

Journal #4307

from sdc

12.13.18

Origin Story - A big history of everything

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Plains Indian Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West

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It's a Briefcase! It's a Pizza Box! No, It's a Mini Satellite:

Voyager 2 Bids Adieu To The Heliosphere, Entering Interstellar Space

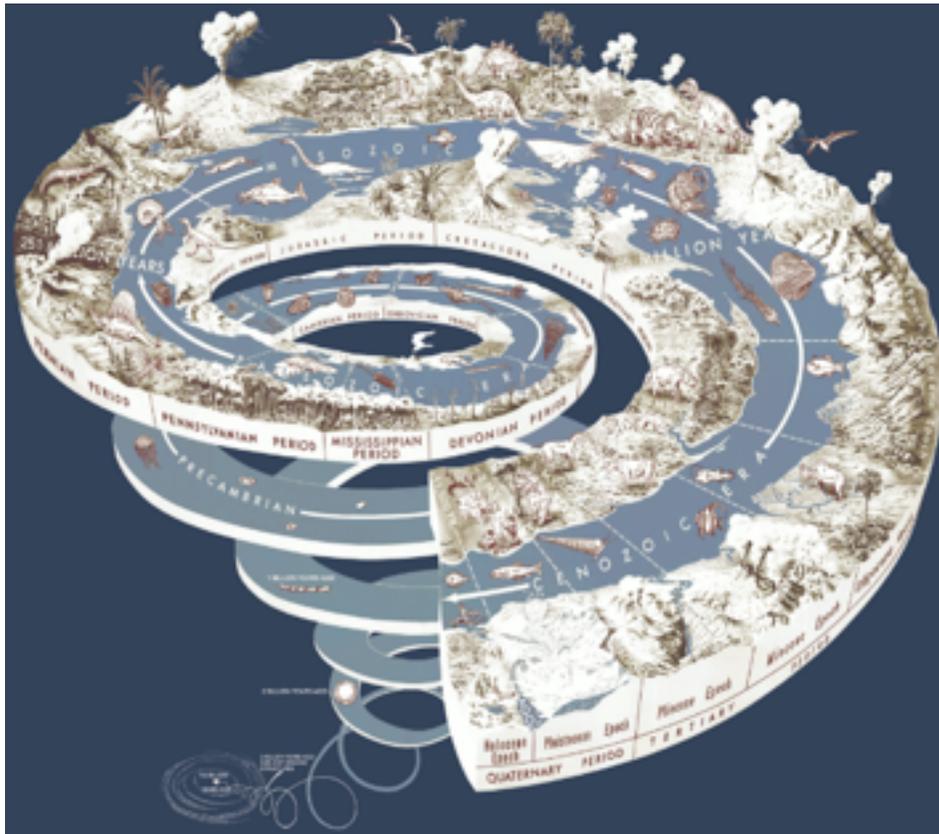
The Trump Administration Just Killed Net Neutrality for Text Messages

New national park advisory board includes three big GOP donors

Canada's Armed Forces' 1st Indigenous Spiritual Lodge

Indian Country Today Video News Report

Arctic Ice is Retreating and Reindeer are Going With It



**Visual
representation of
the history of life
on Earth as a
spiral**

**DelancyPlace:
Today's selection
-- from *Origin
Story* by David
Christian.**

Humans,
megafauna, and
the frequency
of fires:

"The first humans
in Australia found
many species of
large animals, or
megafauna. Some
were as big as the
rhinoceroses,
elephants, and
giraffes of South
Africa, the one part

of the world in which large numbers of megafauna survive today. In Australia, there were giant kangaroos and wombats and huge flightless birds such as *Genyornis newtoni*. Then, quite suddenly, most of the Australian megafauna disappeared, as they would eventually disappear in Siberia and the Americas.

