

OUTLINE OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF PREHISTORIC CULTURES IN INDIANA

Paleoindians (10,000-8,000 B.C.)

- * present during end of late ice age times
- * high quality, finely made lanceolate projectile points:
 - ~Clovis
 - ~Cumberland
 - ~Quad
 - ~Beaver Lake
 - ~Agate Basin
 - ~Hi-Lo
 - ~Plainview
- * highly mobile hunter and gatherer bands
- * large territorial range
- * hunters of extinct big game such as mastodon
- * low population density
- * specialized tool kits
- * factors affecting site locations include: water resources, chert resources, trails of large game
- * focus on high quality chert resources

Early Archaic (8,000-6,000 B.C.)

- * Holocene climate
- * new hafting techniques (such as notching) for projectile points, for use on spearthrower:
 - ~Kirk
 - ~Thebes
 - ~St. Charles
 - ~MacCorkle
 - ~St. Albans
 - ~LeCroy
 - ~Kanawha
- * beveled resharpening of projectile points on opposite sides
- * population increase; macrobands?
- * mobile hunters and gatherers
- * larger site sizes, central base camps?
- * exploitation of caves and rockshelters
- * preference for fine quality cherts
- * sites over much of the environment
- * cemetery and cremation sites
- * ground stone tools for grinding, cracking, and crushing food

Middle Archaic (6,000-3,500 B.C.)

- * climate warming trend
- * population increase
- * side notched and stemmed projectile points:
 - ~Faulkner-Raddatz
 - ~Godar
 - ~Matanzas
 - ~Karnak
- * a variety of ground stone tools (including grooved axes) for woodworking and food preparation
- * spearthrower weights
- * awls
- * ornaments, such as beads and pendants
- * shell middens or “mounds”
- * more sedentary settlements
- * more evidence of regional differences of cultures

Late Archaic (3,500- 1,500 B.C.)

- * continuity with Middle Archaic
- * large population increase; large, semi-permanent camps
- * very numerous sites, seasonal, scheduled occupations
- * projectile points include:
 - ~Matanzas
 - ~Karnak
 - ~Brewerton
 - ~McWhinney
 - ~Saratoga
 - ~Lamoka
- * large amounts and variety of ground stone tools
- * plummets
- * use of aquatic resources; shell middens and “mounds”
- * regional and cultural boundaries
- * trade networks:
 - ~marine shells
 - ~copper
- * decline in workmanship and quality of raw materials for chipped stone tools
- * efficient, focused, selective exploitation of resources
- * incipient cultivation and plant modification
- * grave offerings, evidence of social stratification
- * cultures, phases, and foci include: Bluegrass, French Lick, Glacial Kame, Early Red Ochre, Maple Creek

Terminal Late Archaic (1,500-700 B.C.)

- * small projectile points

- ~Riverton (microtool complex)
- * Terminal Archaic Barbed points
- * Turkeytail points
- * red ochre mortuary rituals
- * copper use

Early Woodland (700-200 B.C.)

- * use of ceramics:
 - ~Marion Thick
 - ~Fayette Thick
 - ~Baumer
 - ~Early Crab Orchard
- * Adena burial mounds: log tombs with grave goods
- * earthworks and mound sites; some on bluff situations, some astronomically aligned
- * large-bladed, stemmed projectile points:
 - ~Adena
 - ~Kramer
 - ~Robbins
 - ~Dickson
 - ~Gary Contracting Stemmed
- * celts (ungrooved axes), awls, gorgets
- * some horticulture, such as gourds and sunflowers
- * less evidence of use of aquatic and mussel resources
- * Late Red Ochre
- * increased evidence of nut resource use

Middle Woodland (200 B.C.-500 A.D.)

- * complex, stratified social organization; tribes?
- * mounds and occasional earthworks
- * blade tools and blade cores
- * projectile points include:
 - ~Snyders
 - ~Lowe Flared Base
 - ~Stueben
 - ~Chesser
 - ~Baker's Creek
- * region to region exchange of exotic goods and raw materials:
 - ~copper
 - ~mica
 - ~obsidian
 - ~conch shells
 - ~chert
- * regional social and political boundaries and exchange
- * Havana, Scioto, Crab Orchard Hopewell
- * ceramics include:

- ~Havana Hopewell
- ~Crab Orchard
- ~Mann Phase
- * exotic artifacts, such as:
 - ~panpipes
 - ~platform pipes
 - ~copper celts
 - ~ear spools
 - ~mica cut into various shapes
 - ~clay figurines
 - ~copper
 - ~cut animal and human mandibles
- * astronomical alignments at earthworks sites
- * cultures, phases, foci include: Mann, Crab Orchard, Goodall, Havana, Allison, Scioto

Late Woodland (500-1,000 A.D.; to ca. 17th century in places)

- * bow and arrow appears
- * maize agriculture
- * Projectile points include:
 - ~triangular points, including Madison
 - ~Raccoon Corner Notched
 - ~Jack's Reef
- * Commissary Knives
- * ceramics: thin, cordmarked; collared vessels; includes:
 - ~Albee
- * small mounds; stone mounds
- * population increase
- * decrease in size of sites; ubiquitous locations
- * less elaborate ritual and mortuary behavior; decline in importance of mounds and earthworks
- * cultures, phases, or foci: Albee, Yankeetown, Oliver, Langford, Allison-Lamotte, Brems, Walkerton, Springwells; Newtown

Mississippian (1,000-1,700 A.D.)

- * shell-tempered pottery
- * flat-top pyramid mounds
- * projectile points include:
 - ~triangular points
 - ~Nodena
 - ~Cahokia
- * villages and towns with plaza areas
- * public ceremonial structures
- * chiefdom social organization
- * differential access to resources
- * maize, beans, and squash agriculture

- * chipped stone hoes
- * nucleated towns; palisaded settlements
- * large cemeteries
- * ceramic artifacts include:
 - ~ladles
 - ~trowels
 - ~balls
 - ~discs
 - ~discoidals
 - ~effigies
- * cultures, phases, or foci: Angel, Fort Ancient, Fisher, Huber, Caborn-Welborn, Vincennes, Middle Mississippian, Upper Mississippian

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