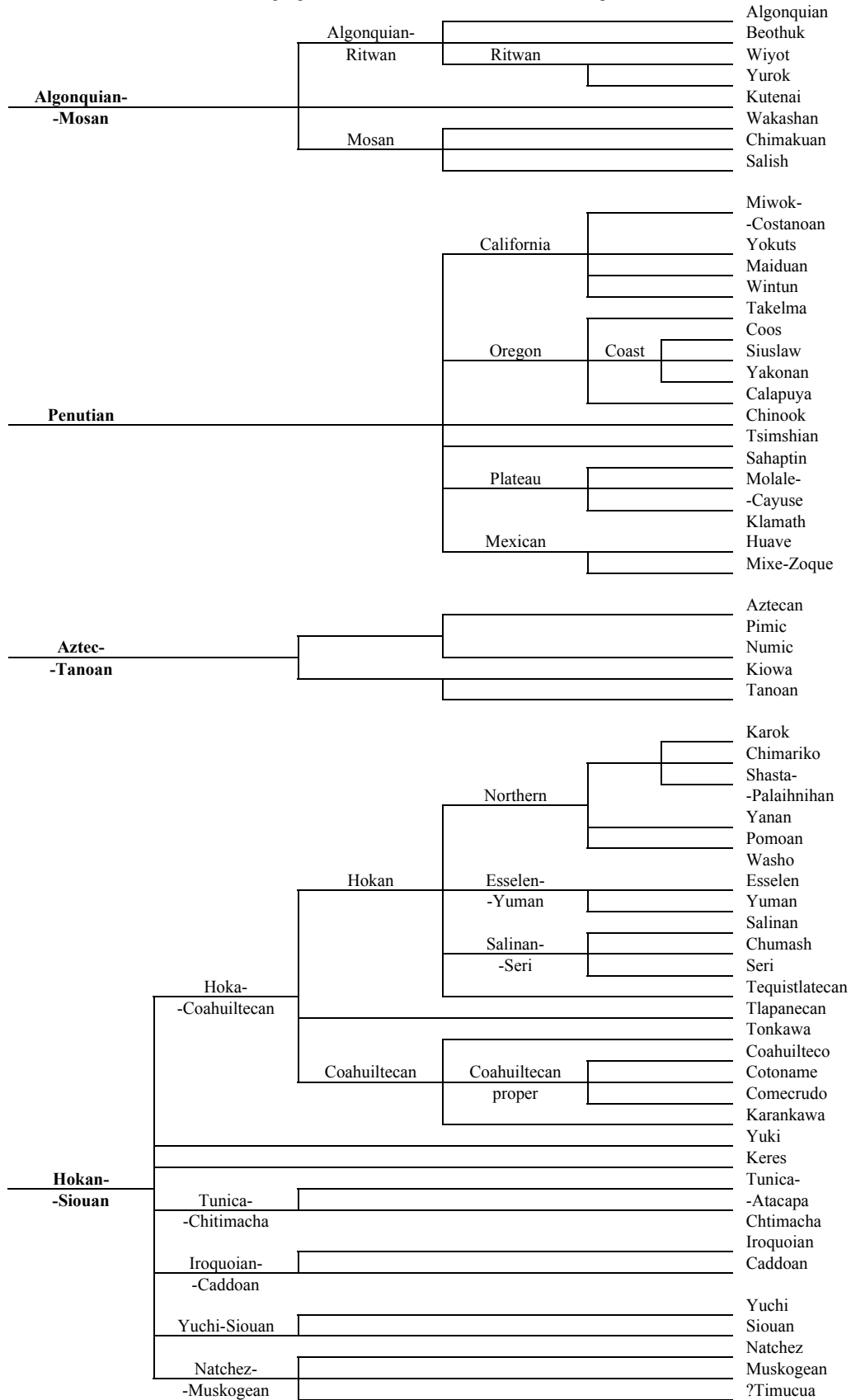


CLASSIFICATION OF THE AMERINDIAN LANGUAGES

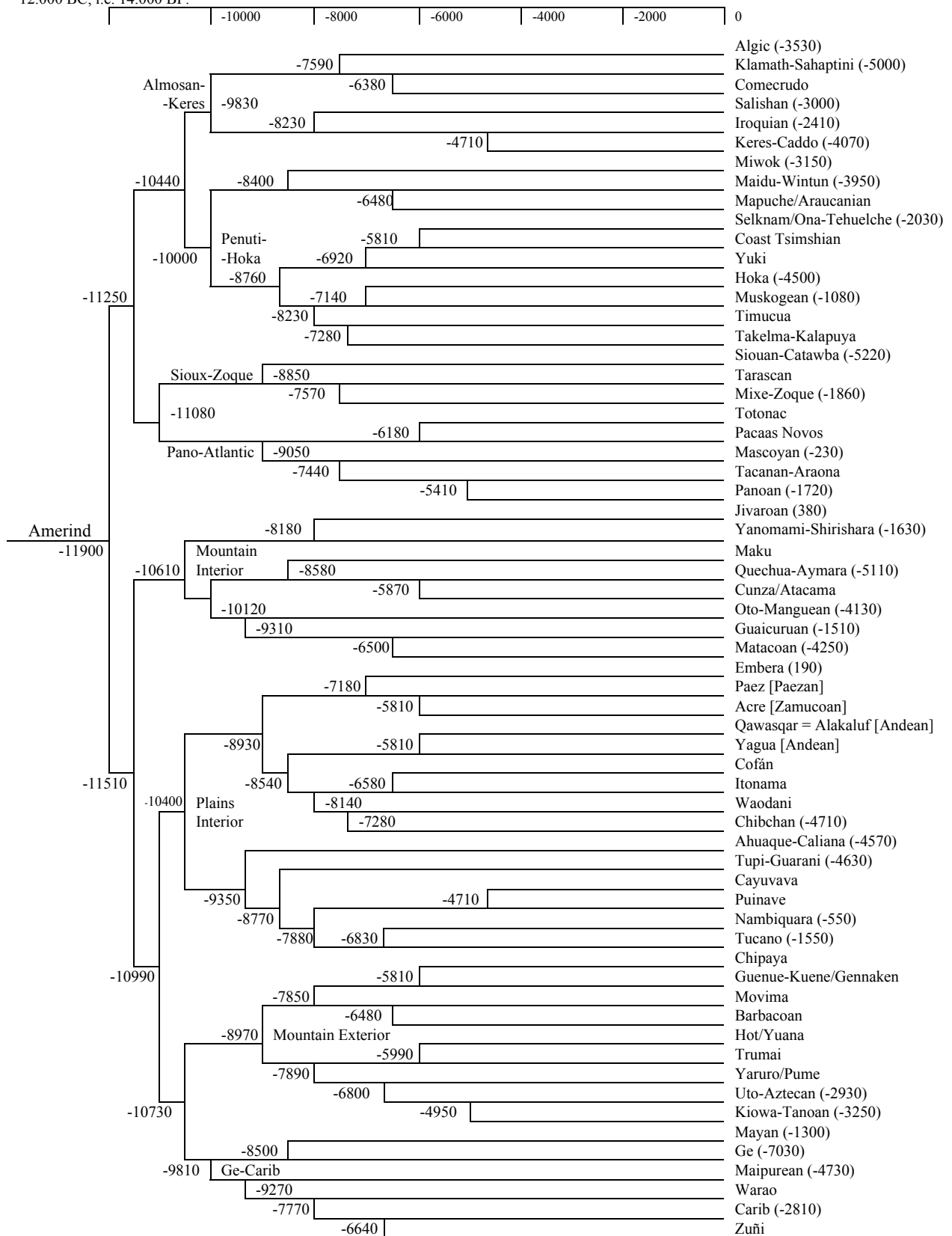
In 1929 Edward Sapir supposed the first global classification of North American native languages. He defined 6 taxonomical units. Abstracting from Eskaleutan and Nadene, there are 4 language macrofamilies which cover most of the space of Canada, USA and Mexico:



The first attempt to classify all Amerind languages (i.e. without Eskaleutan and Nadene) in the only taxonomic unit can be ascribed to J.H. Greenberg (1987), here see Ruhlen 1987, 299-300, 366-77.

