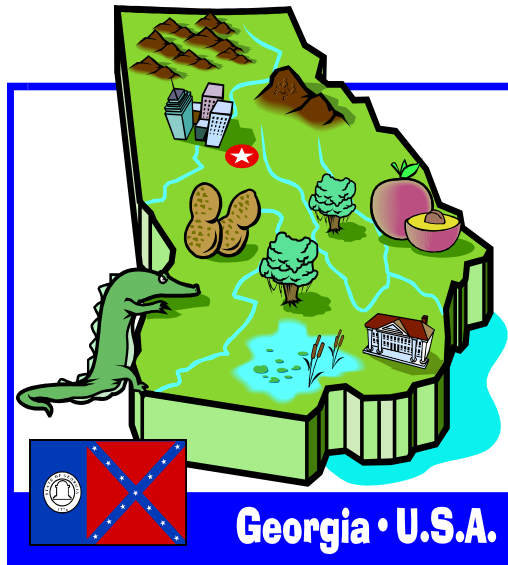


HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDINGS



SS8H1 TSW evaluate the development of Native American cultures and the impact of European exploration and settlement on the Native American cultures in Georgia.

a. Describe the evolution of Native American cultures (Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, & Mississippian) prior to European contact.

Paleo Period

The earliest known culture is that of the Paleo Indians, whose culture lasted until about 10,000 years ago. The word "Paleo" comes from the Greek and means *very old or long ago*.

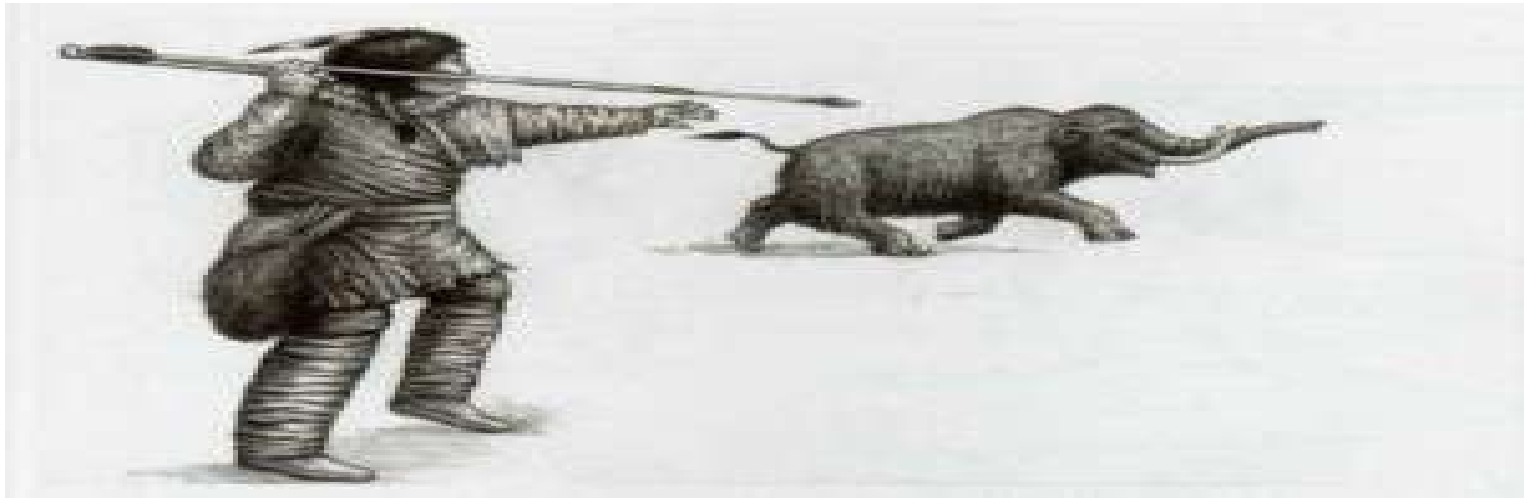


Early people can sometimes be identified by the material they used to make knives, scrapers, and points for spears.

