

Key words

Settlement of North America

- At the time of first settlement there were no written records
- The history is reconstructed using artifacts; physical objects left behind by humans
- Using this evidence archaeologists have proposed hypotheses

The Bering Strait Hypothesis

- 32 000 years ago during a period of glaciation or ice age
- Glaciers covered much of North America causing sea levels to drop
- Beringia - A land bridge between Asia and North America was exposed.
- Nomadic hunters followed game(Caribou, Bison) into North America
- Further migration was not possible due to glaciation

Further Migrations – Ice free Corridor

- 12 600 years ago an ice free corridor emerged as the climate began to warm
- The corridor allowed populations to migrate south and occupy areas of North and South America that were ice free.

Further Migrations – Coastal Migration

- Artifacts were discovered in North America south of the area of glaciation pre date the ice free corridor.
- This suggests that North America was populated before the ice free corridor emerged.
- Scientists have proposed a migration along the Pacific coast.
- Populations migrated along the coast by boat hunting sea mammals

The First Occupation of Quebec 12 000 years ago

- As the climate continued to warm ice melted exposing new land
- Approx. 12 000 years ago nomadic hunters occupied the southern parts of present day Quebec
- As glaciers continued to recede populations migrated further north

The Inuit -The First Occupation of the Quebec Arctic

- Approx. 1 000 years ago the ancestors of the Inuit occupied the far northern regions of Quebec
- The migrations followed the arctic coast in skin boats, hunting sea mammals and land animals such as caribou.

Summary