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Ancient Cats and Dogs Got Along, Study Shows

By Jennie Cohen History.com November 8, 2012

Paleontologists have uncovered a surprising truth about prehistoric cats and dogs—and it goes against all our assumptions about the iconic enemies. Nine million years ago, saber-toothed cats and bear dogs—extinct creatures with dog-like teeth and bear-like bodies—coexisted by divvying up prey and territory, according to researchers who analyzed the ancient carnivores’ fossilized fangs.

Reconstruction of central Spain’s Cerro de los Batallones region 9 million years ago, when saber-toothed cats and bear dogs ruled the food chain. (Mauricio Antón)

Nine million years ago, central Spain teemed with fearsome, toothy predators that fed upon ancient herbivores resembling today’s horses, antelopes and wild boar. With multiple species of inveterate hunters on the prowl, you’d think these prehistoric neighbors regularly rumbled over territory.

Not so, according to paleontologists from the University of Michigan and the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales in Madrid. Writing in the November 7 edition of the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, researchers reveal how at least some of these carnivores happily coexisted by staking claims to different zones and resources.

The team reached these conclusions after excavating at the Cerro de los Batallones site, where tar pits trapped ancient mammals millions of years ago. They discovered the remains of two saber-toothed cat species, one the size of modern leopards and another the size of lions. Not only did these fang-equipped felids apparently live side by side, but they also shared space with yet another competitor: the bear dog, which was neither bear nor dog but featured a canine head atop an ursine body.

“These three animals were sympatric,” Soledad Domingo, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology, explained in a statement. “They inhabited the same geographic area at the same time.” Researchers believe that area was forested and contained patches of grassland.

So how did the three species manage to get along? A stable carbon isotope analysis of the animals’ teeth provided the paleontologists with important clues. This type of test can shed light on what individuals ate and where they lived. The results showed that the two saber-toothed cats both feasted on prehistoric horses and wild boar, prompting the researchers to theorize that the smaller species used tree cover to avoid their larger cousins. The bear dog, meanwhile, roamed more open areas that slightly overlapped the cats’ hunting grounds, helping itself to antelope.

“The three largest mammalian predators captured prey in different portions of the habitat,” said study coauthor Catherine Badgley, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Michigan. She noted that today’s predators divvy up ecosystems in much the same way. Tell that to your cat and dog next time they destroy your living room with their latest scuffle.

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VIRTUAL U.

College of Future Could Be Come One, Come All

By TAMAR LEWIN

Colleges are building global student bodies and trying to create models for massive open online courses, or MOOCs.

A Class Where Opening Minds, Not Earning Credits, Is the Point

By TAMAR LEWIN

An online course on world music exposed one reporter to the sounds of Tuva, Australia and Africa, teaching her, for example, that the human throat can produce two notes simultaneously.

from NARF: **Native Heritage Month**

November is American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month. Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. It’s also an opportunity to highlight the important contributions of Native peoples and the shared histories between tribal nations and other communities.

Throughout Heritage Month, the Native American Rights Fund will look at different elements of Native heritage from both an historical and contemporary perspective. Where applicable, we will also highlight some of NARF’s work that relates to the area.

Education

In our first installment for Heritage Month, we reflected on the roles of Native Americans as both traditional and modern day warriors. Tomorrow, we will examine some truths and fictions about tribes in relation to Thanksgiving. Today we will look at education. [Read more.](#)

Repatriation News & Other Information from NAGPRA November 2012

National NAGPRA Review Committee Meeting in November

The NAGPRA Review Committee will meet in Washington, DC, on November 28-29, 2012, at the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of the American Indian. Click here for the meeting agenda: http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/REVIEW/meetings/materials/47th/RC_Meeting_Materials_47th.htm

Additional information:

Click here for memo from Hutt to Review Committee members seeking their action on Culturally Unidentifiable Inventory ("CUI") database, which could affect about 10,000 Minimum Number of Individuals ("MNI") -- Native Americans:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/REVIEW/meetings/materials/47th/l.b.-RC-memo-re-CUI-database-Oct2012.pdf>

Click here for the 2011 GAO report, "Smithsonian Institution: Much Work Still Needed to Identify and Repatriate Indian Human Remains and Objects"

<http://www.gao.gov/Products/GAO-11-515>

Solicitation of NAGPRA Review Committee Nominations Due Jan. 24, 2013

Two notices soliciting NAGPRA Review Committee nominations for two positions were published in the Federal Register on October 26, 2012. The Secretary of the Interior will appoint two members, one member from nominations submitted by Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and traditional Native American religious leaders, and one member from nominations submitted by national museum and scientific organizations. The deadline for receipt of both nominations is January 24, 2013.

