

Migration



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Migration

Archeologists are still unsure exactly when and how the first people came to North America. But archeologists do believe that American Indians first came to the Chesapeake Bay during an ice age over 15,000 years ago. When they arrived, the Chesapeake Bay was nothing more than a river. All of its water was still trapped in frozen glaciers to the north. Sedge grasses and evergreen trees grew in the cold landscape. People lived in small family groups and were nomadic, moving around all the time to follow the animals they hunted. Some of these animals were enormous, like mastadons, and others, like fish and turtles, were smaller. Plants like berries and tubers were also on the menu.

Learn more at nps.gov/cajo

Image courtesy
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration