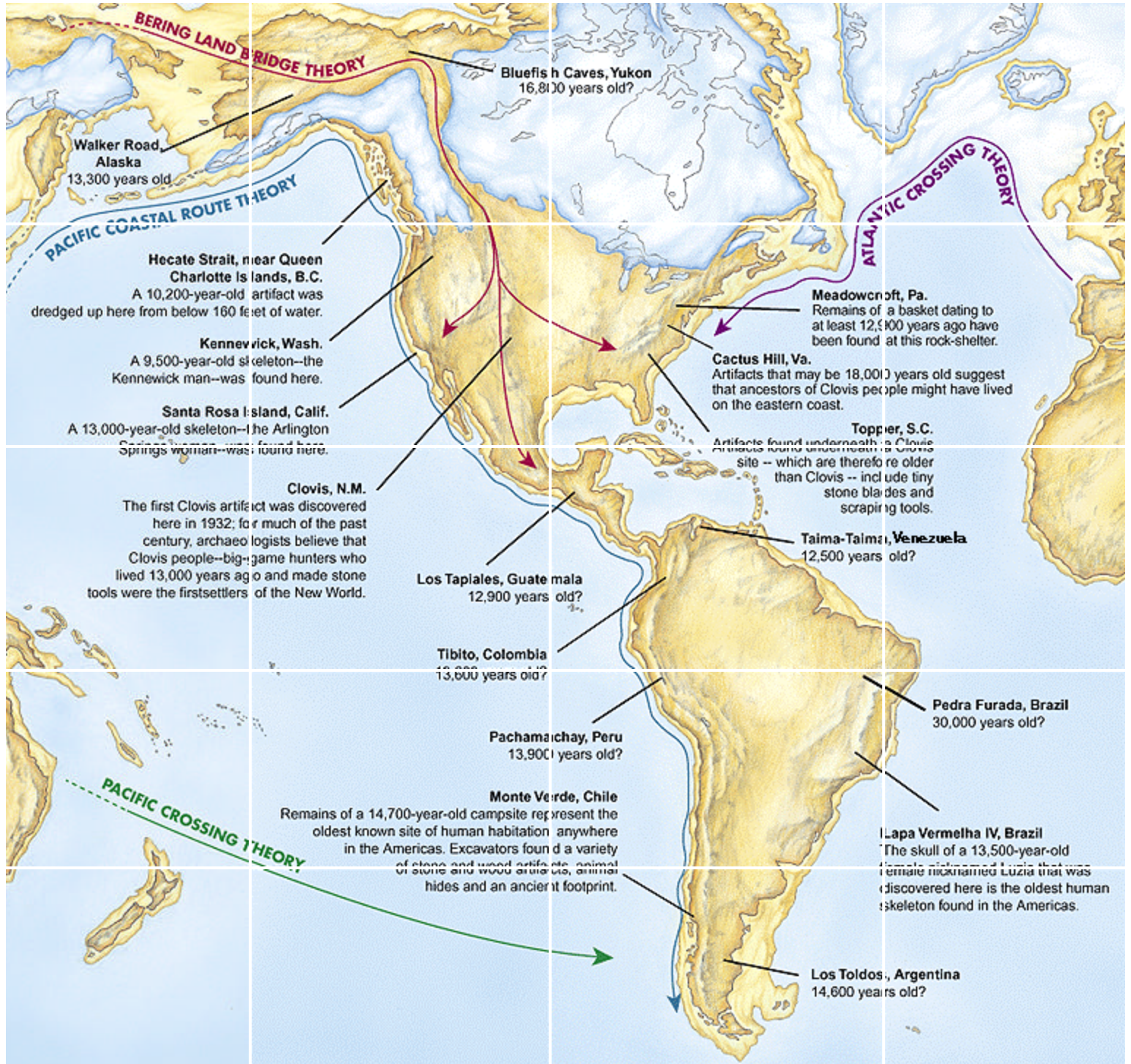


Early Sites in the Americas



BERING LAND BRIDGE THEORY Migrants from northeastern Asia crossed the land bridge between Siberia and North America, which existed during the last Ice Age, when sea levels were much lower. The settlers moved into Canada through an ice-free corridor between the two glaciers that covered the northern half of the continent at the time. This route funneled them into the U.S.; they advanced quickly through Central and South America. For the past several decades this has been the prevailing theory of how people reached the New World.

PACIFIC COASTAL ROUTE THEORY As an alternative to the Bering land bridge theory, many researchers have begun to consider the idea that explorers from southeastern Asia followed the coastline in small boats. Scientists believe this mode of travel could have enabled the early settlers to reach the tip of South America in as little as 100 years.

PACIFIC CROSSING THEORY Inhabitants of Australia and the islands of the South Pacific might have continued traveling east, eventually reaching South America. Evidence for this scenario is scarce.

ATLANTIC CROSSING THEORY Residents of the Iberian peninsula may have ventured into the Atlantic in boats, following the edge of the glaciers that then covered the North Sea. This theory remains tentative, relying on an observed similarity between Clovis spearpoints and European Solutrean technology from between 16,000 and 24,000 years ago.