Click here for list of current committee members:

http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/REVIEW/RC_Roster_Apr11.htm

Click here for the Federal Register notice for Native American:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-10-26/pdf/2012-26323.pdf>

Click here for Federal Register notice for national museum and scientific organization:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-10-26/pdf/2012-26320.pdf>

News Stories of Interest:

More celebs help tribes' push for sacred SD land

SD State Wire, KRISTI EATON, Published: Nov 18, 2012

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - More celebrities are backing an online campaign to raise money so that Native American tribes in South Dakota can purchase land they consider sacred.

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=homumyF7

LIBERTY QUARRY: Pechanga tribe to buy site

Published: 15 November 2012 12:24 PM

The Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians reached an agreement Thursday, Nov. 15, to acquire the site of the proposed Liberty Quarry, ending plans for an open-pit mine that became one of the most contentious land-use projects in Riverside County history.

<http://www.pe.com/local-news/reports/liberty-quarry/liberty-quarry-headlines/20121115-liberty-quarry->

pechanga-tribees-to-buy-site.ece

Petroglyph thefts near Bishop stun federal authorities, Paiutes
BISHOP, Calif. — Ancient hunters and gatherers etched vivid petroglyphs on cliffs in the Eastern Sierra that withstood winds, flash floods and earthquakes for more than 3,500 years. Thieves needed only a few hours to cut them down and haul them away.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-petroglyphs-theft-20121119%2C0%2C6886011.story>

US, Mexico rewrite rules on sharing Colorado River

By ELLIOT SPAGAT | Associated Press

Related Content [**Enlarge Photo**](#) **Map shows the Colorado River Basin ...**

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The United States and Mexico are rewriting rules on how to share water from the Colorado River, capping a five-year effort to form a united front against future drought in their western states.

The far-reaching agreement to be signed Tuesday gives Mexico rights to put some of its river water in Lake Mead, which stretches across Nevada and Arizona, giving it badly needed storage capacity. Mexico will forfeit some of its share of the river during shortages, bringing itself in line with western U.S. states that already have agreed how much they will surrender in years when waters recede.

Water agencies in California, Arizona and Nevada also will buy water from Mexico, which will use some of the money to upgrade its infrastructure.

The agreement, coming in the final days of the administration of Mexican President Felipe Calderon, is a major amendment to a 1944 treaty that is considered sacred by many south of the border. The treaty grants Mexico 1.5 million acre-feet of river water of water each year — enough to supply about 3 million homes — making it the lifeblood of Tijuana and other cities in northwest Mexico.

Mexico will surrender some of its allotment when the water level in Lake Mead drops to 1,075 feet and reap some of the surplus when it rises to 1,145 feet, according to a summary of the agreement prepared by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which will buy some of Mexico's water.

The agreement expires in five years and is being billed as a trial run, potentially making it more palatable in Mexico.

"These are big political steps for Mexico to take," said Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan's general manager. "Chances are we won't have a surplus and we won't have a shortage but, if we do, we'll have the guidelines in place on how we're going to handle it."

In 2007, facing an eight-year drought, California, Arizona and Nevada agreed on how much each state should sacrifice during shortages on the 1,450-mile river that flows from the Rocky

Mountains to Mexico. That same year, the U.S. and Mexico promised to work on ways to jointly address shortages.

The negotiations gained a sense of urgency for Mexico in 2010 after a magnitude-7.2 earthquake damaged canals and other infrastructure, forcing it to store water temporarily in Lake Mead.

"They have some storage but it's not enough for drought and emergencies," said Halla Razak, Colorado River program director at the San Diego County Water Authority.

Roberto Salmon, Mexico's representative to the International Boundary and Water Commission, was scheduled to attend a signing ceremony in Coronado, near San Diego. He didn't respond to a phone message left at his office after business hours Monday.

U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar was expected to attend. The Colorado River is also a key source of water for Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

L.A. GIVES GO-AHEAD TO PACT FOR SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT ON MOAPA LAND

The sun is shining more brightly on the Moapa River Indian Reservation north of Las Vegas. Los Angeles City Council members approved a \$1.6 billion, 25-year pact Tuesday to purchase solar power from a company that will build nearly 1 million photovoltaic panels on tribal land. <http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz15184466>

Ancient carvings stolen from California cliff side November 20, 2012 - 12:13 AMT

PanARMENIAN.Net - Saw-wielding thieves have stolen a series of ancient carvings from a California cliff side, according to BBC News.

