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Canadian History 11

– Unit 1: Globalization –





Globalization – Key Questions

What has been Canada's place in the community of nations, and what should Canada's role be?

- ◎ **What are the traditional and emerging theories about the peopling of the Americas?**
- ◎ What were the effects of European contact and colonization on Aboriginal peoples?
- ◎ How was Canada's development influenced by evolving relationships with France, Britain, and the US?
- ◎ What roles did WWI play in shaping Canada's identity as a nation?
- ◎ In what ways did WWII shape Canada's identity as a nation?
- ◎ How did Canada's global relationship evolve during the late 20th C?



The Peopling of the Americas

In order for earliest Paleolithic inhabitants to migrate into North America and survive, several preconditions were necessary:

- ◎ Control of fire
- ◎ Tailored clothing
- ◎ Social organization and cooperation
- ◎ Understanding of the environment (animal, plant)
- ◎ Knowledge of hunting techniques
- ◎ Skills to process, preserve, and store food
- ◎ Technology to produce chipped stone spear points and sharp cutting tools

The Peopling of the Americas

Traditional Theories

1. Earliest inhabitants came to North America from Siberia/Asia during the last Ice Age via Beringia (an exposed land bridge caused by low water levels by the Bering Strait)

- *this theory is most widely accepted

- *70 000 - 14 000 years ago

- *served as a highway for animals - humans followed

- *people travelled south after animals, explains why the earliest settlements are found in the south (warmer climates attracted animals and thus humans)





2. Earliest inhabitants travelled by sea (Pacific)

*criticisms - unlikely due to unfavourable ocean currents and wind patterns, no evidence of coastal settlements

*support - even primitive boats could have made the crossing, evidence is now underwater

3. North Atlantic crossing

4. Northern crossing

- Both unlikely due to winds, distance, ice choked oceans, limited seafaring technology for that distance



Problems/Challenges

- ◎ Bones are not well preserved in North American soil, have to use artifacts for dating instead
- ◎ Physical and genetic data links Aboriginal peoples to Asian population, supports the theory that earliest inhabitants migrated
 - ◎ However, Ojibwa have European genetic lineage, suggesting more than a single origin theory, supporting the idea of multiple migrations
- ◎ Disagreement about WHEN - require artifacts found in sealed deposits with organic materials (to make radiocarbon dating possible), evidence of styled artifacts that are distinct
 - ◎ 4 Canadian sites confirm humans in Canada 10 000 years ago

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“The two Americas are the world’s only continents where the evidence of early human presence has been based on artifacts, not skeletal remains.”

- Olive Dickason, Canadian historian, *Canada’s First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times*



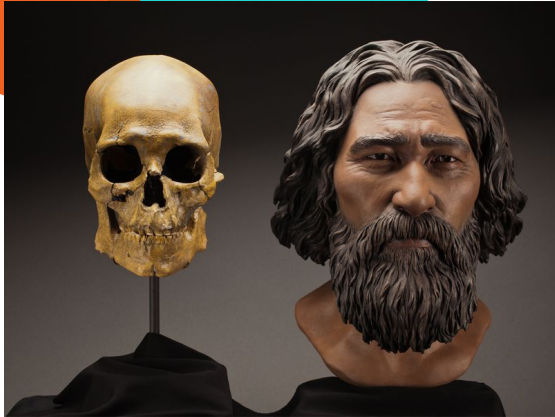
10 000 years ago...

- ◎ Drastic climate change in NA - ice sheets begin melting, sea levels rise, Beringia land bridge flooded, wind and rain patterns shift, forests replace grasslands, some animals become extinct (mammoths, American camels, large bison)
 - ◎ This allows for northern migration
 - ◎ Caribou, for example, moved to the edges of glacial lakes because cold winds alleviated mosquitoes and black flies
 - ◎ Conditions allow for agriculture and more settled lifestyles
 - ◎ Increase in food supply = Increase in population