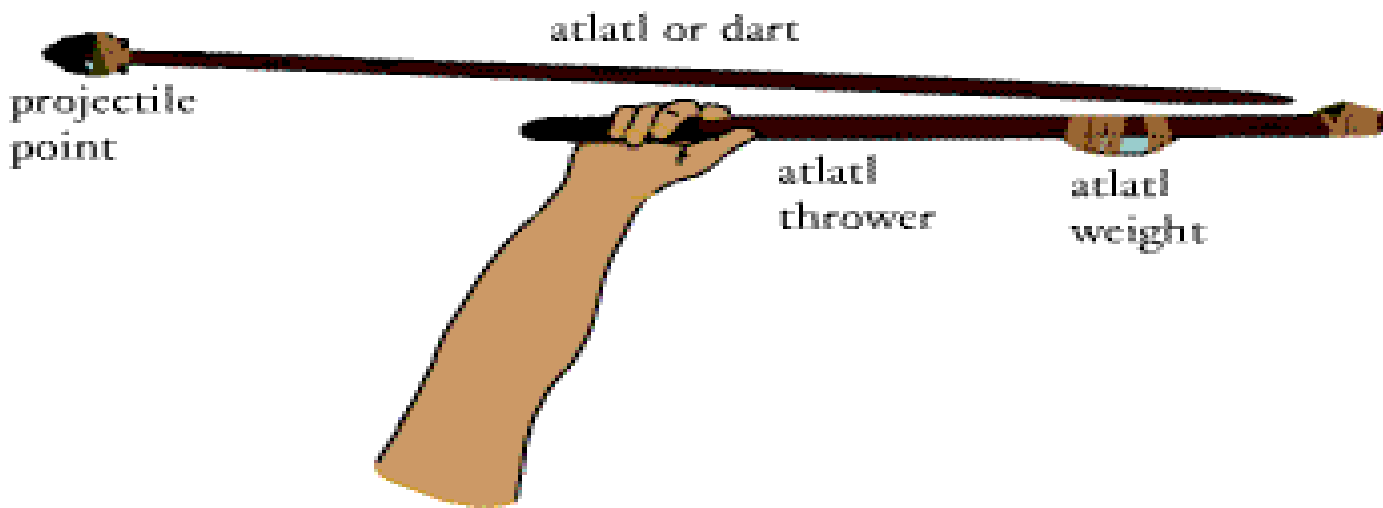
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Because most tools and spear points used by the people of this culture were made of stone, this period is referred to as the Paleolithic (old stone) age.



The Paleo culture also used an amazing invention called an atlatl, [aht-laht-l] a smooth sling-like implement that threw darts far more accurately than if thrown by hand.



The Paleo people were nomadic or roaming hunters. They wandered following herds of large animals.



The hunters used long wooden spears to kill the large animals which were used for food. They may also have chased the animals over cliffs to kill them.



Remains of their dwelling places indicate that the Paleo people lived in groups of 25 to 50 people.



Because they were nomads,
they didn't leave many
artifacts in any one place.
Only a few Paleo sites have
been found in Georgia.



Early Archaic Period

This period included three distinct time spans: early, middle, and late. The word "archaic" means old.



The early Archaic period was from about 8000 B.C to about 5000 B.C. During this time, people still hunted big game, but those animals were slowly becoming extinct.



The Archaic Indians then began hunting smaller game such as deer, bear, turkey, and rabbit, as well as reptiles, game birds, and fish.