				examples of languages			
Amerind	North	Almosan-Keresiouan	Kutenai				
			Almosan	Ritwan	Wiyot, Yurok		
				Algic	Algonquian	Beothuk; Blackfoot, Cheyen, Fox, Ojibwa, Mohegan	
			Keresiouan		Chimakuan	Quileute, Chemakum	
					Wakashan	Kwakiutl, Heiltsuk, Nootka, Nitinat	
					Salish	Bella Coola, Comox, Squamish, Seshelt, Twana	
				Keresian		Keres	Keres
					Yuchi-Siouan	Catawba; Mandan, Hidatsa, Dakota, Omaha; Tutelo	
			Penutian	Keresiouan	-Siouan	Yuchi	
					Caddoan	Caddo, Wichita, Kitsai, Pawnee, Arikara	
					Iroquoian	Huron, Mohawk, Cayuga, Tuscarora, Cherokee	
				Canadian	Tsimshian		
				Washington	Chinook		
				Oregon	Takelma, Santiam, Coos, Siuslaw		
				Plateau	Klamath, Sahaptin, Nez Perce, Molale, Cayuse		
		California		Wintun	Wintun		
				Maiduan	Mountain & Northwest & South Maidu		
		Hokan			Yokuts	Foothill North & South Yokuts, Valley Yokuts	
				Miwok-Costanoan	Ohlone, Rumsen, Coast & Lake & Plains Miwok		
			New Mexico	Zuni			
			Gulf		Atacapa, Tunica, Chitimacha		
				Natchez-Muskogean	Yuki, Wappo		
			Mexican		Natchez; Choctaw, Muskogee = Cree, Alabama		
				Huave	Huave		
				Totonacan	Totonac, Tepehua		
Mixe-Zoque	Mixe, Oluta, Sayula, Zoque, Texistepec						
Mayan	Huastec; Yucatec, Lacandon, Chontal, Tzeltal, Mam, Jacaltec, Ixil, Kekchi, Uspantec, Quiche, Cakchiquel						
Central	Amerind	Northern	Karok, Shasta, Chimariko, Achumawi, Yahí, Pomo				
		Washo	Washo				
		Salinan-Chumash	Salinan, Chumash, Esselen				
		Seri-Yaman	Seri, Yuma, Mohave, Maricopa, Walapai, Havasupai				
		Waicuri-Quinigua	Quinigua, Waicuri, Maratino				
	Tanoan	Coahuiltecan	Tonkawa, Karankawa, Coahuiltec, Comecrudo				
		Tequistlatecan	Tequistlatec, Tlamelula				
		Southern	Jicaque, Yurimangui, Tlapanec, Subtiaba				
			Kiowa, Tewa, Piro, Taos, Picuris				
		Uto-Aztecan	Shoshone, Comanche, Pima, Hopi, Yaqui, Nahuatl				
	Amerind	Chibchan	Oto-Manguean	Amuzgo, Otomi, Mixtec, Mazatec, Chinantec			
			Chibchan	Tarascan, Lenca, Matagalpa, Cuna, Tunebo			
		-Paezan	Paezan	Chimu, Mura, Andaqui, Runa, Paez, Cayapa,			
			Northern	Culli, Leco; Cataco, Colan; Cholona, Hibito			
			Urarina-Waorani	Urarina, Waorani, Omurano			
Cahuapapan-Zaparoan			Chayahuita, Jebero; Zaparo, Andoa, Cahuarano				
Quechuan			Quechua				
Andean		Aymaran	Aymara, Jaqaru				
		Southern	Puelche; Mapudungu = Araucanian; Alacaluf = Qawasqar, Yamana; Tehuelche, Teushen, Selknam				
		Macro-Tucanoan	Huari; Macu; Nambikuara; Guariba; Ticuna; Siona				
		Equatorial	Piaroa-Saliba	Piaroa, Saliba			
			Timote	Timote, Cuica			
-Tucanoan		Jivaroan	Shuar = Jivaro, Cofan, Esmeralda, Yaruro				
		Zamucoan	Chamacoco, Ayoreo				
		Kariri-Tupi	Dzubucua, Kiriri; Guarani, Tapiete, Munduruku				
	Macro-Arawakan	Guahibo; Taino; Chipaya, Uru; Chapacura; Arawak, Island Carib					
Ge-Pano-Carib	Macro-Carib		Andoke; Yagua; Bora, Witoto; Japreria, Galibi = Carib; Wayana, Urukuyana, Waiwai, Makushi, Arara, Bakairi				
		Macro-Ge	Bororo; Botocudo; Yabuti; Kaingan; Chavante, Apinaye, Cayapo				
	Ge-Pano		Guaicuru-Mataco				
		Macro-Panoan	Pano-Tacana				
			Guaicuru, Abipon, Kadiweu, Toba; Chulupi, Chorote Caripuna, Catuquina, Araua; Araona, Tacana				
		Charrua; Lule, Vilela; Guana, Emok; Chimane					

In 2004 in Santa Fé (NM) the Russian linguist Dimitry Leshchiner tried to apply the 'recalibrated' glottochronology developed by Sergei Starostin to the Amerindian languages. His result is apparently different from Greenberg's model. Interesting is the dating of the Common Amerind to c. 12.000 BC, i.e. 14.000 BP.



Sources:

Greenberg, Joseph H. 1987. *The Languages of Americas*. Stanford: University Press.
 Ruhlen, Merritt. 1987. *A Guide to the World's Languages*, Vol. 1: *Classification*. Stanford: University Press.

