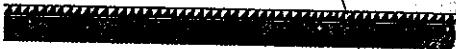
CACTUS HILL

Stone spearpoints are among the artifacts found in several levels at the sandy Cactus Hill dig, though not in the earliest, which may be 18,000 years old—a date questioned by some researchers.

SWART'S CATTLE
JARD, COLO-
RIDO; ABOUT
100 YEARS OLD;
N; SMITHSONIAN
STITUTION

OLSOM

The 1926 discovery of a Folsom
point between the ribs of an
extinct bison was the first defini-
te proof that humans lived in
the Americas during the Ice Age.
The groove, or flute, along the
base is a Folsom characteristic.

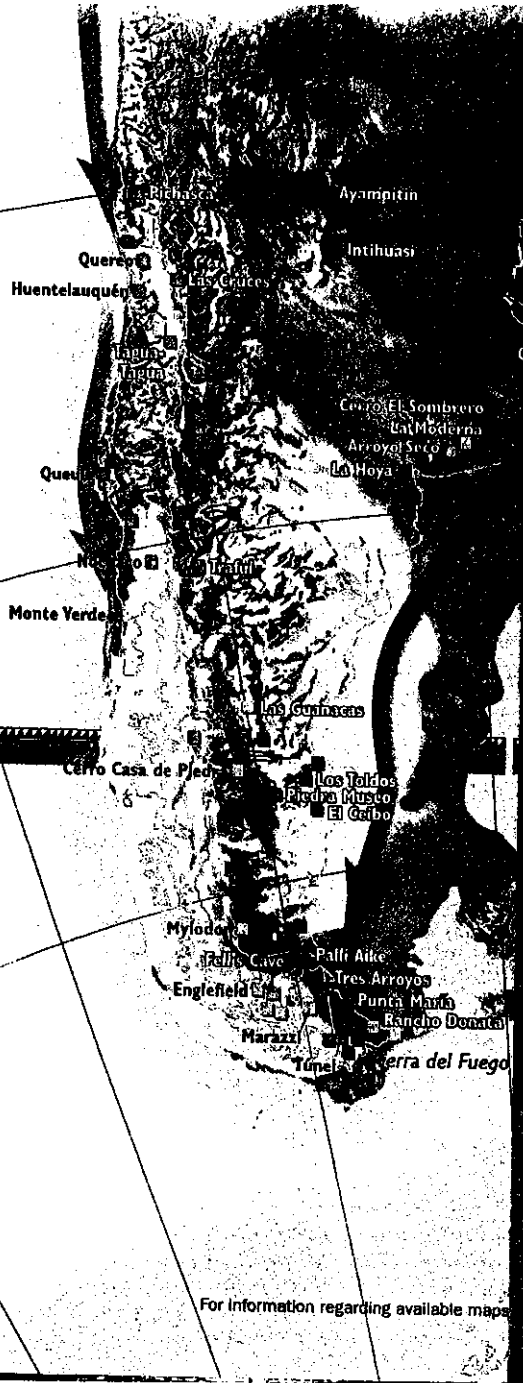


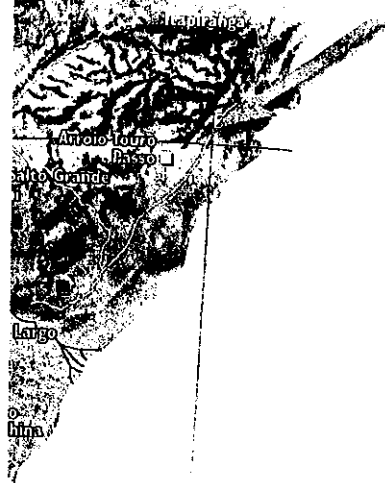
FELL'S CAVE, CHILE:
ABOUT 10,000 YEARS OLD;
3 IN (CENTER POINT); AMER-
ICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY, NEW YORK CITY

FELL'S CAVE
leaf-shaped
points nearly as old
as those found
in Chile. To
this is evidence
of rapid spread
of culture.

But could Ice Age
humans migrate
some 8,000 miles in
just a few hundred
years? Or were they
on the move in the
Americas much
earlier?

For information regarding available maps





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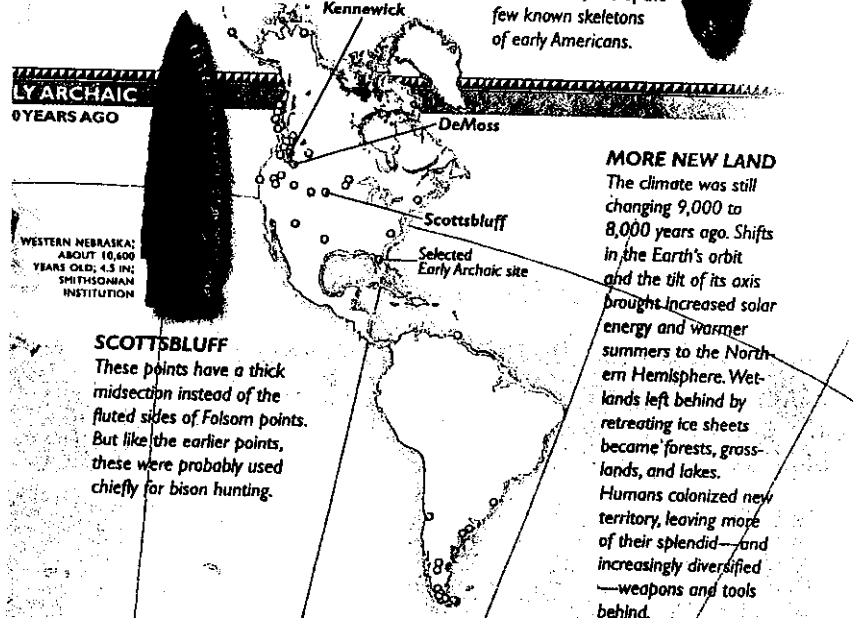
CASCADE

Willow-leaf-shaped Cascade points were made 9,500 to 5,500 years ago in the Pacific Northwest. One was found in 1996 embedded in the hip of Kennewick Man, one of the few known skeletons of early Americans.



DE MOSS, IDAHO; ABOUT 6,800 YEARS OLD; 3.4 IN.; PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN KELLY

EARLY ARCHAIC
8,000 YEARS AGO



WESTERN NEBRASKA; ABOUT 10,600 YEARS OLD; 4.5 IN.; SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

SCOTTSBLUFF
These points have a thick midsection instead of the fluted sides of Folsom points. But like the earlier points, these were probably used chiefly for bison hunting.

MORE NEW LAND

The climate was still changing 9,000 to 8,000 years ago. Shifts in the Earth's orbit and the tilt of its axis brought increased solar energy and warmer summers to the Northern Hemisphere. Wetlands left behind by retreating ice sheets became forests, grasslands, and lakes. Humans colonized new territory, leaving more of their splendid—and increasingly diversified—weapons and tools behind.