At least four of the carvings, known as petroglyphs, were taken over a period of several hours, U.S. officials said, with others badly defaced.

The petroglyphs are thought to have survived for thousands of years at the desert site near Bishop, California.

Petroglyphs, or rock engravings, are created by removing the surface layer of rocks to reveal the colors below. They are usually of prehistoric origin, and can be found at ancient sites around the world.

The carvings vandalized in the Volcanic Tablelands area of California vanished from a site on land held sacred by the Paiute-Shoshone tribe in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, near the Nevada state line.

The extent of the theft - as well as the amount of damage inflicted on other carvings left in place - prompted a sombre verdict from the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which administers the area.

"This was the worst act of vandalism ever seen" on BLM land, archaeologist Greg Haverstock told the Los Angeles Times.

At least four of the petroglyphs have gone, while a fifth was defaced with deep cuts on its sides. A sixth carving was removed and broken before being propped against a boulder near a visitor's car park.

The thieves are said to have gone to extraordinary lengths to destroy the site. They used ladders, electric generators and power saws and gouged holes in slabs of rock that were up to 5m (15ft) above ground.

The authorities say the petroglyphs could be worth up to \$1,500 (£950) each on the black market.

But they are priceless to Native Americans. "Their culture and spiritual beliefs had been horribly violated," BLM field office manager Bernadette Lovato told the LA Times.

"We will do everything in our power to bring those pieces back."

Meteorites indicate that Mars and Earth had a similar origin

http://world.einnews.com/pr_news/124078842

SUNY Buffalo Shuts “Frackademia” Center, Shale Resources and Society Institute

Steve Horn, News Report: Today, SUNY Buffalo closed the doors of its Shale Resources and Society Institute (SRSI), what we at DeSmog have described as an epicenter for “frackademia” and a public relations front for the oil and gas industry to promote hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) under the guise of scientific legitimacy that a university offers. A letter from SUNY Buffalo President Satish K. Tripathi said that the nail in the coffin for SRSI was what we coined its “shill gas study,” the first paper published by SRSI. All of the co-authors of this paper had direct ties to the oil and gas industry, as did four out of five of its peer reviewers.

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Sarah van Gelder YES! Magazine / Op-Ed Published: Monday 19 November 2012

It takes humility to recognize that what we’ve called progress isn’t always for the better. Sometimes nature’s original idea was a better one.

To Change Our Direction, It’s Time to Follow Nature’s Lead

I live among Chief Seattle’s people, and one of the things I’ve learned from this experience is humility.

I say, “I’ve lived here 12 years—longer than I’ve lived anywhere!” And then I look around at the ancient petroglyphs and the shell middens that whiten the beaches, and I remember that my neighbors’ ancestors have lived here for thousands of years.

I talk about the growing divide in our society between the 1 percent and the 99 percent. Then I'm invited to a potlatch, where a seafood feast is followed by an outpouring of gift giving. Ah yes, these people figured out centuries ago that inequality upsets the delicate balances that allow societies to thrive. So instead of gaining status from accumulating stuff, they earn respect by giving it away.

NationofChange is a 501(c)3 nonprofit funded directly by our readers. Please make a small donation to support our work.

One of the old stories tells of a time when people and animals were on equal footing, and they were all hungry. They made a wager. Whichever side won a game of chance could eat the other. Humans won, but not by much. There's humility in that story, too—it could have gone the other way.

When the Suquamish Tribe began making its way out of the devastation caused by having their land taken away and their culture suppressed, one of their first priorities was to restore habitat for salmon and shellfish. The tribe, with its staff of biologists, is now among the most relentless forces for clean water and fish habitat in this area.

When a nearby saltwater bay was closed to shellfish harvesting because of pollution, I figured cleaning up that bay would be too difficult. Just harvest somewhere else!

But tribal leaders saw it differently, and now I do, too. Each place is sacred—even places dominated by strip malls, industry, and parking lots. Nature doesn't write off parts of the Earth, and neither can we. This place we live is all we have. There is no place "else."

After years of patient work, that bay is now clean; tribal members go out on the sandy flats at low tide with buckets and digging forks and bring home shellfish for themselves—and to share. It takes humility to recognize that what we've called progress isn't always for the better and that sometimes nature's original idea was a better one. Here are some of the lessons I've learned over years living among the Suquamish people and months asking "What would nature do?"

