The reading and the lecture are both about the settlement of humans in Monte Verde, Chile. The author of the reading believes that contrary to some researchers’ belief, it could not be happened around 12,500 years ago. The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article. He thinks that humans resided there at that time.

First of all, the author claims that ancient people were hunter-gatherers which shows that they should have had some hunting tools, however there were no hunting tools found there. This point is challenged by the lecturer. He says that original settlers of the America hunted plants and small animals, therefore they hunted them by rocks and bones, which found by archeologists. Furthermore, he points out, those people did not have enough knowledge to make hunting tools.

Secondly, although the author of the reading claims that farming in Monte Verde for several generations, destroyed archeological evidences, the professor counters that argument by asserting that the main dig site was bog and the farmers never touched them. He also suggests that the superficial layers of the site destroyed by the farmers; however deep layers have not been compromised, and still have many evidences remain there.

Finally, the author mentions that bitumen which is a tar-like substance made carbon dating difficult for researchers. The lecturer, on the other hand, states that, despite the presence of bitumen, archeologists did more than twenty-five tests, and also they used different methods for that. He puts forth on the idea that majority of the results showed that Monte Verde inhabited by humans about 12,500 years ago.

(25 minutes)

266 words