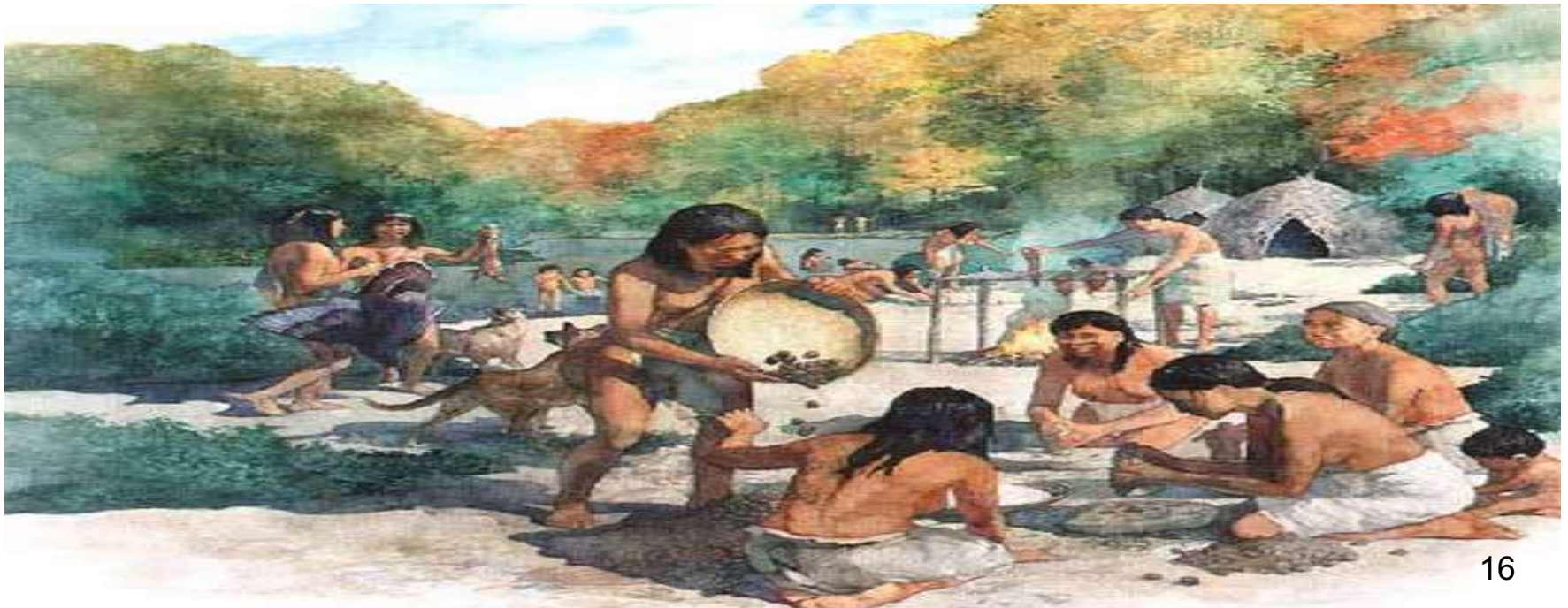
The early Archaic people invented useful items such as choppers, drills, and chipping tools made from deer antlers.



Archaeological evidence indicates that the early Archaic people moved each season. In fall, they lived where berries, nuts, and fruits were plentiful.



In summer, they moved to good fishing locations. They also migrated during spring and winter to find food.



Middle Archaic Period

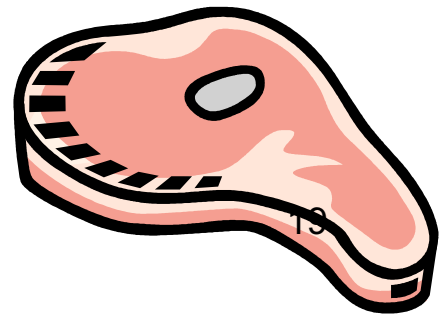
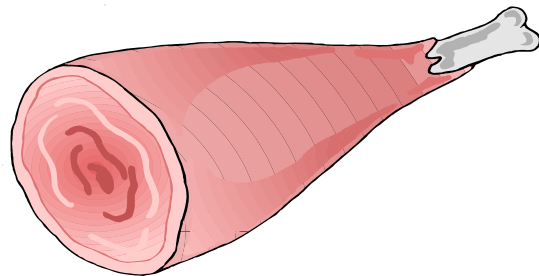
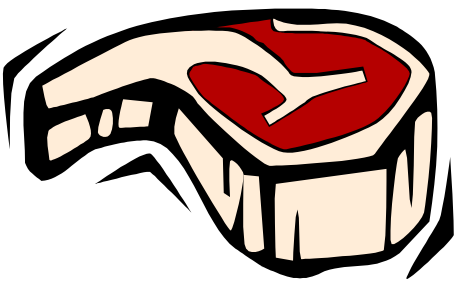
By 5000 B.C. the area grew warm and dry. Water levels among rivers and coastal areas receded, or moved back. People began to eat shellfish.



