

In 1996, human skeletal remains over 9,000 years old were found on the banks of the Columbia River near the town of Kennewick, Washington. Dubbed “Kennewick Man,” these bones became an object of bitter contention, raising complex issues concerning race, scientific investigation, and the rights of indigenous peoples. At first, the discovery attracted little attention, but then James Chatters, the anthropologist who first examined the bones, gave a press conference announcing his findings. Among these was the claim, soon taken up by the media, that the bones suggested the man had been “Caucasoid” and therefore more similar to modern Europeans than Native Americans. This claim raised the sensational possibility that the first people to settle in North America may have actually been of European origin; although Chatters later denied that this had been his intention.



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(35) The discovery of Kennewick Man came to attract media attention because

1. the results of the first examination of the remains suggested that Native Americans settled in North America much earlier than previously believed.
2. it was presented in a way that seemed to challenge the accepted view regarding the ethnic identity of North America’s first inhabitants.
3. scientists unintentionally misled the media into thinking the bones were more ancient than they actually turned out to be.
4. James Chatters made the controversial claim that although the remains were those of a European settler, they should nevertheless be handed over to Native Americans.

Further Questions

1) Why was the skeleton called the “Kennewick Man”?

The skeleton was found on the banks of the Columbia River near the town of Kennewick, Washington.

2) What possibility was raised after Chatters claimed the bones suggested the man had been Caucasoid?

The claim was raised that the first people to settle in North America may have actually been of European origin.

Native Americans quickly claimed Kennewick Man as one of their ancestors, and a number of tribes applied, under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), a federal law passed in 1990, to have the bones returned to them. The U.S. government, which had jurisdiction over the remains because they were found on federal land, announced its intention to do just this. Chatters, meanwhile, fearing such a move, had contacted various anthropologists and archaeologists opposed to NAGPRA, which they saw as prioritizing the demands of Native Americans over scientific research. Chatters and other scientists sued the government for the rights to examine the bones

39 further.

Further Questions English Teachers On Call

40 3) What did Native Americans do about the Kennewick man?

41 *They claimed he was one of their ancestors and applied to have the bones*
42 *returned to them.*

43 4) Why do anthropologists oppose NAGPRA?

44 *They see it as prioritizing the demands of Native Americans over scientific*
45 *research.*

46 Although many observers view the case as a simple clash between objective
47 science and political correctness, the reality was more complex. Historically,
48 Native Americans have a good reason to be suspicious of anthropologists, who
49 in the 19th century simply removed—often against the wishes of local
50 communities—an enormous number of Native American bones from sacred
51 burial grounds. This was done in an attempt to trace the physical evolution of
52 different races and had often gone hand in hand with claims that the “white
53 race” was superior. Indeed, it was the recognition of the injustice of this “grave
54 robbing” that led to NAGPRA. Today, many anthropologists strongly support
55 the law, and regard claims that race can be determined on the basis of bones or
skull shape as false and outmoded.

56 (36) What prompted the creation of NAGPRA?

57 1. A desire to ensure the remains of Native Americans would never again
58 receive the disrespectful treatment they had been given in the 19th century.

59 2. A belief that scientists should be given a say in how ancient remains are
60 handled, even in cases where they have been returned to Native Americans

61 3. A need to provide a set of legal guidelines anthropologists could use to help
62 them confirm the race of people whose remains they found in Native American
63 burial grounds.

64 4. A hope of persuading the public that while the tragic history of Native
65 Americans should not be forgotten, political correctness should have legal
66 limits.

Further Questions English Teachers On Call

67 5) What did anthropologists do in the 19th century

68 *They simply removed an enormous number of Native American bones from*
69 *sacred burial grounds.*

70 6) Why did the government pass the NAGPRA law?

71 *They passed the law in recognition of the injustice of the “grave robbing”.*

72 Years of legal wrangling followed Kennewick Man’s discovery. During the
73 initial trial, the government carried out its own scientific tests on the remains.
74 It concluded that although a physical connection could not be shown, they
75 should be considered as “culturally affiliated” to the Umatilla tribe based on
76 information passed down by oral tradition and other circumstantial evidence,
77 such as the location of the discovery. The judge rejected this reasoning and

78 ruled against the government, insisting stronger evidence of a link was needed.
79 The Umatilla appealed in a series of further court cases, but were eventually
80 forced to give up in 2004, allowing the scientists access to the bones. Although
81 the scientists' examinations have yet to yield clear results, their victory means
82 that in the future, it will be more difficult for Native Americans to claim
83 remains dating from before the time Europeans are widely thought to have
84 arrived in the Americas—a result the tribes see as subversive of the original
85 intention of NAGPRA itself.

86 **(37)** Why will Native Americans find it harder to gain possession of remains
87 like those of Kennewick Man in the future?

- 88 1. The success of scientists in proving Kennewick Man was of European
89 ancestry had thrown serious doubt on many past claims made by Native
90 Americans.
- 91 2. As the oral histories of Native American tribes are gradually forgotten,
92 courts will be unable to rule on which tribes should receive such remains..
- 93 3. The ruling in the Kennewick Man case set a precedent that makes it
94 necessary to provide definite proof that such remains are of Native American
95 origins.
- 96 4. Changes made to NAGPRA after the Umatilla tribe was denied the remains
97 indicate that the U.S. government has revised its stance regarding the rights of
98 Native Americans.

Further Questions

99 **7)** What did the scientific test on the remains the government conducted
100 conclude?

101 *It concluded that although a physical connection could not be shown, they*
102 *should be considered as “culturally affiliated” to the Umatilla tribe.*

103 **8)** What effect does the judge's ruling have for Native Americans?

104 *It means that in the future it will be more difficult for Native Americans to*
105 *claim remains dating from before the time Europeans are widely thought to*
106 *have arrived in the Americas.*

107 解答: (35) 2 (36) 1 (37) 3



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