"Perhaps they disappeared because climates changed. But they had survived previous ice ages, so it is hard not to think that humans, with their increasingly sophisticated hunting meth-

ods, may have tipped them over the edge. The chronology supports this explanation. In Australia, Siberia, and North America, the megafauna vanished not long after the arrival of humans. Perhaps, like the dodo in Mauritius, the megafauna didn't fear our ancestors enough, unlike African megafauna, which had coevolved with humans and knew how dangerous we could be. In any case, megafauna, like all large animals (including the dinosaurs), are particularly vulnerable to sudden changes. There are many modern examples of megafaunal extinctions, such as the disappearance of the large New Zealand birds known as moas within a few centuries of the arrival of humans. In Siberia and the Americas, we even have direct evidence of kill sites, so we know that humans hunted megafauna such as mammoths.

"Removing megafauna changed landscapes. Large herbivores can chomp their way through a lot of plants. Eliminating them increased the frequency of fires, as plant remains were left uneaten. In Australia about forty thousand years ago, the number of fires increased in many regions. A large percentage may have been started by lightning strikes. But we know that here, as in many other parts of the Paleolithic world, humans used fire systematically to fertilize the land. These technologies are known to archaeologists as fire-stick farming, after the fire sticks that indigenous Australians carried to fire the land in historical times.

"Systematic use of fire, not just to cook or protect yourself but to transform your environment, represents one of the first signs of the growing ecological power of our species. If you had the skills needed to manage fires safely, regular firing of the land provided many advantages. Burn an area of grassland, then wander back in a day or two, and the first thing you will find is plant and animal barbecues. Wait a few weeks and you will find new growth, because the fire has scattered ash as a fertilizer and sped up the decomposition of plant and animal remains. Grasses and other plants will sprout and can be harvested sooner. And new plants will usually attract herbivores and small reptiles, making the hunting easier and more productive. In short, fire-stick farming increases the productivity of the land."

Origin Story: A Big History of Everything

Author: David Christian

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company

Pages: 183 - 185

For policy and economic analysis works other than myself: Giants: the global power elite
by Perter Phillips Seven Stories Press 2018

[Winona LaDuke Calls for Indigenous-Led "Green New Deal"](#)

AMY GOODMAN, DEMOCRACY NOW!

While world leaders converge in Poland for the UN climate change summit, we look at the Indigenous-led fight against destructive oil pipelines and the revolutionary potential of the Green New Deal with Winona LaDuke, Ojibwe environmental leader and executive director of the group Honor the Earth.

[Watch the Video and Read the Transcript](#)

[Plains Indian Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West](#) Check out this Kiowa Dress Cape from the early 1900s with over 200 pairs of elk ivory. The piece has both loomed beadwork on the neck and two needle appliqué beadwork on the shoulders and

waist. NA.202.81 [#elkteeth](#) [#Kiowa](#)

[See what the world searched for in 2018](#)

[Some of California’s most stunning natural wonders are on the brink of oblivion](#)

By The Times Editorial Board, Los Angeles Times, 12/11/18

It is time to imagine a California bereft of its most wondrous natural assets, from the giant sequoia to the coast redwoods to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta — the largest and most ecologically diverse estuary on the west coast of both American continents — to the migrating salmon whose journey begins in the Sierra and runs down the great Central Valley rivers to the Pacific in seasonal pulses of rainfall and snowmelt. All are on the brink of oblivion.

[Jeff Mitchell: Conservation No-Till Is One Option for Water Conservation](#)

[By Patrick Cavanaugh, California Ag Today, 12/10/18](#)

Jeff Mitchell is a Cropping Systems Specialist at UC Davis, based at the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Parlier. He has devoted his 19 years to improving nitrogen and water use efficiencies in food, feed, fuel and fiber in no-till cropping systems.

[US states to meet at deadline of Colorado River drought plan](#)

By Ken Ritter, The Tribune, 12/9/18

With drought entering a second decade and reservoirs continuing to shrink, seven Southwestern U.S. states that depend on the overtaxed Colorado River for crop irrigation and drinking water had been expected to ink a crucial share-the-pain contingency plan by the end of 2018.

