

A low-angle photograph of the Georgia State Capitol building. The image shows the top of the large, yellow, ribbed dome, a smaller dark dome above it with a statue of Liberty on top, and a balcony with columns. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The text 'Georgia Studies' is overlaid in red at the top left.

Georgia Studies

Unit 2: The Prehistoric Period of Georgia

STANDARD

- The student will evaluate the development of Native American cultures and the impact of European exploration and settlement on the Native American cultures in Georgia



ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

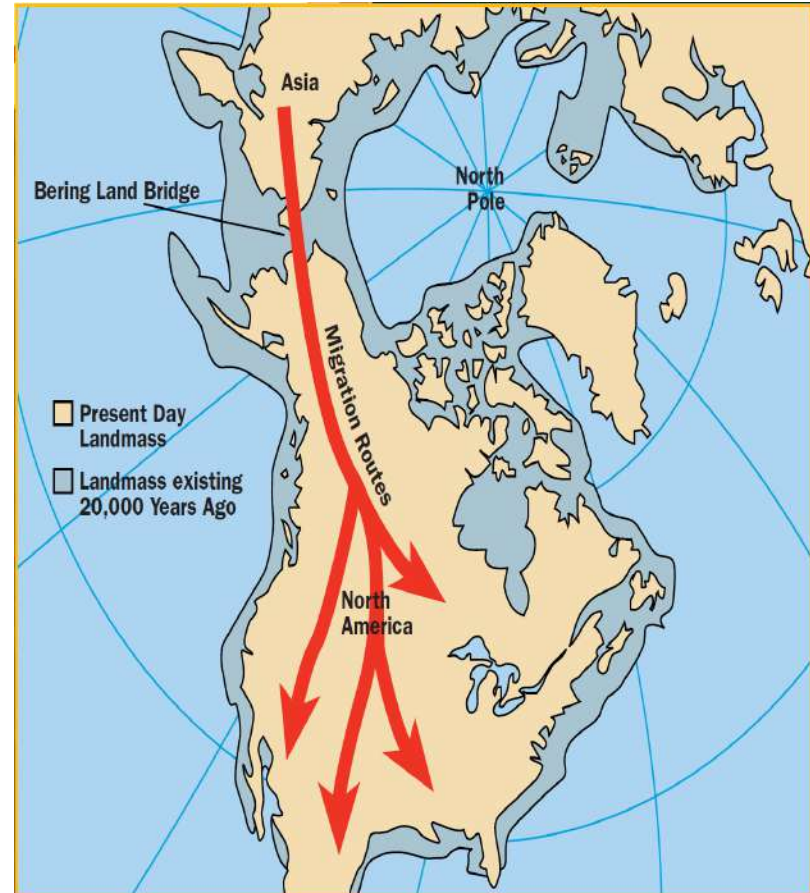
- What are some of the changes in Native American culture throughout their existence?
- What were the major characteristics of the Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian Periods?

Directions for notes: You are going to create a chart that will document the changes in the Native American cultures through the passage of time.

NAME (PAWM)	DATE	LIFESTYLE	TECHNOLOGY	FOOD	ADDITIONAL FACTS
PALEO					
ARCHAIC					
WOODLAND					
MISSISSIPPIAN					

Early Migration

- Migration – **movement** of **people** from one place to another.
- The first people **migrated** to North America between 30,000 BC to 10,000 BC.
- During this time the world was experiencing an **ice age**.
- The extra ice, at the North and South poles, lowered ocean levels.



The Bering Land Bridge

- This created a land **bridge** (Bering Strait) that made it possible for people to walk from **Asia** to **North America**.
- As the **ice** melted, the **ocean** levels rose and covered the land bridge separating people on different continents.

Paleo Period

- the **earliest** known people to live in what is today Georgia (12,000 - 8,000 BCE); also called Old **Stone** Age
- relied heavily on the Savannah, Ocmulgee, and Flint Rivers for survival, food, and travel
- nomadic hunters & gatherers
- Primary weapons were spears or Clovis points, made of wood, stone, or flint
- Homes made from animal skins; made migration easy
- Paleo means “very old”

- Mainly **hunted** Mammoths, Mastodons, **Bison**, Ground Sloth, Caribou, and Moose
- Archaeologists have found two Paleo skeletons buried with artifacts and covered with **red** powder.
- Archaeologists believe that this may indicate a belief in an **afterlife** and/or religious beliefs.

Archaic Period

- 8000 BCE to 1000 BCE
- Nomadic; as larger game became **extinct** the **Archaic** people began to hunt **smaller** game
- Made technological advances like the atlatl that allowed spears to be thrown faster
- Also invented grooved axes, pottery, hooks and fishing nets
- migrated **less** and began to living in semi-permanent shelters (**huts** made of sticks and other natural materials) arranged in **small** villages
- Began using **fire** to cook food and for **warmth**

- During the middle Archaic Period there was a significant change in **climate**; warmer, drier weather
- Due to better weather, **Archaic** people were able to **stay** in one place **longer**
- During the **late** Archaic period, **horticulture** (the science of growing plants and trees) allowed the Archaic to be less **nomadic**
- they were able to **grow** most of their necessary **food**

- burial of the **dead** began to become important
- **tools**, weapons, and body ornaments have been found in some **burial** pits
- many Archaic settlements were near the **Savannah** River
- They were often divided into 3 distinct periods; Early, Middle, and Late

Woodland Period

- 1000 BC to 1000 AD
- developed more advanced **villages** built in **circular** arrangements
- people began grouping together to form **tribes** (a group of people who share a common identity due to their **culture**)
- developed longer lasting, more advanced ceramic cooking **pots** and **pottery**
- formed **trading** networks throughout modern day Midwestern U.S.

- better **horticulture** methods allowed the **Woodland** people to introduce important **crops** like corn, squash, and greens
- hunting became easier due to a **new** weapon called the **bow** and **arrow**
- began building dome shaped **mounds** for ceremonies and burials
- adorned bodies with jewelry may indicate a belief in an **afterlife** or some form of religious beliefs
- fortified settlements suggests that tribes felt the need for protection from **enemy** attacks

Mississippian Period

- 800 AD to 1600 AD
- The Mississippian Period was the **last** period in Native American history before **European** exploration began.
- The **Mississippian** people continued to live in tribes, in permanent shelters and villages.
- Tribes began to join together during this time period and formed larger **nations** (allowed for division of **labor** and increased protection and safety).

- The knowledge of agriculture (**horticulture**) continued to increase allowing the tribes to grow a wide variety of crops (corn, squash, and beans)
- Mississippian's also began **storing** extra food for **future** use
- Due to the division of **labor** the Mississippian people had more time to dedicate to the **arts** (advanced pottery, jewelry, and clothing).
- continued to improve wattle and daub **houses** (wood and clay)
- began to protect their villages through the use of moats and **wooden** walls

- improved upon the bow and arrow as the main tool for **hunting** and for defense.
- the Mississippian's developed a **class** structure where people were identified as belonging to an **elite** or **lower** class
- they developed stone axes, bowls, pipes, pottery, and **tattoos**
- continued to **build** burial mounds and religious **centers**
- **Etowah** Indian **Mounds** can be seen in Cartersville, Georgia
- Mississippian's began to mysteriously **decline** between 1350 and 1600 AD.

Native American Cultures

Summary

- There were **four** primary Native American tribes in Georgia prior to the arrival of Europeans: **Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian**
- The economic system used by many of these tribes was a **traditional** economy; an underdeveloped economy that often depends on agriculture as its main base.
- The **technology** developed by these tribes allowed them to settle in one area longer and, due to agriculture, find alternative sources of food.