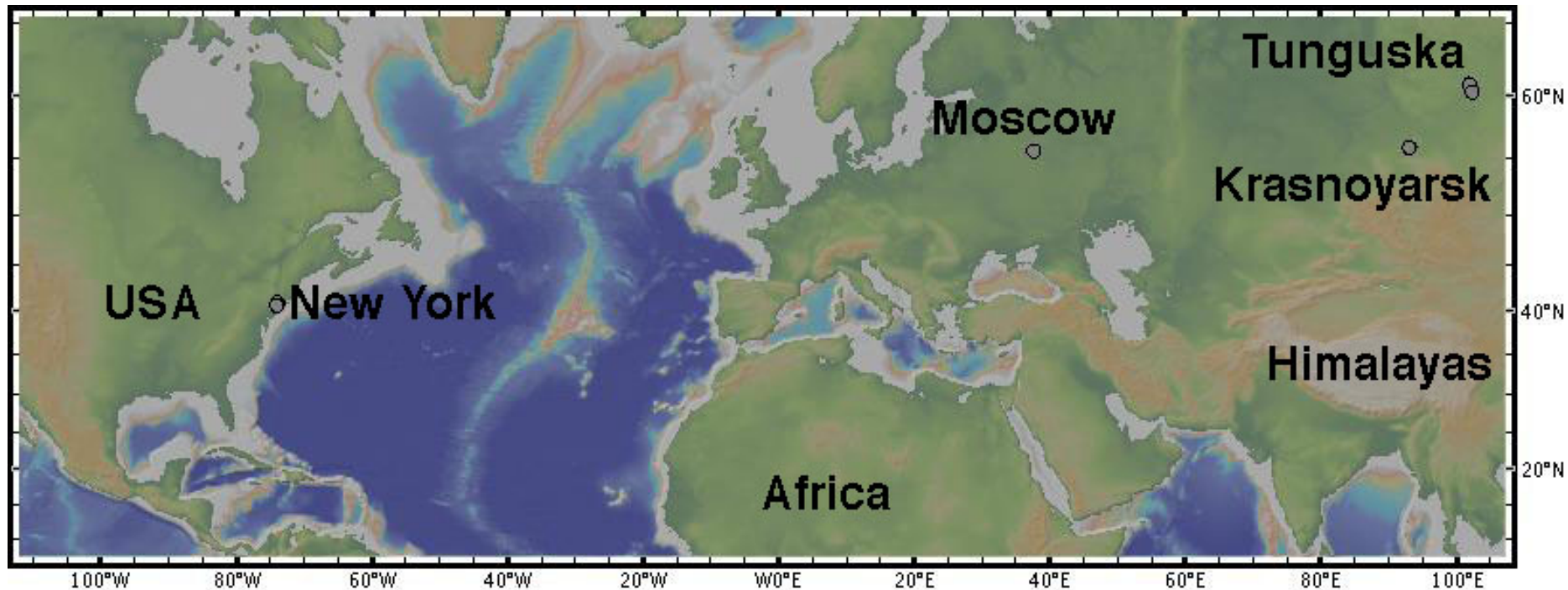
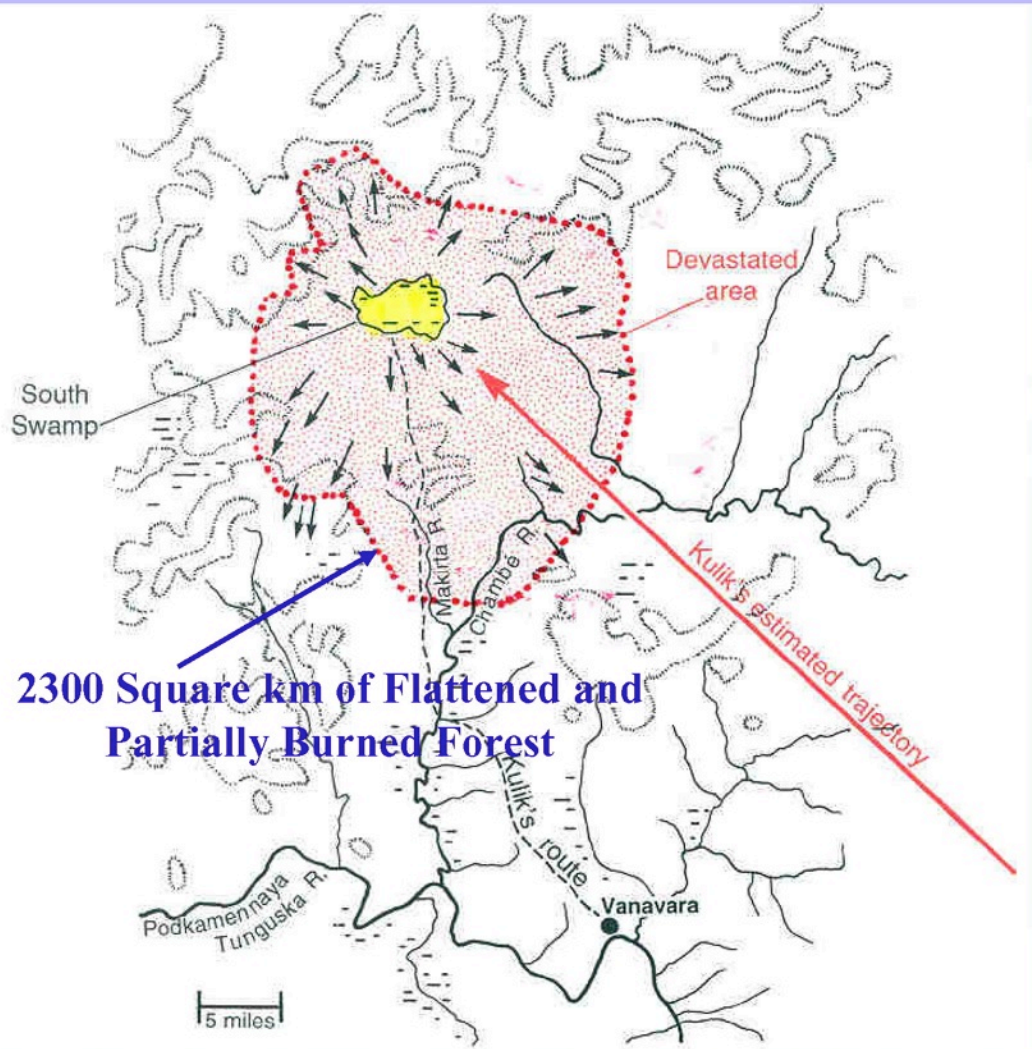