Scientists have found hooks made from animal bones that came from this time period. These hooks were sometimes on the ends of long spears that were weighed in the middle with polished stones.



Because hunters could throw the weighted spears long distances, food became easier to get. Finding more food meant that people didn't need to move as often and small groups joined together to establish camps.

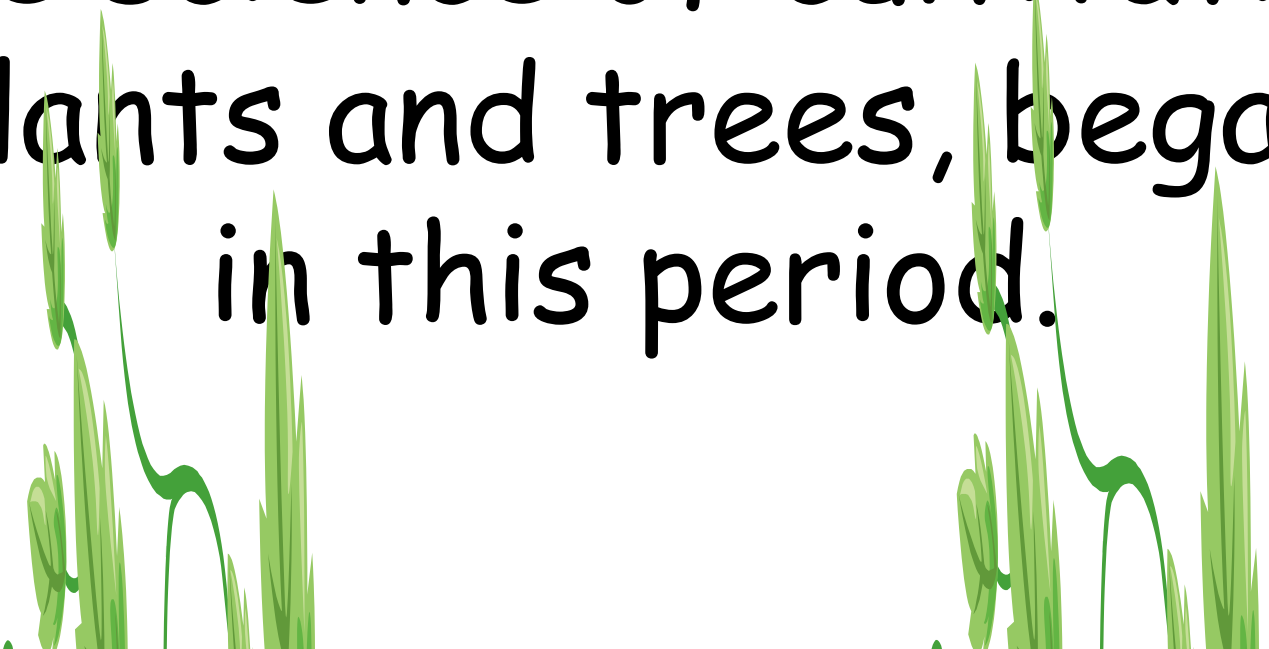


Late Archaic Period

A common artifact from this period (4000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.) is the grooved axe. Excavations, or archeological digs, of these settlements indicate that axes were used to clear trees and bushes around camp.

