

David Proano

Dr. Nathaniel B. Perez

Our America

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Museum of the American Indian

The Museum of the American Indian has two locations in the US, Washington D.C. and New York. It originally was founded by George Gustav Heye as he ventured through the country in sight of artifacts with native beginnings. In 1916, with the findings he had he began the National Museum of the American Indian. Later on in 1989, it was combined with the George Gustav Heye Center, the Smithsonian, and the Cultural Resources Center. When the Smithsonian was found to have thousands of remains from Indians, Congress passed an Act that seemingly took away two thirds of the remains and left the rest for the museum which was then combined with the George Gustav Heye collection.

What stood out to me of the exhibits was the Infinity of Nations exhibit. It is such a diverse and intricate collection of history of Native Americans that I am surprised at how much there is. From the Arctic to the Amazon, there was a plethora of art, artifacts, and culture that I had never known before. I was able to witness the history of varying lifestyles and cultures from the environments and cultures they had.

I am glad to say that the staff in exhibits like the Infinity of Nations were excellent at representing and educating me on the topics they were around. Curious of how they continued in places like Alaska, I asked staff for more insight and they explained how they survived in such conditions when they must have not been equipped for such conditions. They explained how

practicing a struggling lifestyle of perfecting fishing in cold temperatures while trying to live in warmer climates helped them endure some of the toughest conditions.

An amazing fact that I had not known was the Bering Land Bridge and how it helped natives to prosper in the Americas. The Bering Land Bridge is this land bridge that helped the people to cross from Asia to North America because of the Ice Ages lowest land melting points. It makes more sense how they were able to make a journey as such to the Americas, but not in how they did not just stay in the areas where the bridge led them instead of leaving to far away places like the Arctic or Amazon since the bridge leads them to North America.