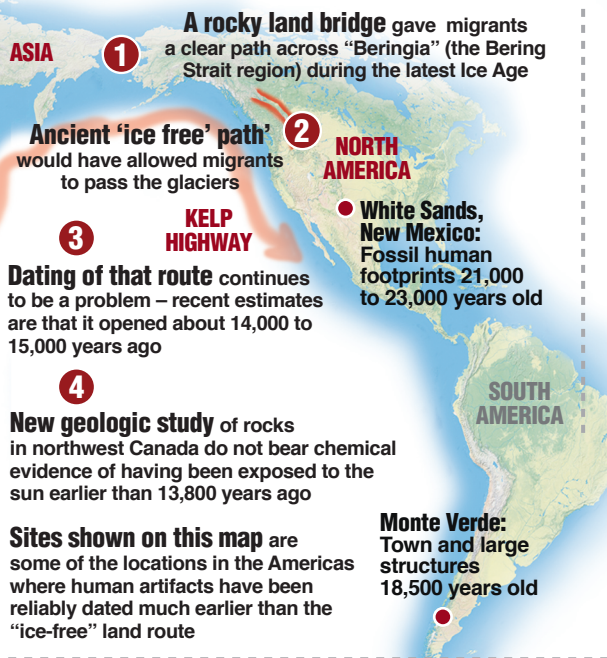


New evidence for ancient sea route

When and how did ancient Asians first reach the Americas? The top 20th century theory pointed to an ice-free corridor into North America. Newer facts indicate a coastal route.



The rejected 'trans-Pacific' hypothesis

An alternative theory on these migrations is the possibility that Pacific islanders sailed across to South America

The 1947 Kon-Tiki expedition tested that hypothesis, which later historical and genetic data disproved



Kon-Tiki raft

Polynesians perfected sailboat building and navigation long ago, allowing them to make long open sea voyages

Sea travel along the Kelp Highway

How was the long voyage to the Americas possible?

EXHIBIT A: Ancient seafaring

Few wooden boats can last for thousands of years, but evidence has been found on East Asian islands of ancient sea travel

EXHIBIT B: Seaweed beds

rich in fish and wildlife ran from Japan to Baja California

Studies since 2007 show that ancient travelers could have followed this Kelp Highway past Alaska and far south along the American coast