

Out of Eden Walk

A journey through time



Summary

The Out of Eden Walk is a unique long-term global journalism project conducted by New Mexico resident and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Salopek, and supported by National Geographic and the Knight Foundation. Its educational mission, supported by the Pulitzer Center and Harvard University, has great potential to advance literacy and global understanding in New Mexico public schools.

The logo of the Pulitzer Center, featuring a stylized 'P' and 'C' intertwined within a circle.

Pulitzer Center

- Non-profit organization supporting global journalism
- In 2013, 364 placements in 49 media outlets
- A focus on big issues that rarely make the news, but that affect millions



Pulitzer Center

Education

- Innovative outreach program using journalism projects to advance literacy and global competence
- Engaging teachers across disciplines and grade levels
- In 2013, more than 400 education events across the US and Europe

Out of Eden Walk

- Two-time Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Paul Salopek is on a 7-year walk around the world, following the path of human migration
- National Geographic and the Knight Foundation supporting the journalism
- Emphasis on slowing readers down, examining overlooked global stories

Video



THE GREATEST WALK



The greatest human migration began 70,000 years ago in Africa. **A** With a mere eye-blink in evolutionary time, our ancestors had reached the last continental corner of the Earth—Tierra del Fuego, at the freezing tip of South America **B**. It was a journey of about 22,000 miles.

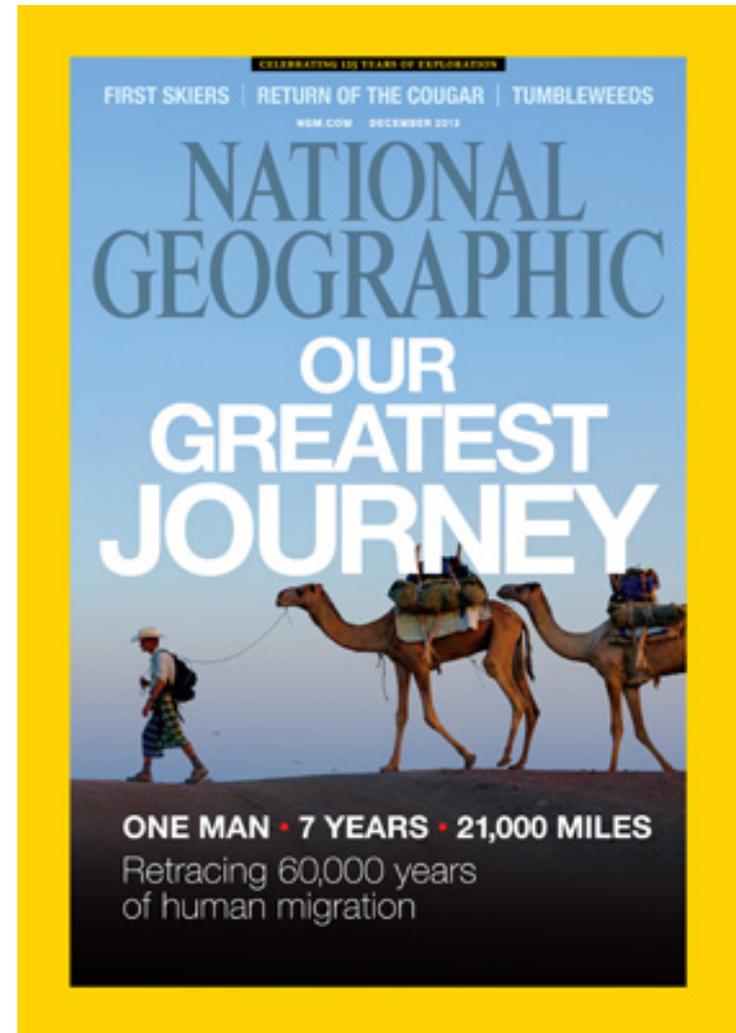
Theories about our species' routing out of Africa abound. Many scientists favor a route following the newly exposed seabeds near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait between Africa and Arabia. From there our ancestors spread into the Levant, Europe and Asia before finally reaching land's end in the Americas.

The reasons for this explosive diaspora of humans are complex - and the topic of much debate. Many scientists point to a drop in sea levels, creating land bridges for early wanderers to trudge across. This map uses sea floor elevation data to depict this drop in sea level.

MAP BY JEFF BLOSSOM, CENTER FOR GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS, HARVARD UNIVERSITY. DESCRIPTIVE TEXT BY PAUL SALOPEK. DATA SOURCES: ELEVATION - ESRI DATA AND MAPS TOPO AND SRTM ELEVATION; IMAGERY - ESRI WORLD IMAGERY BASEMAP.

One year completed

- A December National Geographic cover story
- 72 blog posts
- Rich web and social media presences with maps and multimedia content



Out of Eden Walk Education

- Building a global community of learners around the Walk
- Slow learning, inter-cultural competence, walking parties (Project Zero)
- Journalism as a literacy tool, OOE as a bridge to many global issues and media critique (Pulitzer Center)

Pulitzer Center

- Teacher professional development and large-scale adoption in Philadelphia and Chicago areas
- Curriculum development
- Online multi-school Google hangouts, Skypes



Chicago Public Schools model

- Common Core State Standards created a demand for strong “informational texts”
- Global competence identified as key skillset
- A social studies “road map” for teachers with professional development support

Next Steps in New Mexico

- Identify a district in which to begin collaboration around OOE
- Adapt OOE educational models to fit that district's needs, conduct teacher PD
- New Mexico could be a model for broad state-level adoption of the project

“Walking is falling forward.”

