Clues Across Beringia

Use archaeological evidence to investigate ancient movement.

SS24.7.4 "Explain how artifacts and other archaeological findings provide evidence of the nature and movement of prehistoric groups of people. 4a Differentiate among primary, secondary..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline clues about how people lived, circle clues about why they might have moved, and number the three kinds of sources so you can compare what each tells us.

A Blade, a Campsite, a Possible Route

1. A chipped stone blade lies in a layer of soil at an ancient campsite in Alaska. Archaeologists record its exact location before lifting it. They also find flakes left from shaping stone and charcoal from a fire. Together, the blade, flakes, and charcoal suggest that people made tools and stayed at the site. The soil layer and tests on the charcoal can help estimate when the camp was used. A blade alone cannot tell us the travelers' names or the route they took.

2. During the last Ice Age, so much water was locked in ice sheets that sea level fell. Dry land connected northeastern Asia and Alaska across a region called Beringia. Some groups moved into North America through this region, though researchers also study possible coastal routes. Cold, dry conditions could push families to seek better food supplies, while areas with available plants and animals could pull them onward. People could adapt by making warm clothing, using fires, and changing where they hunted. Later, rising seas covered the land connection.

3. Suppose another campsite in northeastern Asia holds similar blades from about the same period. Comparing the sites may support an idea that people carried toolmaking knowledge between regions, but similar blades alone do not prove a direct journey. The blade itself is a primary source, direct evidence from the past. An archaeologist's article interpreting the finds is a secondary source. An encyclopedia summary of several articles is a tertiary source. Researchers compare these sources with dates, locations, and climate evidence before making a careful claim about migration.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What do the blade, stone flakes, and charcoal together suggest about life at the Alaska campsite?

2. If similar blades are found at the two campsites, what might they suggest about movement? What can they not prove?

3. How would a researcher use the blade, an archaeologist's article, and an encyclopedia summary differently?

4. How could Ice Age conditions both open a route and give people a reason to move?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine archaeologists find matching clay beads at two camps beside a drying lake, and the second camp dates to a later time. In four or five sentences, explain a possible move between the camps, give one push factor and one pull factor, and explain what the beads can and cannot prove.

ANSWER KEY

Clues Across Beringia

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline clues about how people lived, circle clues about why they might have moved, and number the three kinds of sources so you can compare what each tells us. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do the blade, stone flakes, and charcoal together suggest about life at the Alaska campsite?	**People made stone tools and stayed at the campsite, where they used a fire.**
2	If similar blades are found at the two campsites, what might they suggest about movement? What can they not prove?	**They may suggest that toolmaking knowledge moved between the regions. They cannot prove that the same people traveled directly between the sites.**
3	How would a researcher use the blade, an archaeologist's article, and an encyclopedia summary differently?	**The blade provides direct evidence. The article interprets the findings, while the encyclopedia summarizes information from several articles.**
4	How could Ice Age conditions both open a route and give people a reason to move?	**Lower sea levels exposed land connecting Asia and Alaska. Cold, dry conditions could reduce food supplies and push people toward areas with more plants and animals.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The later camp's matching beads suggest that people or their ideas may have moved between the camps. A drying lake could push people away from the first camp because drinking water became scarce. A reliable spring near the second camp could pull them there. The beads cannot prove that the same people lived at both camps, since the beads might have been traded.

Accept other reasonable explanations of how artifacts show daily life or possible movement. For the open task, look for a plausible push factor, a distinct pull factor, and a clear limit on what matching beads can prove.