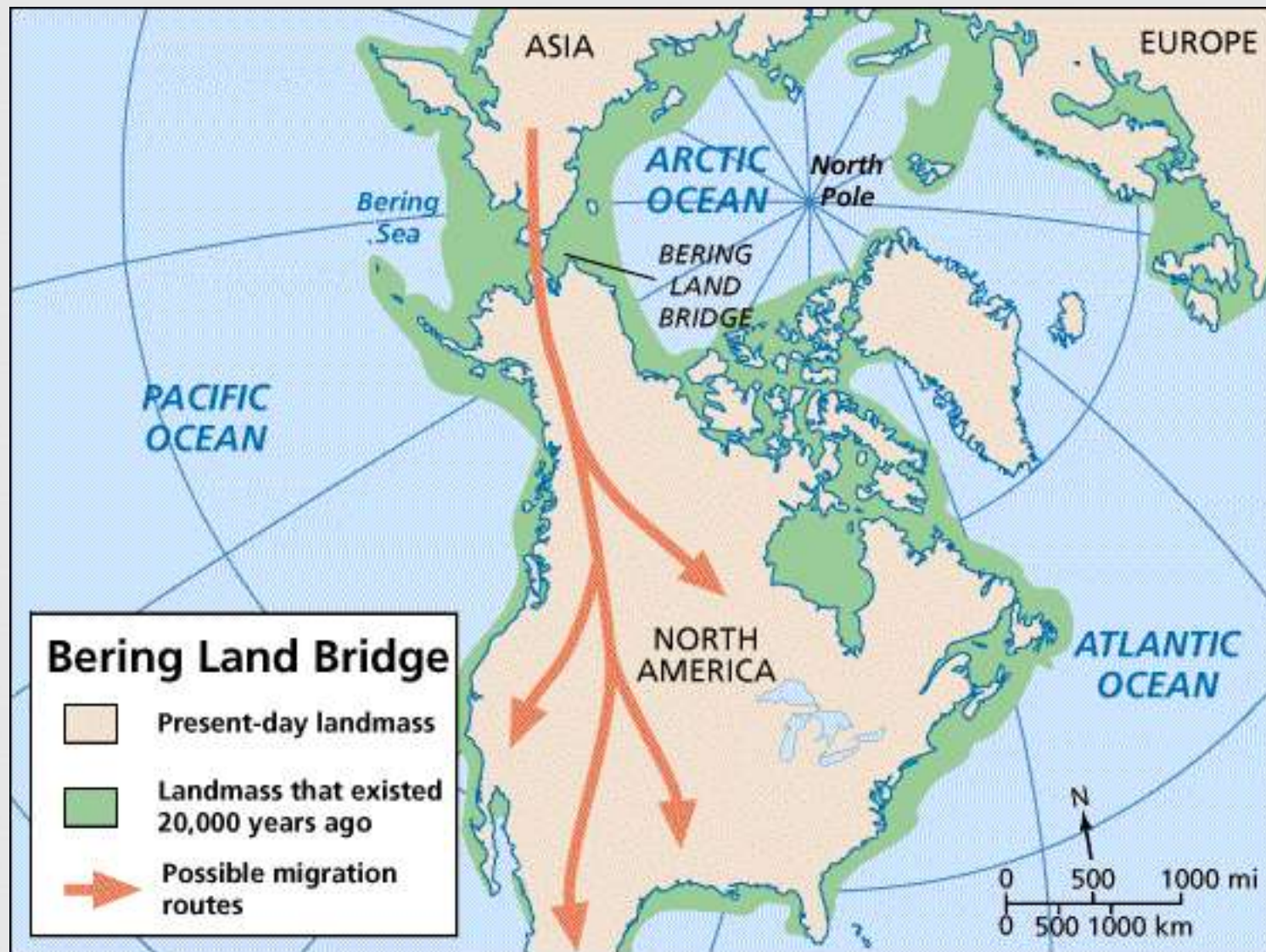


Peopling of the Americas – European Contact



Out first notes this semester!



“During the late Wisconsin glacial episode, so much of the Earth's water supply was locked up in huge ice masses that the sea level fell 280 to 350 feet below today's level, exposing vast areas of land formerly under water. The result here was a continuous land bridge that stretched between Siberia and Alaska. Most archaeologists agree that it was across this Bering Land Bridge, also called Beringia, that humans first passed from Asia to populate the Americas.”

-Bering Land Bridge Land Preserve Travel Guide



When?

