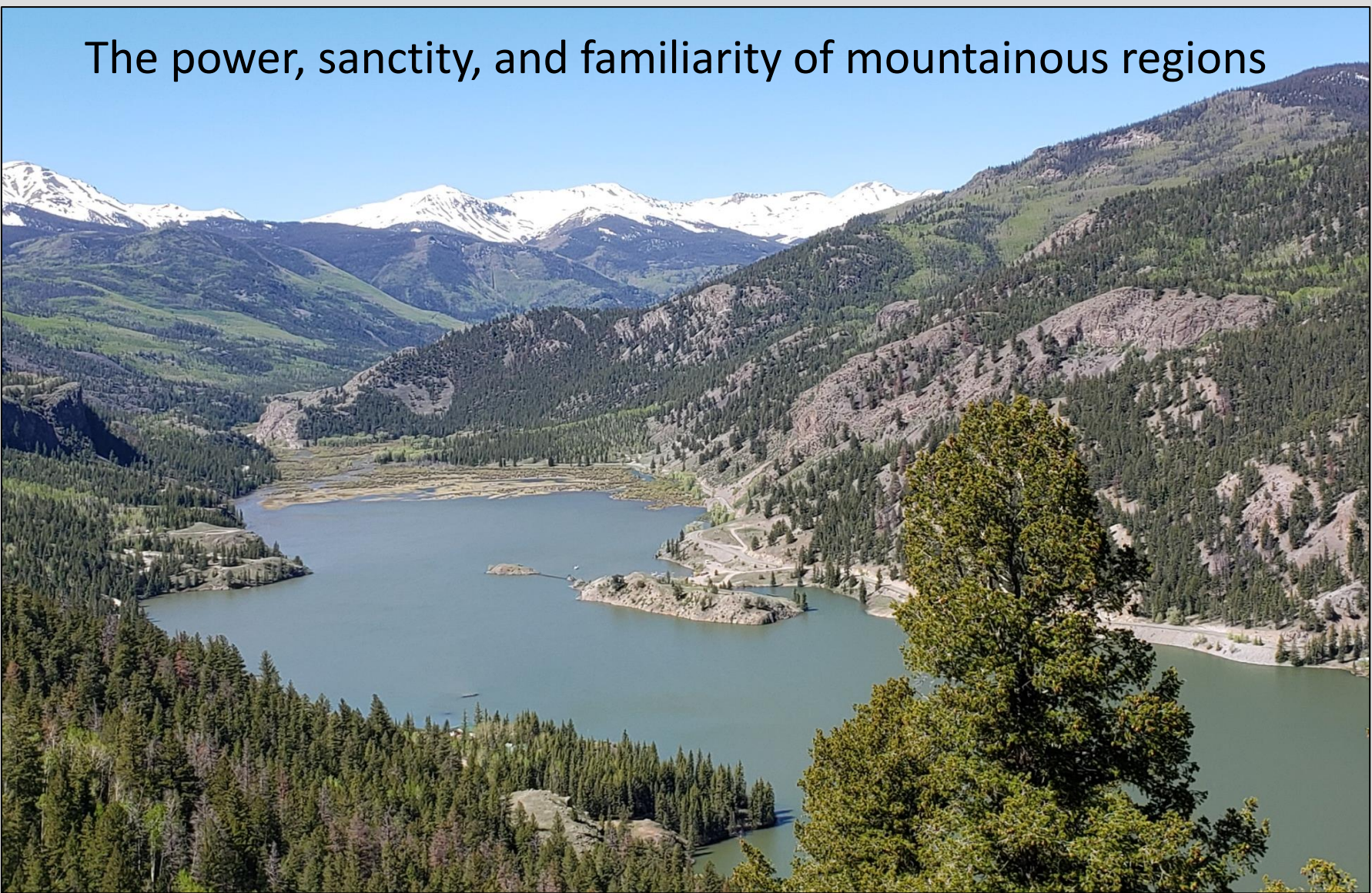
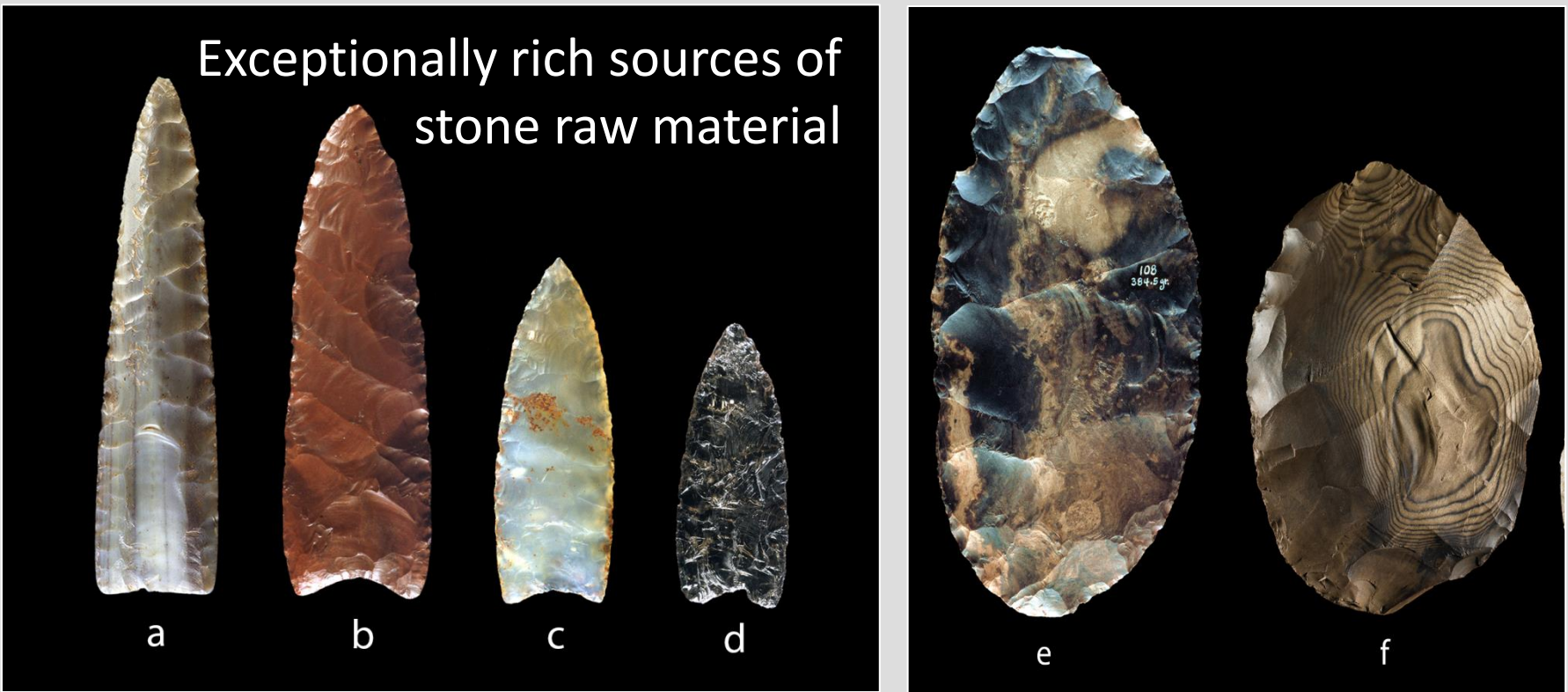
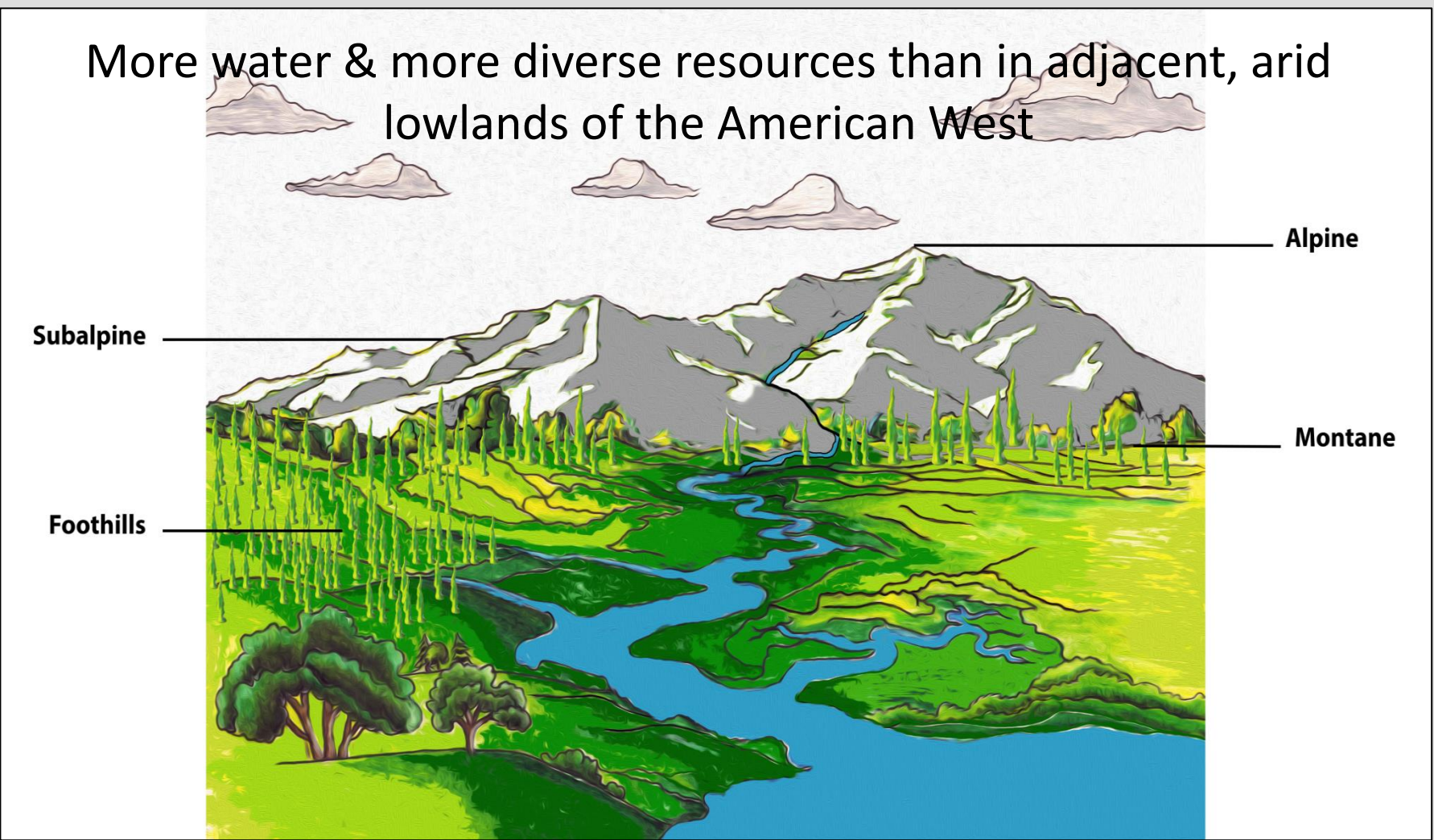


The Role of the Rocky Mountains in the Pleistocene Peopling of the Americas

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OVERVIEW: Archaeologists worldwide have long (and stupidly!) underestimated the importance of mountain ranges in prehistory. In the Americas, this blinded us to the fact that the First Americans of the terminal Pleistocene, more than 11,000+ years ago, settled in the Rocky Mountains, and *not* just in archaeologically better-known and adjacent lowlands like the U.S. Great Plains and Great Basin. This poster overviews reasons for early Rocky Mountain settlement and evidence this occurred from the Old-World home of First Americans and the New World landscape.

