KSPS: “Sculpted by Floods” - Glacial Lake Missoula

1. Approximately, how long ago did the flooding occur?
2. Where did the water first originate or how? How much water did the ancient lake hold?
3. What path did the flooding take once it burst through the ice dam at Glacial Lake Missoula? Approximately how many miles did the floods cover? How long did it take for the water to reach the Pacific Ocean?
4. What did the floods leave in their wake? (think: Portland’s landscape, the Willamette Valley, etc.)
5. How many times do geologists now think the flooding of Glacial Lake Missoula may have occurred?

1. What rock type existed in central Washington that was so easy to erode? Why was it easy to erode?
2. What did the floods leave behind? What is significant about Central Washington’s landscape? Why is it called the scablands (“wounded land”)?

1. Who was J. Harlen Bretz and what role did he play in uncovering the truth of this event?
2. What is Uniformitarianism? What was Catastrophism? Why did so many scientists resist Bretz theory?
3. Who was Joseph Pardee and what role did he play in uncovering the truth of this event?
4. What was Richard Waitt’s theory “Mulitple Event Theory” – what evidence did he use to support his theory?
5. What role do “Turbidity currents” play in the flood? Where was evidence located?
6. What benefits came to the area as a result of this catastrophic event?
7. Summarize in your own words how you would explain the flooding and the legacy it had on the PNW?