

The Kennewick Man and Native Americans Reparation



(Kennewick Man's skeleton, Chip Clarke, 2014)

Archeological Importance and Background

- The Kennewick Man is one of the oldest, most complete skeletons found in the Americas
- He was initially (and incorrectly) identified as not being an ancestor to modern day Native Americans due to the skeleton having a different skull shape
- Later DNA analysis showed that the Kennewick Man is an ancestor to modern Native Americans

Reparation of Native American Artifacts

- There has been an ongoing debate between scientists wanting preserve remains for study in institutions while native groups want the remains returned for cultural and spiritual reasons.
- The Kennewick Man along with generic samples and a spear point found lodged in him was ultimately returned to Native possession as was reburied in 2017.



(Spearpoint lodged in Kennewick Man's Hip, Grant Delin, 2014)



(Museum and Lineal Descendent Artifact Consultation, San Diego Museum of Man, 2024)

Moving Forward

- The National American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) has facilitated the return of Native American artifacts, to mixed reviews on both sides.
- This development has not only impacted the relationship between museums and Native Americans but also the process of studying artifacts itself.
- Kennewick man raises a precedent that all human specimens regardless of age are to be treated with the same respect as the remains of modern humans

This is the physical part of our exhibit we have so far, in the end it will be stone tools along with this skull. We will include some item descriptions next to the artifacts to describe what they are.