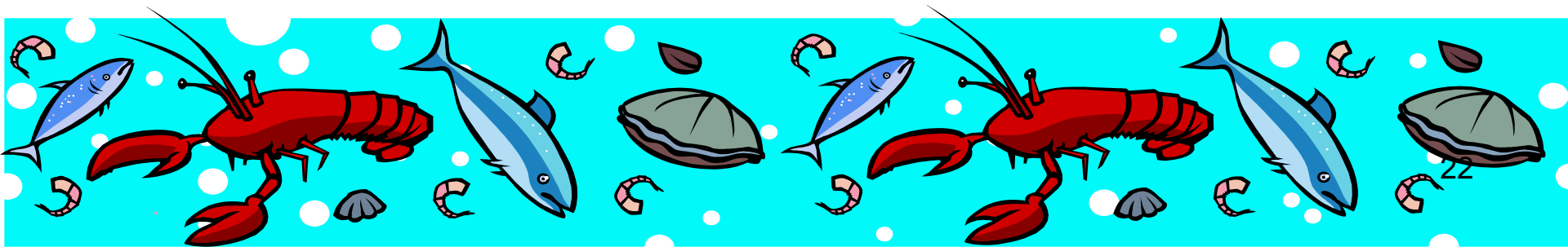


The late Archaic people also saved seeds to plant in the next growing season. It's though that horticulture, or the science of cultivating plants and trees, began in this period.



By 2500 B.C., the
climate had become
cooler and wetter.

People depended
on shellfish for most
of their food.



North of Augusta, archeologists have found a large garbage mound of clams and mussels along with burial grounds, fire hearths, pipes, axes, shell beads, bone pins, needles, & hooks, and spear points.



Historians think that these late Archaic villages were more permanent than those of any group before them.



The way food was prepared also changed. Pottery shards dating from the Archaic period indicate that clay containers were used for storing, cooking, and serving food.



Archeologists think that learning to make and use pottery may be one of the greatest contributions the Archaic people made to Native American culture.



Woodland Period

This culture developed about 1000 B.C. and lasted until about 1000 A.D. Evidence suggests that during this period families began banding together to form tribes.



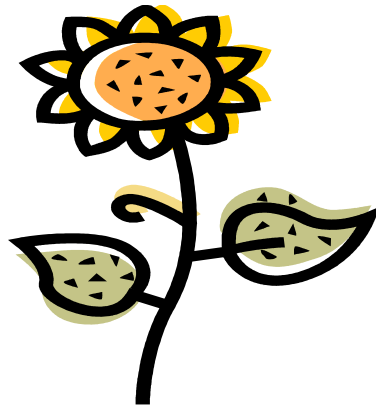
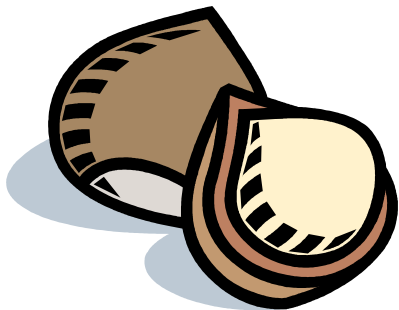
Tribes are groups of people who share a common ancestry, name and way of life. These tribes lived in villages and built huts as houses. Woodland people used small trees and bark to build dome-shaped huts.



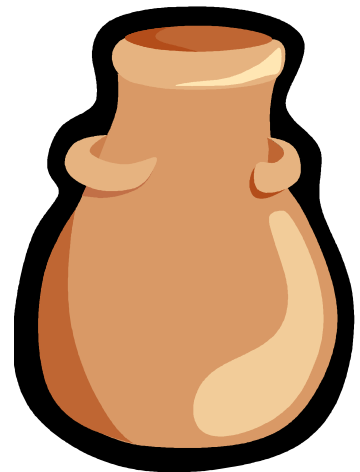
Hunting became easier when the Woodland people developed the bow and arrow. Arrow points were made out of stone, shark teeth, or deer antlers.



