

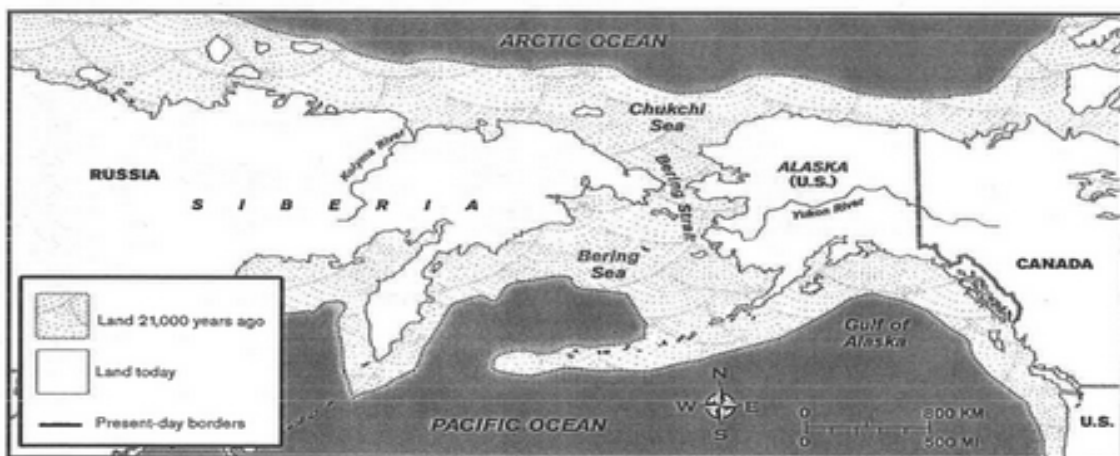
Name: _____

ANCIENT CROSSING

In "The Pedigree of Pooches" (p. 8), you learned that scientists believe dogs came to North America over a land bridge from Siberia thousands of years ago. The map below shows the former size of this now-flooded bridge. Study the map and read the description below. Then answer the questions that follow.

BERING LAND BRIDGE

Alaska is separated from the coast of Siberia by a narrow waterway called the Bering Strait. But during the last ice age, glaciers covered huge areas of Earth and locked up much of the planet's water. Sea levels dropped by up to 91 meters (300 feet), creating a land bridge between North America and Asia. The bridge is thought to have been widest—about 1,610 kilometers (1,000 miles) from north to south—roughly 21,000 years ago. When Earth's climate began warming, approximately 11,000 years ago, much of the ice melted and sea levels rose, flooding the bridge.



QUESTIONS

1. Which waterway separates Alaska from Siberia today?
2. Which oceans were separated by the Bering land bridge?
3. About how many years ago did the Bering land bridge extend the widest?
4. Which Alaskan river empties into the Bering Strait?
5. Humans are believed to have migrated across the land bridge approximately 15,000 years ago. Describe what it might have been like to make that trip.