The First Americans?

When did humans arrive?

Adaptations differ & change with habitat

First Sites in North

- Siberia = 30,000-20,000 bp
  - Upper Paleolithic
- Alaska = 15,000 bp

Discoveries in 1920’s

- Extinct fauna with artifacts
- Paleo-Indian cultures

Folsom bison hunters

- Fluted points
  - Great Basin Sites

Paleoindian sites

- Clovis Culture
  - Fluted points
  - Pressure flaking
  - 11,500 bp

via Asia

- Bering Straits
  - Land-bridge
  - 30,000-10,000 bp
Half species now extinct

Overkill hypothesis
- Did Clovis hunters drive the large game animals extinct?

Explain extinctions?

Folsom bison hunters
- Fluted points
  - Great Basin Sites

Folsom Bison Kill Sites
- Dune traps

Folsom Bison Kill Sites
- Arroyo traps
Mass kills
- Fall/winter hunts
  - Large groups

Paleoindian campsites
- Lindenmeier site (pp 130-131)
  - Living site (rare)
    - Diversity of large & small game
    - Lots of flaking debris and different kinds of tools
  - Spatial distribution of debris
    - Different styles of point
    - Different sources of obsidian
    - 2 social groups?

Other early sites?
- Meadowcroft Rock Shelter, PA
- Monte Verde, Chile (Ch 3)

Meadowcroft Rock Shelter

Old dates?
- 16 Dates:
  - Early Archaic levels
    - 8000-9000bp
  - Paleo-Indian
    - 11,000 - 17,000bp
  - Paleo-Indian?
    - 18,000-21,500bp
Meadowcroft controversy
- Carbon samples contaminated by coal?
- Artifacts not associated with dated materials?

Monte Verde, Chile
- Images pp 126-129
- Levels in Peat bog
- 12,500 bp

Paleoindian questions
- Not everyone was a big game hunter!
- Burden of proof?
  - Artifacts, In situ, Good dates
- Ancestors?