[Southern California agency OKs water plan that awaits Arizona’s approval](#)

[By Associated Press, 12/11/18](#)

LOS ANGELES – Southern California’s largest water wholesaler has approved a drought contingency plan that it hopes will help ensure the drought-stressed Colorado River will supply the Southwest for a decade. General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger says Tuesday’s approval adds the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to water agencies in Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming that have approved plans to take less water from key river reservoirs, including lakes Mead and Powell.

[Sandoval urges lawmakers not to allocate funds for Yucca Mountain](#)

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval urged congressional leaders to ignore last-minute pleas to place language and funding in a year-end spending bill that could revive the license application process for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository.



We are writing to invite you to **join us in launching the Upstander Project's newest film project, BOUNTY.** To make the film, we have until the end of the year to match a \$10,000 grant. Will you [help us?](#)

This short film celebrates cultural survival with Penobscot parents and their children. These families will read an official government "bounty proclamation," that promised huge sums of money to colonial invaders to murder Penobscot men, women, and children. Importing a horrific European practice colonists brought scalps to Boston, where they were generously rewarded with payments from the public treasury.

The proclamation was revived in popular memory by Penobscot Nation citizens as a sign of their survival.

BOUNTY will be set in the very seat of colonial power: the Council Chamber in Boston's Old State House where the proclamation was signed in 1755. A contemporary reading of the appalling text of the proclamation merges past, present, and future as an expression of decolonization.



This Upstander Project film is being made collaboratively by Dawn Neptune Adams (Penobscot), Maulian Dana (Penobscot Tribal Ambassador), Adam Mazo, Ben Pender-Cudlip, and Tracy Rector (Choctaw/Seminole). Learning director, Dr. Mishy Lesser, will develop accompanying learning materials to teach about genocide in U.S. history and as a statement that Penobscot people and other Indigenous survivors of scalp proclamations are still here.

We believe all schoolchildren in chuwabunkeag (aka New England) and beyond should learn about this story as much as they do about Paul Revere, Ben Franklin, John Adams, and the Boston Tea Party. A generous donor is matching all donations up to \$10,000 until the end of the year, which means your gift will be doubled and this film will be made. We invite you to make a donation today.

Donate Now

Adam Mazo and Mishy Lesser, on behalf of the Upstander Project and DAWNLAND team

Council of State Archivists News

Don't forget to [send us your photos and press releases!](#)

ARM Survey Reminder: Completed surveys are due DECEMBER 17th.

New on the CoSA Blog: "[Ripped from the Headlines: Conduct Government Business on Government Platforms](#)"

2019 Webinars Announced

This year's series features four emergency preparedness presentations, two SHRAB Town Halls, and our reoccurring topics on advocacy, annual meeting follow-up, and presentations by our CoSA-Ancestry Leadership Award and Walch Emerging Leader Award recipients. The full line-up is available at the [CoSA website](#).

Join us on Thursday, January 24th at 3 pm Eastern when CoSA President John Dougan and other board members talk about what's ahead for CoSA in the coming year. [READ MORE >](#)

IMLS ACCESS Grant Update

We are pleased to announce two new publications developed in collaboration with the National Governors Association: *[First Steps in Managing Records: A Transition Priority](#)* and *[Social Media and Public Records: Developing a Social Media Use Policy](#)* provide gubernatorial staff with descriptions of what constitutes a public record and advice for developing policies for their maintenance and access. Please feel free to download and distribute these handy and useful documents.

Do you have policies, procedural documents, forms, templates, and tools that would be useful to your colleagues? Consider uploading them to the [CoSA Resource Center!](#) It's easy to [upload your documents](#) and, once you do, we'll take it from there.