Fishing, hunting, and gathering nuts and berries remained important ways of getting food. The people also grew squash, wild greens, and sunflowers.



The Woodland people
learned how to make
pottery last
longer by mixing clay
with sand.



They used wooden paddles to make designs. After the pottery dried in the sun, it was baked in a hot fire to make it hard enough to use for cooking.



Elaborate religious ceremonies were introduced during the Woodland period like building cone-shaped burial mounds for the dead.



Rock Eagle Mound is burial mound in Georgia estimated to have been constructed 1,000 to 3,000 years ago.

Thousands of pieces of quartzite are laid in the mounded shape of a large bird (102 ft long from head to tail, and 120 ft wide from wing tip to wing tip).

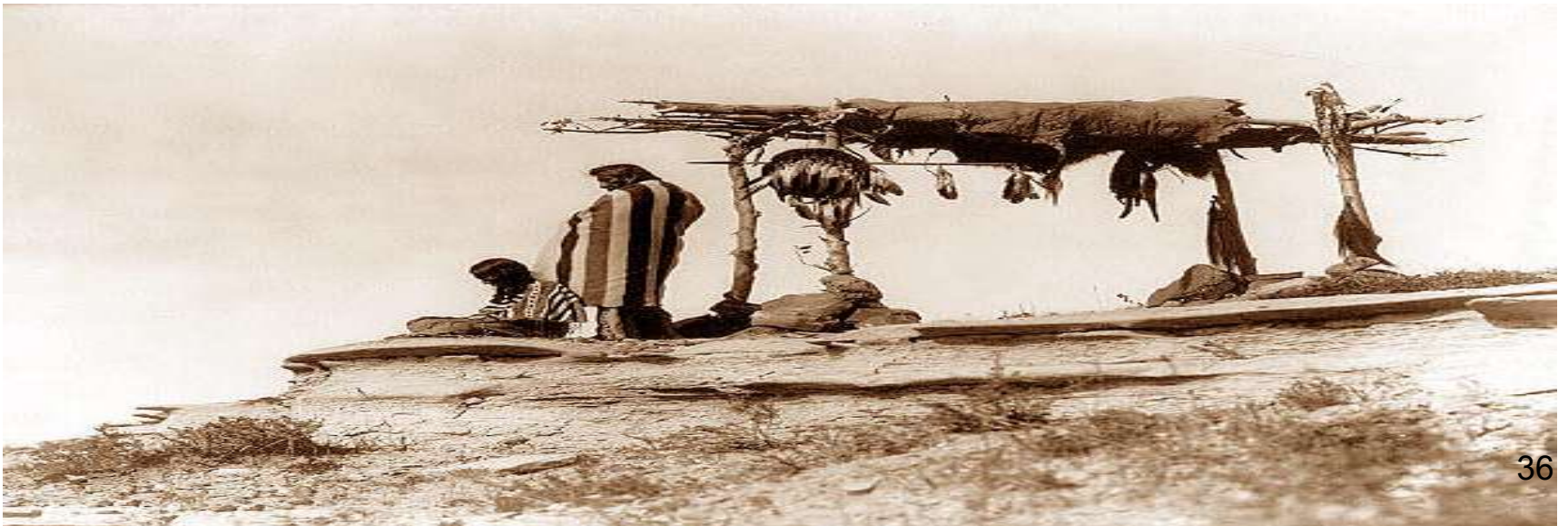
It is most often referred to as an eagle.



They adorned bodies with necklaces, bracelets, rings, and copper or bone combs. Special funeral pottery, tools, tobacco pipes, and weapons were put in the grave with them.