# Adventures in Siberia: A Trip to the Site of the Largest Impact in History (Tunguska)



# What was Tunguska?



Map Based on 1927 Expedition Notes of Tree Fall Orientation

- Largest impact in recorded history (June 30, 1908)
- Explosion 1000 times larger than Hiroshima bomb (WWII).
- Impactor was a comet (although often called the Tunguska meteorite)
- Rockland Co. 200 sq. mi. : 830 sq. mi. Tunguska.

# What Did The Local People (the Evenki) Think?



- God (Ogdy) was mad at them

# Tunguska: June 30, 1908

Leonid Kulik-first scientist to visit Tunguska: “One has an uncanny feeling when one sees large trees snapped like matchsticks”



# Trees at Tunguska Epicenter-Upright but Burned-Ground in Waves



# Conventional Theories

Meteorite explosion in air (like Chelyabinsk).

Comet explosion in air.



# Other Ideas

Nikola Tesla-Electromagnetic experiment gone bad “Death Ray”

Methane gas explosion

Alien spaceship

Anti-matter to mirror matter

Mini black hole passes through Earth



Our group of scientists wants to visit  
Tunguska: Slava arranges it.



# What We Had to Do to Get There

- Visa (start in November for June 30th visit-official letter of invitation)-Slava arranges letter.
- Permission to visit (U.S. Government Employees)
- Airplane to Krasnoyarsk, then Vanavaara-Slava
- Camping gear, food on trip (no hotel, no store)-Slava
- Helicopter from Vanavaara to Tunguska
- and back (70 km each way)-Slava arranges
- Herding cats... Us-Americans and Australian-Slava



# Last Supper before Tunguska Trip

- Cosmonauts on right-Greichka



# Arrival Vanavaara, June 30, 2008

- Traditional costumes and amulets for safety



# Inside Helicopter - on the way!

- Discovery Channel team plus our group-free ride for us- arranged by Slava



# Slava on helicopter

- Happy to be going
- Relieved worked out so far



# Swamp just before landing at Tunguska epicenter



Yellow  
areas:  
Swamps  
Permafrost:  
1.5 feet  
down

Problem at camp-Bear  
with 2 cubs-swatted tent.  
Solution-Two dogs and  
rifle-AK-47.



Barsik (Siberian Tiger)



Tunguska

# Filming, Singing, Eating, and Drinking (and swatting mosquitos)



- Scientists from Tomsk-mapped fallen trees
- Mama Luda

# Boiling Water and Cooking-Open Fire



Olga-architect  
Documentary  
film-maker  
Smoke keeps  
mosquitoes  
away  
All water  
from swamp



# Filming with Siberian Mosquitos



Full head  
gear -  
four film  
crews-  
Discovery  
(USA),  
Russian  
BBC, Czech

# What is left after 100 years?



Burned logs from trees  
scorched in 1908



Stumps of fallen trees

# Leaving Tunguska



# Slava Leaving for Home-Siberian Railway at Krasnoyarsk



Very relaxed-no  
more herding of  
cats -  
(Americans and  
Australian)

# Final Quote on Tunguska

- Dr. Andrei Olk'hovaton
- “If for many years you were thinking about a meteorite or alien spacecraft, of course, it would be very hard to change your point of view”