Archives and Records 2019 CoSA/SAA Conference Dates:

July 31, 2019 - August 6, 2019

Lodging and Travel Information

JW Marriott Austin

110 E 2nd St

Austin, TX 78701

See map: [Google Maps](#)

Call for Proposals

- [Student Paper and Poster](#) (due by February 1, 2019)
- [Pre-conference Workshops](#) (due by January 15, 2019)

Alaska Earthquake Update

Shortly after the magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck north of Anchorage, Alaska, on November 30, State Archivist Karen Gray reports that state archives and museum staff were contacting colleagues and making site visits in museums and galleries most affected. Damage ranged from jostled and broken collections on exhibit to tipped cabinets and exhibit cases, fallen ceiling tiles, and lots of dust and broken glass. **By far, the severest damage seems to have occurred to collections on exhibit at the Alaska Native art gallery at the Ted Stevens Airport in Anchorage.**

“ **It’s a Briefcase! It’s a Pizza Box! No, It’s a Mini Satellite:** Orbiting instruments are now so small they can be launched by the dozens, and even high school students can build them.” (NYT)

“ **Voyager 2 Bids Adieu To The Heliosphere, Entering Interstellar Space** ” (NPR)

The Trump Administration Just Killed Net Neutrality for Text Messages

MIKE LUDWIG, TRUTHOUT

On the one-year anniversary of its decision to repeal popular net neutrality rules, the Federal Communications Commission voted to classify text messaging as an "information service" rather than a "telecommunications service." This move gives wireless carriers the authority to block

and censor text messages, warn digital rights groups, even though Republicans are calling the vote a victory for consumers. [Read the Article →](#)



Lucina Vidauri to California History
19 hrs

Has Anyone here seen this style of photo. This would have been taken in mid 1800s in Oakland, California. These are Coast Miwok girls. I don't know much more about the pic. TYIA for any help on it.

[New national park advisory board includes three big GOP donors](#)

[BY DINO GRANDONI](#) with Paulina Firozi [THE LIGHTBULB](#)

At the beginning of the year, nearly all the members of a federally chartered board that advises the National Park Service quit in frustration after they felt the new administration was ignoring them.

Nearly a year later, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has resurrected the national parks board and filled its ranks with several business executives including a few major Republican donors, Juliet Eilperin and I [reported](#) on Thursday.

The appointments reflect the latest instance of Zinke reshaping the work — often in a more business-friendly direction — of the more than 200 advisory boards that help Interior manage the roughly 500 million acres of public land it oversees. The current committee poses a contrast to the 12-member panel picked under President Barack Obama.

- All of the 11 new members appear to be white, and nine of them are men. The new group includes three big-dollar donors who have each contributed more than \$500,000 to GOP candidates and causes since the 2008 election cycle.
- Meanwhile, two-thirds of the old panel were women, and the group included African American members and members of Latino and Asian descent.
- The newly appointed board also did not include any working academics, as the previous version did. Among the old panelists were professors from Harvard and Yale universities, as well as the University of Maryland and the University of Kentucky.

The major GOP donors on the board are John C. Cushman III, a Los Angeles-based commercial real estate executive who gave \$537,950, mostly to Republicans and GOP-affiliated political action committees; John L. Nau III, who runs the nation's largest distributor of Anheuser-Busch products and gave \$847,022, largely to Republicans; and Boyd C. Smith, a Bay Area-based real estate developer who contributed \$986,407, largely to GOP candidates.

The newly reconstituted [National Park System Advisory Board](#) was set to meet for the first time Wednesday in Washington. The Interior Department postponed the session, however, because the federal government observed a national day of mourning out of respect for former president George H.W. Bush.

In a statement Thursday, Interior spokeswoman Faith Vander Voort said the Park Service published a notice on Nov. 16, 2017, soliciting nominations “for interested members of the public who wished to serve on the Board. All applications received by the Department of the Interior were reviewed and compared to the membership criteria contained in the Board’s charter.” *(How many of you applied? sdc)*

Leaders of some national park advocacy groups voiced dismay about the panel’s lack of diversity, given the agency’s ongoing efforts to broaden its appeal to Americans of color. Theresa Pierno, president and chief executive of the National Parks Conservation Association, said her organization was “pleased to see these vacancies finally filled.” But she added that “we had hoped that the Department of the Interior would have recognized the importance of diversity when appointing new members.”

