



Last Million Years: A History of the Pleistocene in North America

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The natural history interest in the Northern Pleistocene has been driven by its record of climatic fluctuations of the last million years. Without this record it is hardly possible to build the consistent global models of climate change and understand the development of the arcto-alpine biota, origin of great river systems, prehistoric human migrations and many other phenomena. This is the reason of the growing attention of the international community to the surficial sediments of the Russian North which resulted in several collaborative research projects lately performed on the Northern Pleis...Â€ investigators from Western Europe and America have been over the last 25 years attracted to studies of the Russian Northern Pleistocene. In Europe and North America, the Holocene is subdivided into Preboreal, Boreal, Atlantic, Subboreal, and Subatlantic stages of the Blyttâ€Sernander time scale. There are many regional subdivisions for the Upper or Late Pleistocene; usually these represent locally recognized cold (glacial) and warm (interglacial) periods. The last glacial period ends with the cold Younger Dryas substage. v. t. e. The Late Pleistocene is a geochronological age of the Pleistocene Epoch and is associated with Upper Pleistocene (or Tarantian) stage Pleistocene series rocks.Â€â€ The Rise of the Epidemic in Late Pleistocene Hominins. â€² 02 - 2 The Great Ice Age - Pleistocene Glaciation. â€² Video Snippet: Late Pleistocene Hominins of Continental Asia. Transcription. Contents. 1 North America. 2 Notes.

Pleistocene (Pleistocene) - epoch, which began 2,588 million years ago and ended 11,700 years ago. It is preceded by the Pliocene epoch, and is a follower of the Holocene epoch. The Pleistocene fauna of North America included: giant sloths (Megatherium), flat-faced bears (Arctodus simus), California tapirs, peccaries, American lion (Panthera (Leo) atrox), a giant jaguar (Panthera onca augusta), a giant condor, Miracinonyx, saber-toothed cats (Smilodon fatalis), (Homotherium), an "awful" wolf (Canis dirus), two species of bison, Tylopoda, horses, mammoths (Mammuthus columbi), (Mammuth About 30 million years ago North America began to override the East Pacific Rise, an oceanic spreading ridge. This activity placed a progressively longer segment of the coast in contact with the plate west of the ridge. Although the geologic processes that shaped the North American continent have been so important that the 19th-century American historian Frederick Jackson Turner once contended that the life of America flowed down the arteries of its geology, the continent nevertheless is mainly seen through its climate, soils, and vegetation. The entire shield was under successive ice sheets during the Pleistocene Epoch (about 2,600,000 to 11,700 years ago), and its high eastern rim still contains relics of these glacial advances and retreats. Pleistocene North America is known for its impressive megafauna populations. The more well-known are the woolly mammoths and mastodons. North America was also inhabited by American lions, North American llamas, and giant ground sloths, all of which are extinct today. The next earliest human species is Homo Erectus . The first H. Erectus evolved around 2 million years ago and the last of them did not die out until sometime within the last 100,000 years. Archaeological and paleontological evidence suggest that they may have been the first humans to use culture as a wholesale approach to adapt to their environment. They were more advanced tool users and were also much taller than previous hominins, about six feet (1.83 meters) tall. The Pleistocene stage or epoch was a long period of time. It stretched from 2.6 million years ago to 11,700 years ago. The Pleistocene followed the Pliocene. It is the first stage of the Quaternary period, and is followed by the present Holocene. The Pleistocene was a time of ice ages: cold glacial periods with shorter, warmer, interglacials. Ice ages are when the world becomes much colder for a long time. In much of the 20th century geologists counted four "major" ice ages. Nowadays several more are The Pleistocene Epoch began about 2.6 million years ago and lasted until about 11,700 years ago. The most recent Ice Age occurred then, as glaciers covered huge parts of Earth. In North America they stretched over Greenland and Canada and parts of the northern United States. The remains of glaciers of the Ice Age can still be seen in parts of the world, including Greenland and Antarctica. But the glaciers did not just sit there. There was a lot of movement over time, and there were about 20 cycles when the glaciers would advance and retreat as they thawed and refroze. Scientists identified the Pleistocene Epoch's four key stages, or ages " Gelasian, Calabrian, Ionian and Tarantian.