

How did prehistoric Indians evolve?

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your notebook as pg. 5 and write
today's EQ at the top

Background

- Before Europeans arrived in North America, people had been living here for thousands of years.
- They had walked over an ice bridge that once connected Asia and North America.
- They were nomads, or wanderers. They moved constantly.

- As time changed, they moved less and their cultures evolved.
- These 4 prehistoric groups are called Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian.
- Even though they didn't leave written records, we know how these people lived because archaeologists
(_____)
have recovered artifacts
(_____)

Paleo (10,000 – 8,000 BC)

■ Housing

- No permanent housing
- Lived in groups of 25 – 50
- Nomadic

■ Food

- Followed large game such as mammoth and bison
- May have chased large animals over cliffs

Paleo

■ Tools/Weapons

- Spears
- Spear points, knives, scrapers made of stone

■ Religious beliefs

- No evidence

■ Other facts

- Paleo means “very old”
- Paleo artifacts have been found in Ga. along the Savannah, Flint, and Ocmulgee Rivers

Archaic (8,000 – 1,000 BC)

■ Housing

- Small groups joined together to form camps – still moved a lot
- Lived in permanent villages by the late Archaic period

■ Food

- Still hunted large game until it became extinct
- Smaller game – deer, bear, turkey, reptiles
- Began fishing
- Gathered nuts, berries
- Shellfish

Archaic (8,000 – 1,000 BC)

■ Tools/Weapons

- Smaller spear points
- Invented the **atlatl** - a bone/wooden device in which a spear was placed
- Invented choppers, drills, chipping tools
- Hooks made from bone
- **Invented grooved axe**
- **First use of pottery**
- Grinding stones

■ Religious beliefs

- No evidence

■ Other facts

- Divided into 3 phases
 - early, middle, late
- Evidence of trading with other groups
- Moved each season
- Began horticulture – the science of growing plants

Woodland (1,000 BC – 1000 AD)

■ Housing

- Formed tribes
- Built dome-shaped huts made from bent trees

■ Food

- Fish, small game
- Nuts/berries
- Grew squash, wild greens and sunflowers

■ Tools/weapons

- Invented bow and arrow
- Arrow points made of stone, shark teeth, and antlers
- Made pottery that would last longer and decorated it

Woodland (1,000 BC – 1000 AD)

■ Religious beliefs

- Introduced religious ceremonies
- Built cone-shaped burial mounds
- Adorned bodies w/jewelry
- Buried loved ones with special items

■ Other facts

- Scientists think this group believed in life after death b/c of burying loved one's with special items

Mississippian (800 – 1,600 AD)

■ Housing

- Large villages with several thousand families
- Villages were protected by moats/palisades
- Had chiefdoms (nations) in which multiple villages were ruled by priest-chief

■ Food

- Grew most of their own food like corn, beans, pumpkins
- Grew tobacco for ceremonies

Mississippian (800 – 1,600 AD)

■ Tools/Weapons

- Stone/bone hoes
- Digging sticks
- Still used other tools already invented

■ Religious beliefs

- Centers for religious ceremonies
- Priest-chief – head of village

■ Other facts

- Most advanced prehistoric civilization
- Got its name b/c first evidence from this group was found along the Mississippi River
- AKA Temple Mound period
- Rotated crops
- Disappeared around 1600 AD