

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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*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



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  
burial grounds. This was done in an attempt to trace the physical evolution of

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44 I hope of persuading the public that while the tragic history of Native  
45 Americans should not be forgotten, political correctness should have legal  
46 limits.

### Further Questions



67 5) What did anthropologists do in the 19<sup>th</sup> 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,

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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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