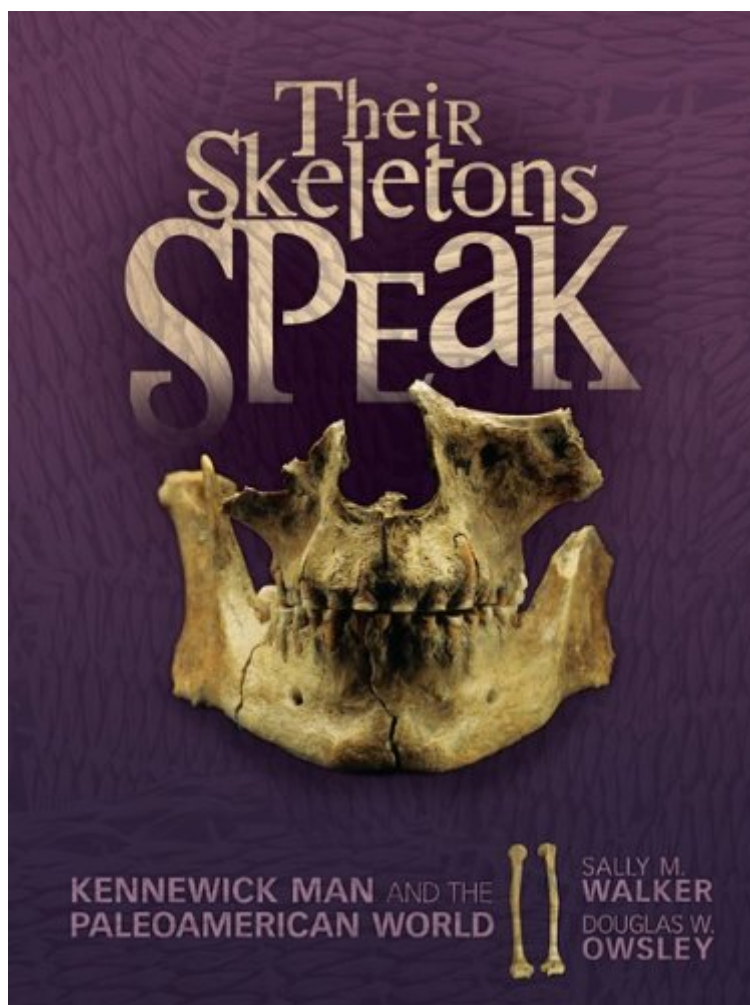


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Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man And The Paleoamerican World (Nonfiction - Grades 4-8)



Synopsis

On July 28, 1996, two young men stumbled upon human bones in the shallow water along the shore of the Columbia River near Kennewick, Washington. Was this an unsolved murder? The remnants of some settler's or Native American's unmarked grave? What was the story behind this skeleton? Within weeks, scientific testing yielded astonishing news: the bones were more than 9,000 years old! The skeleton instantly escalated from interesting to extraordinary. He was an individual who could provide firsthand evidence about the arrival of humans in North America. The bones found scattered in the mud acquired a name: Kennewick Man. Authors Sally M. Walker and Douglas W. Owsley take you through the painstaking process of how scientists determined who Kennewick Man was and what his life was like. New research, never-before-seen photos of Kennewick Man's remains, and a lifelike facial reconstruction will introduce you to one of North America's earliest residents. But the story doesn't end there. Walker and Owsley also introduce you to a handful of other Paleoamerican skeletons, exploring their commonalities with Kennewick Man. Together, their voices form a chorus to tell the complex tale of how humans came to North America "if we will only listen.

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Customer Reviews

Columbia River's McNary Dam would not flow freely on July 28, 1996. The Tri-City Water Follies spelled excitement as thousands gathered along its banks for the Columbia Cup Race, including Will Thomas and Dave Deacy. They were searching for a good spot along the banks of the river, but unexpectedly found something that would ultimately change our view of history as we know it. The skull Thomas pulled from the sand was not one of a murder victim, nor one of someone who had died a century ago, it was a Paleoamerican. It was now known to the scientific community as the Kennewick Man, a man who predated our civilization by thousands of years. It wasn't long before James Chatters, "local paleontologist and archaeologist," arrived on the site to examine the skull and later return to search for other bones. The skull was quite distinctive and did not look like that of an ancient Native American nor that of any European settler. Searching through the mud and muck barefooted Chatters recovered an amazing number of bones. It was critical to find the femur as "potentially a femur can offer a great deal of information to whom it belonged, including height, weight, and whether the person was active or not." Once recovery was complete, intense scrutiny of the remains began. Chatters quickly ascertained that there were calcium carbonate concentrations on the bone, but he soon spotted something most unusual embedded in the ilium. He knew immediately that this "object was a stone spearpoint," something that could conceivably tell him many things about the Kennewick Man, including how old he was and possibly where he came from. The spearpoint closely resembled a Cascade point, one prehistoric hunters used "five thousand to nine thousand years ago.

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