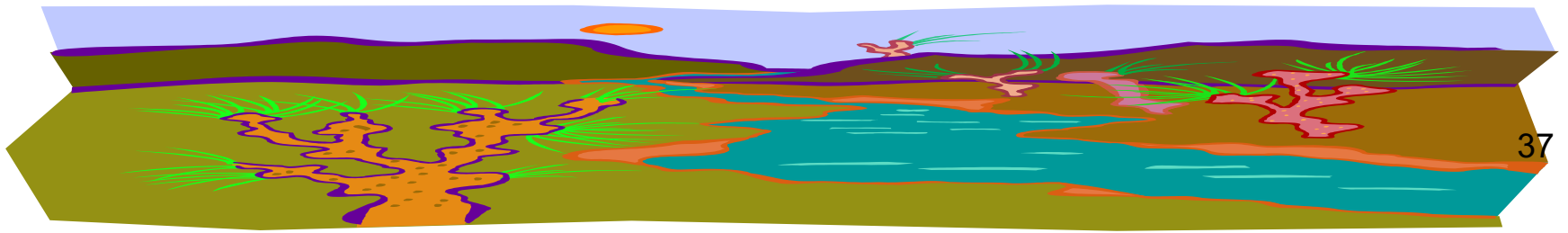


These types of artifacts lead archeologists and anthropologists to think this group of people believed in some type of life after death.

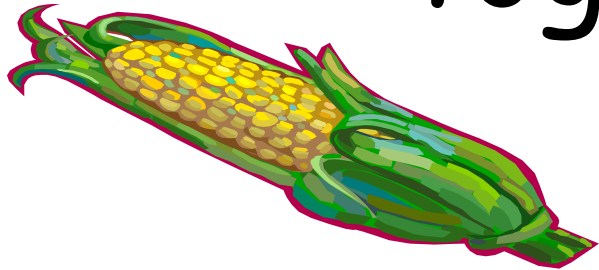


Mississippian Period

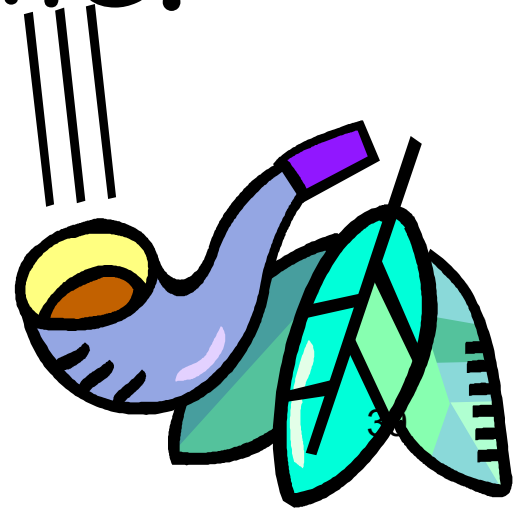
This culture is considered to be the highest prehistoric civilization in Georgia. Starting around 700 A.D., it is so called because some of the first information that was learned about the culture came from from villages along the Mississippi River that were excavated.



From these archeological sites, we know that these people grew most of their food. Maize, also known as corn, beans, pumpkins, and squash were all planted together in hills.



Tobacco was grown to use
in ceremonies. Crops were
rotated among the
different fields so the soil
would stay fertile.



The Mississippians began to dress and fix their hair differently. Their clothes were more ornate. They wore beads and ear ornaments.



Sometimes they tattooed
their bodies and wore
feather headdresses.



Villages grew, and several thousand families might live in a single settlement. They built centers for religious ceremonies.



Moats and palisades, or wooden fences, often protected the villages.



*The towne of Pomeiooc and true forme of their houses, covered
and enclosed some wth mats, and some wth barks of trees. All compassed
about wth small poles stuck thick together in stead of a wall.*

INDIAN VILLAGE OF POMEIOOC (no. 34A. cf. pls. 81, 134)

In some Georgia Indian villages, guard towers have been found along the palisades, indicating that they needed to defend themselves against tribal enemies.



About 1600 A.D., the people left the villages and there is nothing to tell us where they went. Because this was in the prehistoric period which was before written history, we may never learn what happened to the Mississippians.