Controversy

Kennewick Man

- ◎ Human skeletal remains dated at 9200 years BCE
- ◎ Discovered in the Columbia River in Washington in 1996
- ◎ Well preserved, anthropologists eager to unlock the info contained in his bones and DNA
- ◎ Aboriginal groups claimed he was an ancestor, asked to have the remains returned to them for burial
- ◎ US Dept of the Interior ruled in Sept 2000 that Kennewick Man belonged to Aboriginal peoples
- ◎ Example of clash between physical anthropology and cultural and religious values





Further Information

[Kennewick Man, The Ancient One - Burke Museum](#)

[The Kennewick Man Finally Freed to Share his Secrets - Smithsonian](#)

[First Peoples - Kennewick Man - PBS](#)

Question to consider:

Is it morally acceptable for archaeologists and anthropologists to study human remains to learn more about the past? Your response should include specific references to the links above to support your position.



Aboriginal Origin Theories

Many Aboriginal groups in Canada reject theories that they are descendants from people who originated on other continents.

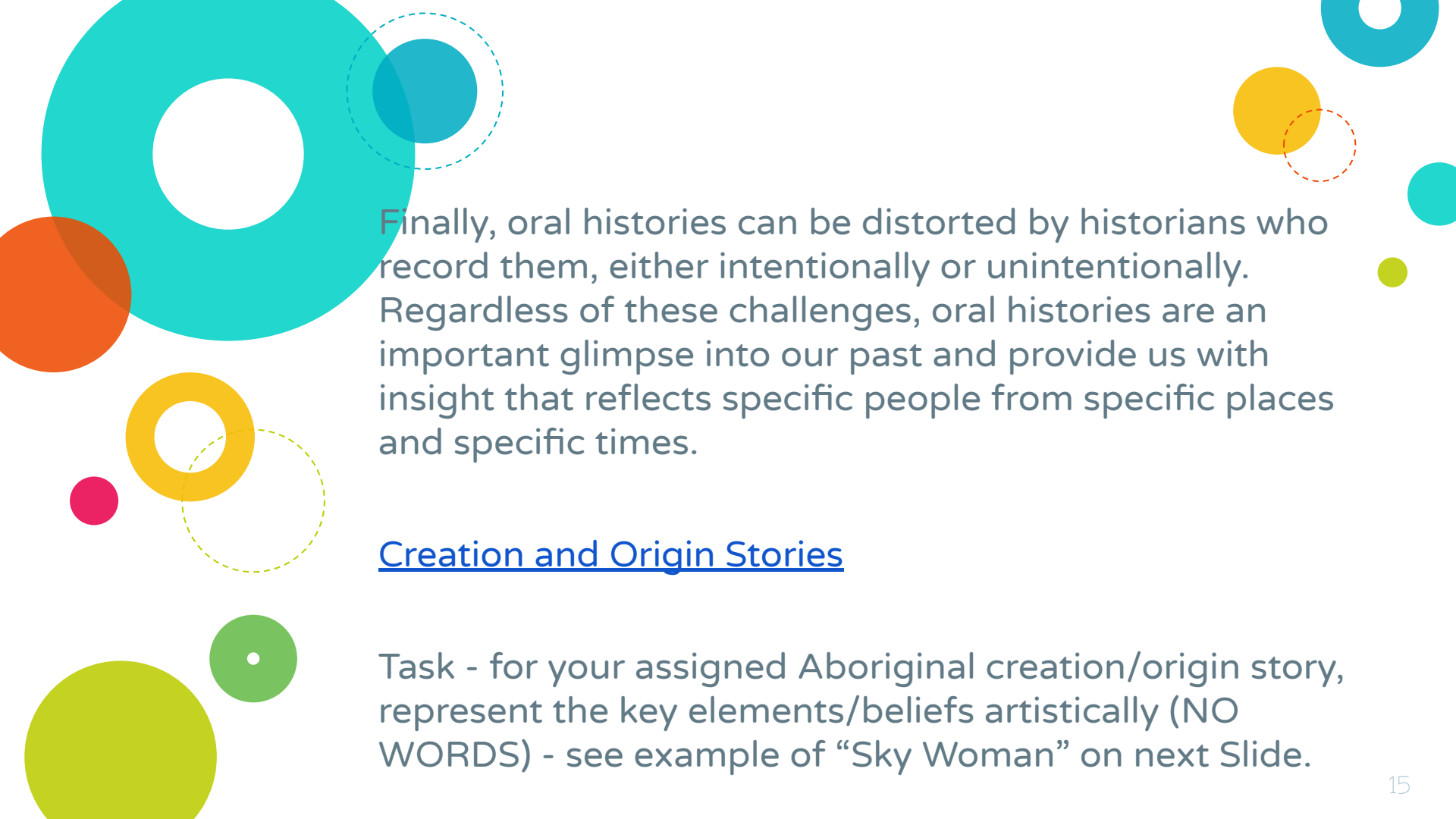
It is important to note that different Aboriginal groups have different beliefs and understandings of their origins. There is great diversity in Aboriginal origin and creation stories. However, one central element in these histories is a fundamental attachment to the land.