1, Reasons for Early Rocky Mountain Settlement

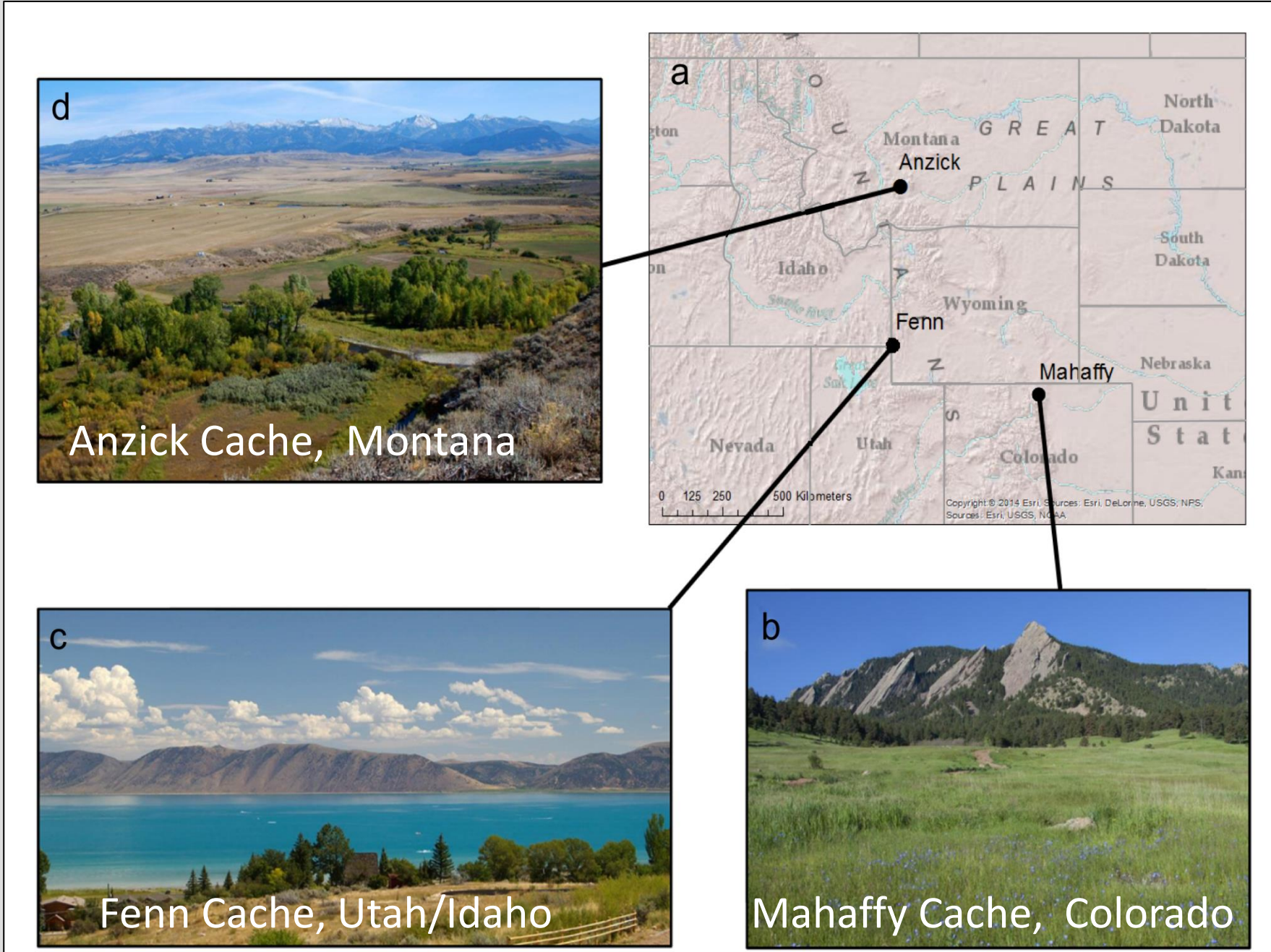
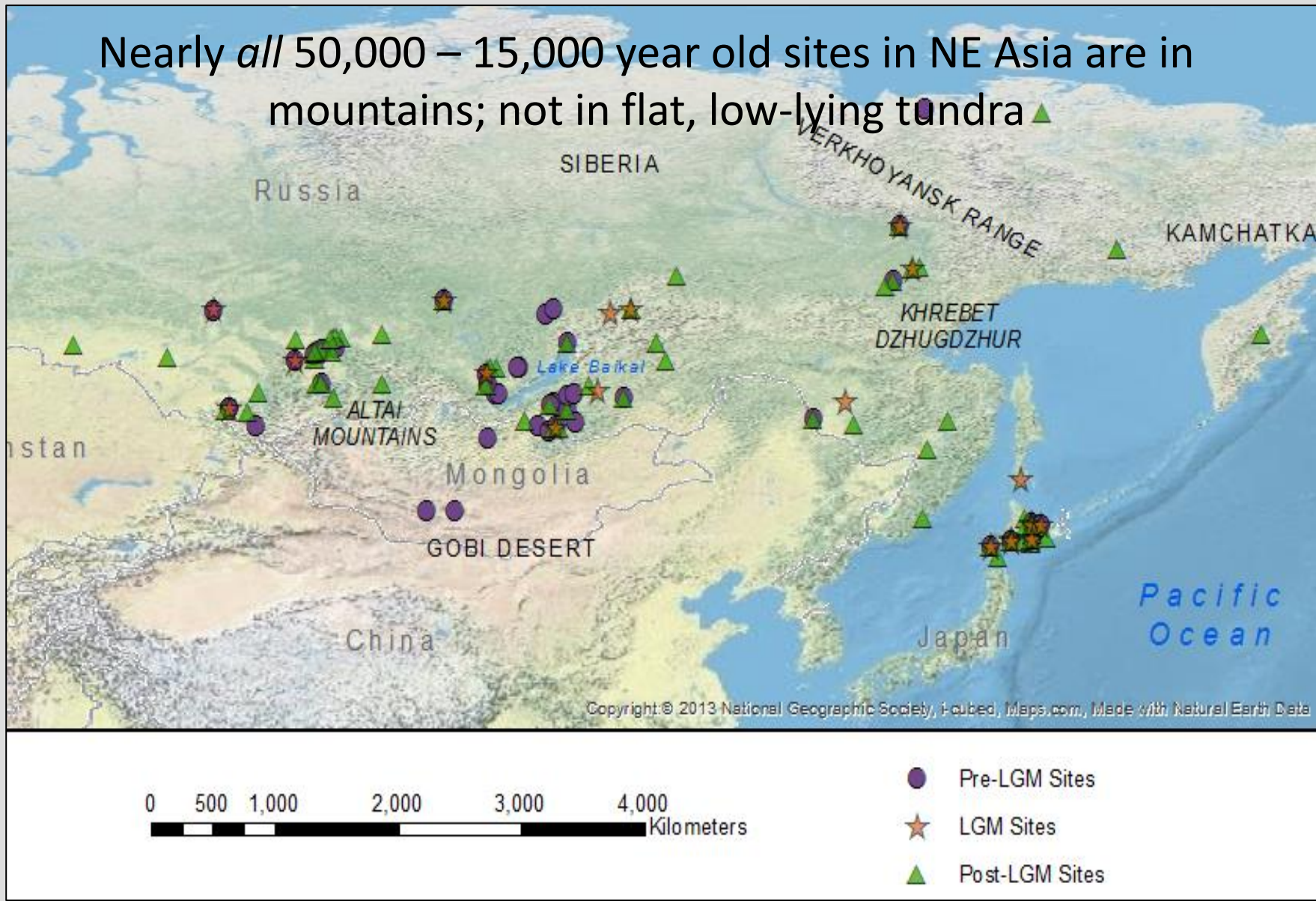


Contrary to scientific and popular stereotypes, the First Americans originated in the northeast Asian mountains (at sites like the two shown below)—not from sites in the flat Siberian tundra. Once in the Americas, these mountain-adapted people settled quickly in the familiar landscapes of the Rockies.

2, Landscape Evidence from Northeastern Asian



3, Archaeological Evidence from the Old & New Worlds



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