Many of the new members, though, come with experience relevant to park management. John C. Cushman III, for example, once served as national president of the Boy Scouts of America. Another new member, Philip G. Pearce, is a paraplegic wheelchair user with expertise in accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act. A third, Zelma Lansford, an organizational consultant, said in an interview Wednesday she brings to her new assignment two decades of experience working with roughly two dozen parks.

“What I bring to the table is knowledge of the agency and how it works,” Lansford said.

Both she and Joseph S. Emert, also a Tennessean named to the board, emphasized this week they viewed the job as nonpartisan.

“The national parks are too important to be a political football. I hope that people from any political spectrum can come together and support our parks,” Emert [told](#) the Blount County, Tenn.-based Daily Times in an interview this week.

Phil Francis, chair of the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, which represents 1,200 current, former and retired Park Service employees, said in an interview that some of the new board members bring valuable skills such as a knowledge of the agency’s history and operations. But he emphasized they should view their job as more than just promoting outdoor recreation and managing park concessions.

“It’s also how to protect the parks and leave them unimpaired for future generations,” Francis said, noting that climate change is already affecting parks across the country. “I hope the agenda will be comprehensive, and not just items consistent with business interests.”

He added: “If anything, it will be interesting to see what they are going to be asked to do,” noting the board’s mission should be broader than just promoting outdoor recreation and managing park concessions. “It’s also how to protect the parks and leave them unimpaired for future generations. I hope the agenda will be comprehensive, and not just items consistent with business interests.”





"After our walk, there were no babies left;"

JAMES SCOTT

The late James Scott, Who died around 1944 at about 110 years of age.

He walked the Trail of Tears from the Alabama/Georgia region to Oklahoma when he was 7 to 8 years old. His parents died during the removal. ... [See More](#)

"While it's probably not perfect, it's close. It's good." –Leslie Meyers, an official at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, in reference to a drought-contingency plan intended to conserve water levels in Lake Mead, a key reservoir in the western U.S. After weeks of deliberation, the plan received approval from the board of the Central Arizona Project. The \$135 million plan will now head to the Arizona Legislature.

[Arizona Daily Star](#)

In context: [Lake Mead Record Low Reflects Changing American West.](#)

Canada's Armed Forces' 1st Indigenous Spiritual Lodge

As announced by Canadian Lt. General Jean-Marc Lanthier: "The first permanent Indigenous Spiritual Lodge in the history of the Canadian Forces was inaugurated at the Saint-Jean Garrison. This marks an important milestone...!"

[Read more](#)
newsmaven.io



Indian Country

Today Video News Report by Vincent Schilling

Last Mohawk code talker honored, Savanna's Act approved in Senate, PJ Vegas, Terrible flu tragedy, Warren's DNA and more.

[Read more](#) newsmaven.io

Arctic Ice is Retreating and Reindeer are Going With It Smithsonian

Herds in Canada, the U.S. and Russia have dropped by over half in 20 years—and some may not recover [Read the full story](#)

Facts About Reindeer by Alina Bradford Life Science Contributor

Reindeer don't fly, but they do sometimes have red noses. These animals are part of the deer family, or Cervidae, which includes deer, elk, moose and wapiti. Like others in their family, reindeers have long legs, hooves and antlers.

Reindeer are also called caribou, depending on their location. They are called reindeer in Europe, but in North America, reindeer refers to Eurasian populations, and caribou refers to wild populations in North America, according to the [San Diego Zoo](#). Reindeer also often refers to domesticated animals, while caribou refers to wild populations.

Some scientists think that the reindeer was one of the first domesticated animals. It was first domesticated around 2,000 years ago, according to the [Smithsonian](#). Many Arctic societies still rely on this animal for food, clothing and materials for shelter.

Size

Male reindeer grow to 28 to 53 inches (70 to 135 centimeters) tall from hooves to shoulder, and around 5.9 to 6.8 f (1.8 to 2.1 m) long. Females are typically smaller, around 5.5 to 6.2 feet (1.7 to 1.9 m) long. Males weigh 143 to 529 lbs. (65 to 240 kilograms), and females weigh 121 to 308 lbs. (55 to 140 kg).