“I have lived here since the world began” - Mi’kmaq oral tradition



Challenges of oral histories

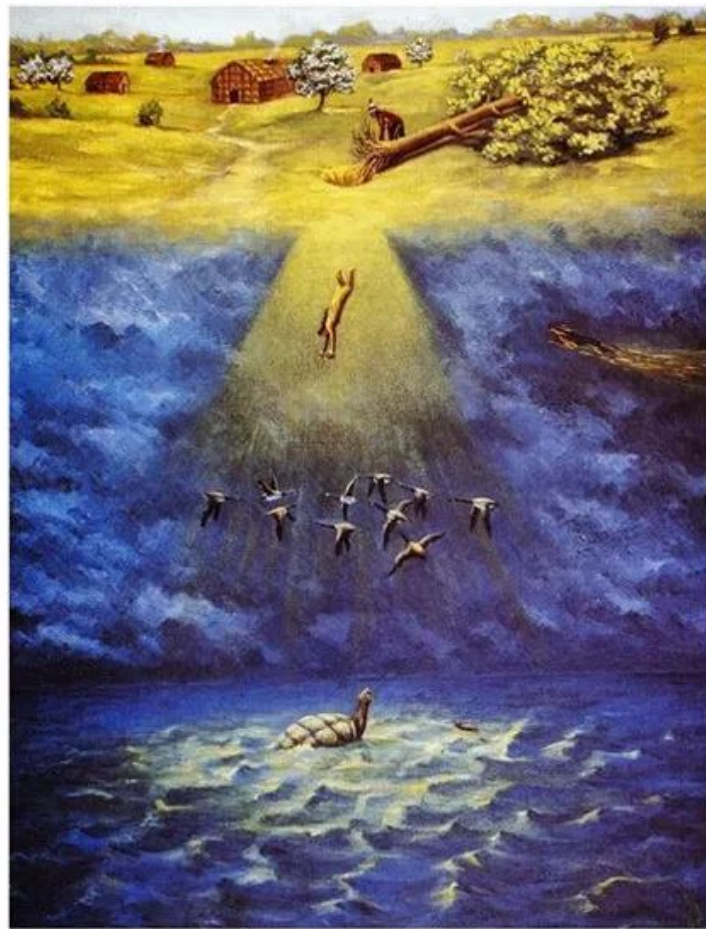
According to US historian James Axtell, there are some serious challenges presented by oral traditions. Firstly, our knowledge of the past is shaped by contemporary issues, so we have little perception of the past except in terms of the present. As such, views are easily projected back in time. Secondly, oral histories can be subject to structural amnesia, meaning that elements that no longer have relevance for contemporary society can be forgotten or transformed. Thirdly, oral histories depend on human memory, which is fallible and can be lost to mistakes or death.



Finally, oral histories can be distorted by historians who record them, either intentionally or unintentionally. Regardless of these challenges, oral histories are an important glimpse into our past and provide us with insight that reflects specific people from specific places and specific times.

Creation and Origin Stories

Task - for your assigned Aboriginal creation/origin story, represent the key elements/beliefs artistically (NO WORDS) - see example of “Sky Woman” on next Slide.





Response Question

What theory or oral tradition of how the Americas were peopled do you think is most likely? What makes you think so? Your response should also include why you think the other theories are less likely.