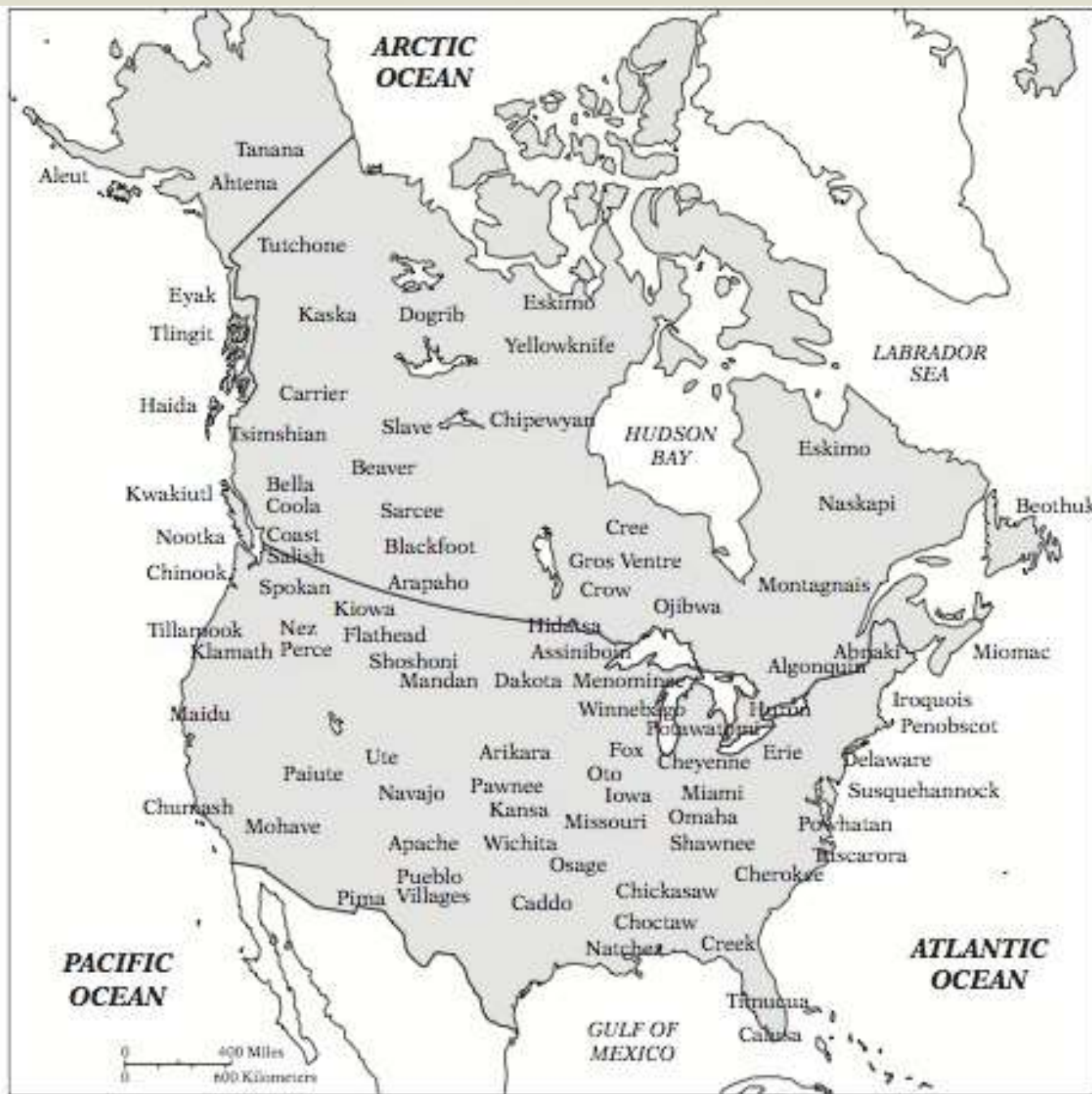


- ❧ Scientists have doubts about when exactly people were to have crossed the 1000-mile-long land bridge stretching between Siberia and Alaska during the last ice age.
- ❧ Scientific evidence suggests it must have been earlier than ~10,500 years ago, when the land bridge flooded from melting glaciers.
- ❧ Evidence suggests the land bridge initially formed between 25,000-20,000 years ago.
- ❧ Additionally, scientists have proposed that early people may have traveled along the Pacific coastline by sea toward the southernmost tip of South America.

Then...



- ❧ After these people spread throughout the North and South American continents, many distinct cultures emerged.
- ❧ The resources in their areas shaped their technology and values.
- ❧ Complex social structures and sophisticated trade routes had been in place for hundreds of years before the arrival of Europeans.



Native American Tribes Before the Arrival of the Europeans