

Description

Anzick-1, also known as the Clovis Boy, was a male infant between 12 and 18 months old who died approximately 12,600 years ago and was buried in central Montana with exceptional ceremony. His remains represent the only known human burial directly associated with the Clovis culture, prehistoric peoples identified by their distinctive fluted stone spear points. He was interred with over 100 artifacts, including stone tools and heirloom elk antlers that were centuries older than the child himself, and covered with red ocher. His genome was the first complete ancient DNA sequence ever obtained from a North American human.

The Clovis Boy's genomic analysis directly resolved one of the most contentious debates in American archaeology. The so-called Solutrean hypothesis proposed that early Americans descended from Paleolithic European migrants, based on perceived similarities in tool technology. The DNA refuted this entirely, confirming the child's ancestry as Siberian and Central Asian, which is consistent with a migration through the Bering land bridge and down the Pacific coast of the Americas.

His mitochondrial DNA belongs to haplogroup D4h3a, a rare "founder" lineage believed to represent one of the earliest migration waves into the Americas, which traveled along the Pacific coast. The findings established that Anzick-1 was a direct ancestor of many contemporary Native American populations, particularly those in Central and South America, and revealed that a deep genetic divergence within the Americas had already occurred before his lifetime. The biological data from a single ceremonial burial in Montana settled a decades-long scientific debate and established the primary migratory origin of the first Americans.

Modern population	Distance
Zapotec (Mexico)	2.705
Pima (Mexico)	2.848
Mixtec (Mexico)	2.950
Maya (Mexico)	3.278
Huichol (Mexico)	3.369
Nahua (Mexico)	3.566

Modern population	Distance
Bolivian (La Paz)	3.646
Quechua (Peru)	3.960
Qulla (Argentina)	4.066
Mixe (Mexico)	4.559

Source

Date: 789–546 BCE

Y-DNA: Q-FGC47595

mtDNA: D4h3a

Location: USA

Research: The genome of a Late Pleistocene human from a Clovis burial site in western Montana

Sample(s): Anzick_realigned.SG