These animals are the only type of deer in which both the male and female reindeers grow antlers. These antlers fall off and regrow every year. A male's can grow up to 51 inches (130 centimeters) long and weigh up to 33 lbs. (15 kg), making them very useful for fighting. A female's antlers can grow up to 20 inches (50 cm), according to the San Diego Zoo.

Red-nosed reindeer

The secret to [Rudolph's rosy schnozzle](#) is a dense network of blood vessels in his nose, scientists explained in a 2012 Live Science article. Reindeer, it seems, have 25 percent more capillaries carrying red, oxygen-rich blood in their nasal architecture than humans, said medical researchers in the Netherlands and the University of Rochester in New York.

"In colder climates ... the increase in blood flow in the nose will help keep the [nose's] surface warm," Dr. John Cullen of the University of Rochester said. The dense network of blood vessels in reindeer noses is also essential for regulating the animal's internal body temperature — like many mammals, reindeer don't sweat.

Habitat

Reindeer are found in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, northern Europe and northern Asia in tundra, mountains and woodland habitats. Their home ranges tend to be as big as 190 square miles (500 square km), according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

Habits

Reindeer are very social creatures. They feed, travel and rest in groups called herds. These herds can include from 10 animals to a few hundred, according to the San Diego Zoo. In the spring, herds can get even bigger — from 50,000 to 500,000 members. The herds often travel south around 1,000 miles (1,600 km) to 3,000 m (5,000 km) to find food in the winter.

Diet

Reindeer are herbivores, which means they only eat vegetation. Their diet can include herbs, ferns, mosses, grasses, shoots, fungi and leaves. On average, an adult reindeer eats around 9 to 18 lbs. (4 to 8 kg) of vegetation a day, according to the San Diego Zoo.

In the winter, reindeer must dig through the snow to find food. They dig using their antlers and munch on energy-packed lichens called reindeer moss.

Offspring

Female reindeer have a gestation period of about 7.5 months and typically give birth to only one youth at a time, though they have been found to have up to four young at a time. At birth, a baby reindeer, called a calf, weighs 5 to 20 lbs. (2.5 to 9 kg).

Calves are able to stand after their first hour of life and within a week they start eating solid food in addition to their mother's milk. They are weened completely within six months and start growing their first set of antlers around their second birthday. Reindeers become mature at 4 to 6 years old and live 15 to 18 years.

Reindeer need red noses to deal with freezing temperatures.

Credit: Dreamstime.com.

Classification/taxonomy

Here is the classification of reindeer, according to the [Integrated Taxonomic Information System](#) (ITIS):

Kingdom: Animalia	Subkingdom: Bilateria	Infrakingdom: Deuterostomia
Phylum: Chordata	Subphylum: Vertebrata	Infraphylum: Gnathostomata
Superclass: Tetrapoda	Class: Mammalia	Subclass: Theria
Infraclass: Eutheria	Order: Artiodactyla	Family: Cervidae
Subfamily: Capreolinae	Genus: <i>Rangifer</i>	
Species: <i>Rangifer tarandus</i> , and 14 subspecies		

Conservation status

Reindeer are listed as vulnerable by the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN). The IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species says the species has this distinction because it has had a 40 percent decline in population over the past 21 to 27 years. There are currently around 3.5 million caribou in North America, around 1 million wild reindeer in Eurasia and around 3 million domestic reindeer in northern Europe, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

Other facts

Male reindeer lose their antlers in November, but females keep theirs much longer. This means that Santa Claus' reindeer must have all been female, since they are depicted as having horns on December 24.

Reindeer are built for the cold. Their noses warm up air before it gets to their lungs and their entire bodies, including their hooves, are covered with fur.

These creatures can't fly, but they can run. According to the San Diego Zoo, they can run up to 50 mph (80 km/h).

Additional resources

- [Encyclopedia Britannica: Reindeer](#)
- [University of Alaska: Reindeer](#)
- [Reindeer Owners and Breeders Association](#)

Reindeer need red noses to deal with freezing temperatures.



Credit: Dreamstime.com.