Nature works in cycles. There is no place to throw things "away." When nature's systems are working, every kind of waste nourishes another part of the system. We humans can produce that way, too.

Nature is a self-organizing and adaptive network of relationships. Except when these relationships are disrupted, this network generates yet more life and relationships, in forms that are competitive and cooperative, and unimaginably diverse.

Nature uses current energy (mostly from the sun), not fossil energy. And it doesn't draw down the principal of the Earth's largess. It lives off the interest. That means it can continue indefinitely.

I grew up in a culture that claimed the right to conquer, use up, and displace nature. Human intelligence coupled with technology would take us on a one-way trip to a brighter future, we were told.

Today, as we reach the limits of what life on Earth can tolerate, we need a little less hubris and a little more humility. If we learn from nature and from our indigenous brothers and sisters, I now believe we'll have a much better shot at that bright future.

Sarah van Gelder wrote this article for What Would Nature Do?, the Winter 2013 issue of YES! Magazine. Sarah is co-founder and executive editor of YES!

Elveda Martinez via Walker River CommunityCoalition

We need all of you Natives out there to Vote so we can get a new playground at our Schurz Elementary School. Most of the equipment is over 50 years old. Go to the link and search Schurz, Nevada and Vote. Share this info with your FB friends.

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The Examined Life Makes Good Writers [read full version online](#)

By PAM DYCUS

Pam Dycus teaches seventh grade language arts at Villa Rica Middle School in Temple, Georgia where she has had several students receive accolades for their writing. She completed her graduate work from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia and believes that community begins in the classroom.

Electronic communication can be both a blessing and a curse. Students are naturally drawn to new media sources but sadly many of them are without the basic skills necessary to express themselves appropriately. For middle school students, the problem is magnified by their hormonal emotions and the questions that arise in their minds concerning their own individuality.

Student dependence upon textese to express their inner feelings diminishes the importance of their opinions and garbles their meaning. Vocabulary that only addresses the surface attitude but not the value it holds to the community limits them in responsibly addressing issues of their community.

Once a student realizes that how they communicate affects not only themselves but others around them they are open to seeking out and utilizing a more extensive

vocabulary. Before students can appreciate the position of others they must first understand themselves and how they affect others. Leading students to self-discovery can be a slippery slope studded with juggernauts, some to be avoided such as a weak vocabulary, overuse of slang and assumptions, while enjoying the ride that a well-developed vocabulary can provide.

Discovering the inner voice is the essence of why we teach writing. Language arts teachers speak of **the voice** as that part of writing and speaking that is yours alone. It is the part of communication that makes you unique and different. Most students struggle with this concept because they believe that to truly be themselves they should write as if they are sending a text message to their friends. (LOL) Regurgitating the same garbled messages over the internet, instant messaging, emails and even into classroom writing, students continue slipshod over the same bumpy path without getting anywhere in their realization of true communication skills.

Today's students see the new text messaging shortcuts as real words that are acceptable because they see it everywhere. Everyone is using them. Do they have a place? Certainly they do; they belong on the cellphone not in the classroom. Students spend so much time with electronic media that few of them stop to examine what they are saying. The use of text so much that it becomes more than a habit; it becomes a crutch that they are strained to throw away.

Developing the inner voice of our students is paramount in today's communication society. The ability to reach inside oneself and share that innermost part of who we are is difficult for adults but for teenagers journeying through self-discovery the task is daunting. As we mature, we are brought face-to-face with our weaknesses and our strengths. Life's perils and promises teach us what we can accomplish and what we should avoid.

Uncovering the events in their lives that brings them to any moment in time puts students on the road to determining who they are and to identifying with their communities. They no longer walk in darkness down the dark path to self-discovery and self-understanding, but shine a light on the reasons they are separate from the herd while still a productive member of the group. Students learn through self-examination that they are different, but still have something to share because others understand why they are the person they present.

...continued

[read full article online](#)

Additional BDR's

#525 Legislative Commission (NRS 218E.150)

Repeals provisions authorizing the creation of Development Corporations and Corporations for Economic Revitalization and Diversification.

#576 Legislative Commission (NRS 218E.150)

Revises provisions concerning certain employees of railroads.

#578 Legislative Commission (NRS 218E.150)

Abolishes the Columbia Basin Interstate Compact Commission of the State of Nevada.