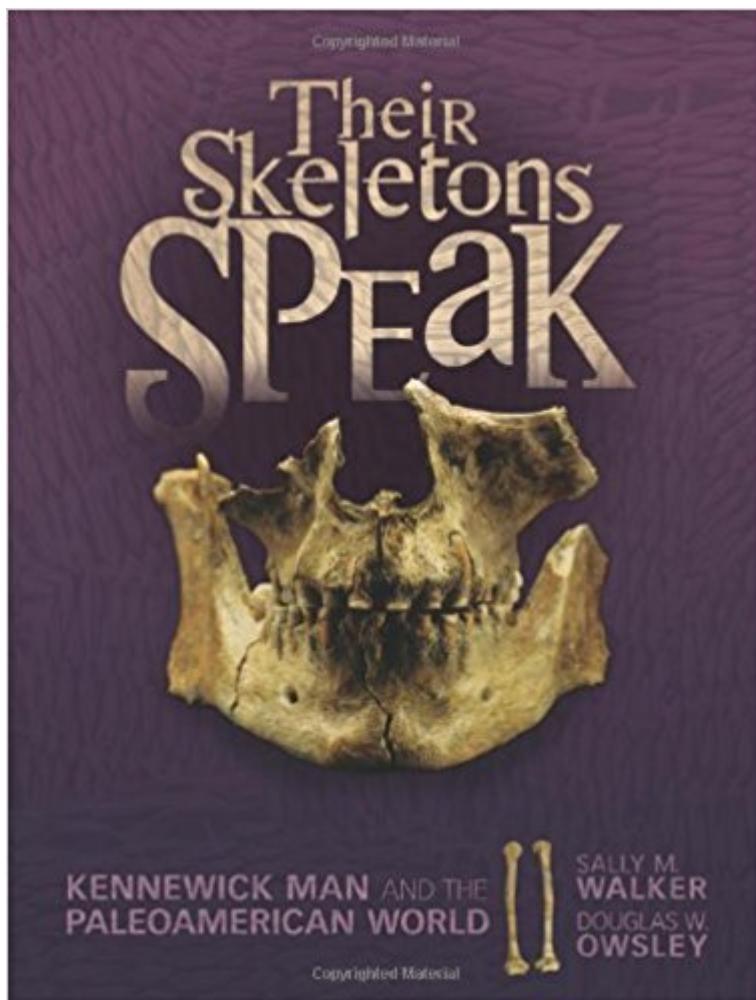


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Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man And The Paleoamerican World (Exceptional Social Studies Titles For Intermediate Grades) (Exceptional Social Studies Title For Intermediate Grades)





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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up-This detailed study of the discovery and forensic evaluation of the skeleton dubbed "Kennewick Man" puts forensic TV shows to shame. From his accidental discovery in 1996 through

multiple examinations by scientists with ever-improving forensic tools and years of unexpected storage due to NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Reparation), an actual human being emerges from a time long gone, speaking to us through his bones. Entering briefly into this long-term investigation are the far more shadowy figures of other Paleoamericans-Spirit Cave Man, Arch Lake Woman, and the Horn Shelter People. Scattered throughout the lucid, readable text are tightly focused informational bits on such topics as CT scans, radiocarbon dating, and NAGPRA practices. Sharp color photos, some nice artwork, and good maps provide clear visuals of the bones themselves, and the features that helped define the man and his life. A final facial reconstruction leaves readers face-to-face with a real person-someone readers would recognize if they met him on the street (we know how tall he was, how much he weighed, that one arm was stronger than the other, etc.). Walker reminds readers that it was not their relics, but living, breathing Paleoamericans who first arrived, settled, lived, and died in the long-gone American past. For those not quite ready for so much detail, try Katherine Kirkpatrick's equally distinguished *Mysterious Bones: The Story of the Kennewick Man* (Holiday House, 2011). Lucid writing, fine scientific explanations, and attractive bookmaking make this a winner.-Patricia Manning, formerly at Eastchester Public Library, NY

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The discovery came in 1996 when a passerby reached into the Columbia River to pull out a rock. As Walker colorfully puts it, he "literally found himself face-to-face with Kennewick Man." The nearly complete 9,400-year-old skeleton has been the focus of both study and controversies ever since. Here Walker and forensic anthropologist Owsley explain the latter (having to do with Native American cultural claims and the skull's distinctly non-Native American features) but devote closer attention to the physical clues presented by the bones—cracks and accretions, patterns of wear on teeth, and other "tantalizing but scattered" forensic evidence that hints at who Paleoamericans were and how they lived. Along with introducing other North American finds of similar age, such as the Spirit Cave Mummy, the authors show how interpretations of evidence can change or be refined over time and also cover current theories about the migratory origins of the earliest Americans. Enhanced by maps and diagrams as well as photos of discovery sites, remains, and scientists at work, this account imparts a clear sense of how hard and subtle that work is—and how exciting, too. Grades 6-9. --John Peters

For anyone who enjoys studying anthropology, this book is a must-read. Pictures are outstanding.

Doug Owsley is an outstanding scientist who makes dry bones come alive.

This book superbly summarizes the methods used for analyzing ancient human skeletons and especially, the research conducted on the iconic Kennewick Man discovery. Although the book is written for students, it has great worth for both the public and scientists outside the field of physical anthropology.

A Great book, right to the point and easy to understand. Lots of good information. To bad that the scientist could not continue to study the projectile point, teeth, DNA and etc. Not enough evidence to say what race he belong too.

I got this for my Son to read. He like many others don't like to read and the subject matter helped him stick to it.

Great book for Middle Schools!

Decent book

Have followed the Kennewick man and his travels back and forth between courts. Am glad I was able to buy it.

Great!

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