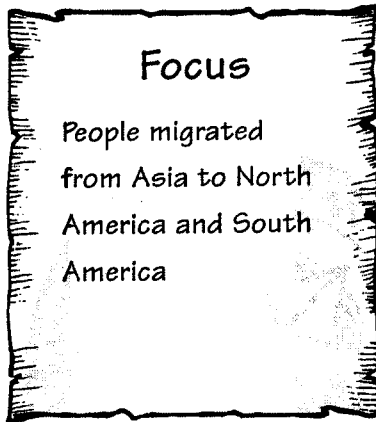


Human Migration to North and South America

Brief #1



People did not live in North America and South America thousands of years ago. During this time the temperature on Earth dropped. **This caused thick sheets of ice, or glaciers, to form.** These glaciers covered the land. **This period of time is called the Ice Age.**

During the Ice Age the ocean levels also dropped. Land that was hidden under the ocean could now be seen above it. One place this happened was the Bering Strait. **A strait is a small, narrow body of water.** The Bering Strait separates the continent of Asia from the continent of North America.

The Bering Strait froze about 40,000 years ago. The land under the water could now be seen above it. This land formed a bridge. This bridge joined the two continents. Scientists believe that people who lived in Asia crossed the land bridge. They entered North America. Other scientists think that these people came to the Americas by boat. **When people move from one place to live in another it is called migration.** These people hunted the woolly mammoth. The woolly mammoth was a big animal. It was a lot like an elephant. The mammoth provided people with the things they needed to survive.

- The flesh of the animal was eaten.
- The skins of the mammoth were used to make clothing and shelter.
- The bones and tusks of the animal were used to make tools.

Hunting the mammoth may be the reason people came to the Americas.

