

MISSOURI PREHISTORY

Missouri's prehistoric archaeological record reflects over 12,000 years of human adaptations to changing environments, technologies, and social and population conditions. Archaeologists have divided the overall sequence into a number of temporal "periods" based on identifiable large scale cultural or technological changes.

The Paleo-Indian Period (12,000-8500 B.C.) is generally recognized as representing the earliest human occupation in North America. Paleo-Indians probably lived as small bands of nomadic hunters whose quarry included now extinct large game such as mastodons, mammoths, and giant bison.

The Dalton Period (8500-7500 B.C.) is the transitional period from the Paleo-Indian big game hunting tradition to the broader hunting-gathering tradition of Archaic peoples.

The Early Archaic Period (7500-6000 B.C.) saw a further broadening of the subsistence base. This increased utilization of fish, shellfish, waterfowl, small game and wild plants led to diversification of Early Archaic tools.

The Middle Archaic Period (6000-3000 B.C.) is marked by a major climatic drying period throughout most of the central United States. Reflecting increased sedentism, multiseasonal base camps and permanent habitation sites became more common during this period. The first evidence of fabrics, basketry, and cordage along with new tool types, appear.

In the Late Archaic Period (3000-750 B.C.) the earlier drying period ended. The earliest pottery in the Midwest appears. Gourd and squash remains from the period are the earliest evidence of midwestern horticulture. While not

widespread, Late Archaic burial mounds are found in some areas of the state.

The Early Woodland Period (750-150 B.C.) is not well documented in Missouri, although evidence of campsites from this period have been found in major stream valleys. Increased use of ceramic pots to prepare food characterizes Early Woodland remains.

Middle Woodland Period (150 B.C.-A.D. 400) remains are not distributed across the entire state. Where present, Middle Woodland remains reflect an increased use of pottery with ceramic decorative styles becoming more varied. Sedentism and the intentional cultivation of plants increased further. Burial mounds became more numerous.

The Late Woodland Period (A.D. 400-1000/1400) is characterized by the introduction of the bow and arrow and the widespread cultivation of a number of plants, including maize. Typical site types include villages or hamlets along stream valleys and small earthen and stone cairns or mounds located on hills and ridges overlooking the villages. Late Woodland pottery styles become less decorated. In much of Missouri, Late Woodland culture continued parallel to the Mississippian culture.

During the Mississippian Period (A.D. 1000-1600) a sedentary culture develops based on maize agriculture with complex social, political, and economic structures. Cahokia, near the confluences of the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers, was one of the greatest aboriginal cultural centers in North America. Small notched, triangular arrowpoints and fragments of shell-tempered pottery vessels in a variety of shapes are common at these sites.



ARCHAEOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN MISSOURI

WHY IS MODOT CONCERNED ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY?

MoDOT makes every effort to comply with federal and state laws, address citizen concerns, and to be a good steward of the state's cultural resources. The primary legislation that requires archaeological investigations is Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Failure to obtain Section 106 clearance may jeopardize Federal funding and result in stoppage of a project.



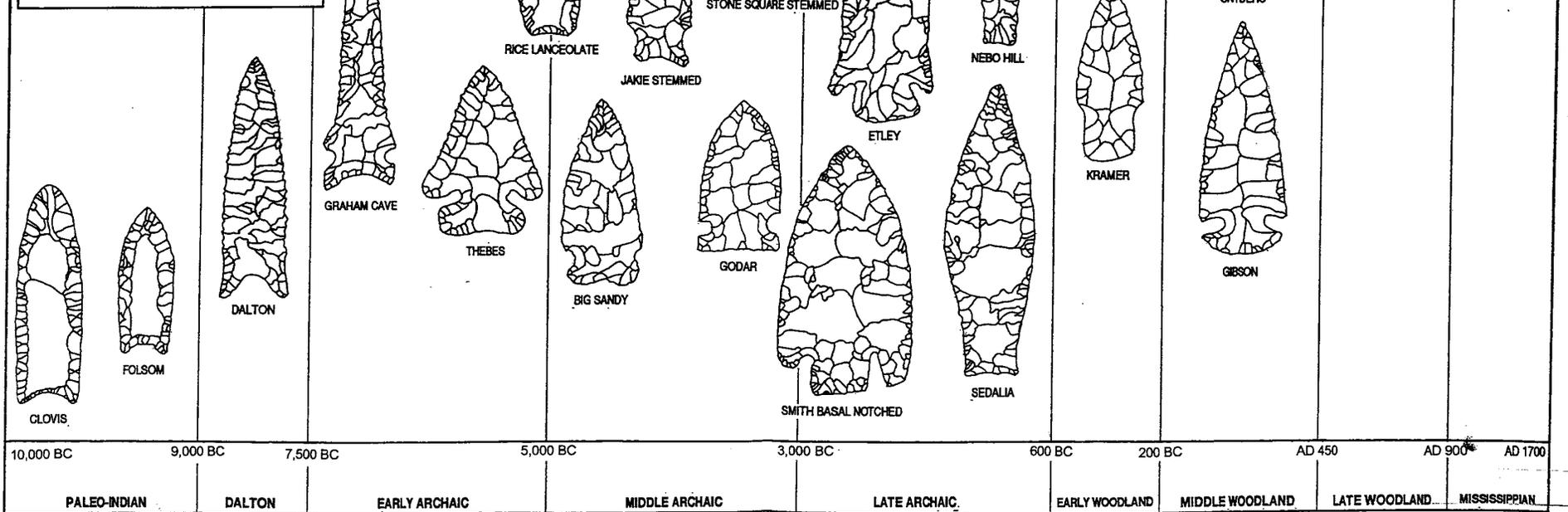
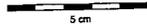
COMMON POINT TYPES OF MISSOURI

FURTHER READING:

Justice, Noel D.
1987 *Stone Age Spear & Arrow.
Points of the Midcontinental and
Eastern United States.* Indiana
University Press, Bloomington.

Bell, Robert E.
1995 *Guide to the Identification
of Certain American Indian Projectile
Points.* Special Bulletins No. 1 & 2,
Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Perino, Gregory
1995 *Guide to the Identification
of Certain American Indian Projectile
Points.* Special Bulletins No. 3 & 4,
Oklahoma Anthropological Society.



10,000 BC 9,000 BC 7,500 BC 5,000 BC 3,000 BC 600 BC 200 BC AD 450 AD 900* AD 1700

PALEO-INDIAN DALTON EARLY ARCHAIC MIDDLE ARCHAIC LATE ARCHAIC EARLY WOODLAND MIDDLE WOODLAND LATE WOODLAND MISSISSIPPIAN