

GENETIC INSIGHTS ABOUT THE FIRST SOUTH AMERICANS

Two studies published in late 2018, one led by David Reich of Harvard University (results depicted in cool colors) and the other by Eske Willerslev of the University of Copenhagen (results in warm colors), compared ancient and modern genomes from across the Americas to infer that there were multiple waves of migration from the northern continent to the southern one.

-  A wave of migration made up of people genetically related to the famous Clovis culture of North America enters the continent sometime after 17,500 BP.
-  A wave of migrants begins to replace the first wave at around 9,000 BP.
-  A lineage with genetic links to ancient people on the California Channel Islands begins to expand in the Andes by 4,200 BP.
-  A first wave of migration occurred around 14,000 BP.
-  Later, people who had diverged from North American groups and spent time in Central America migrated south.