

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRECONTACT CULTURES IN INDIANA



Paleoindians • ca. 10,000–7500 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 • ca. +8000–6000 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 • ca. 6000–3500 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 • ca. 4000–1500 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 • ca. 1500–700 B.C.

- ▶ small projectile points
 - > Riverton (microtool complex)
- ▶ Terminal Archaic Barbed points

- ▶ Turkeytail points
- ▶ red ochre mortuary rituals
- ▶ copper use

Early Woodland • ca. 1000–200 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 • ca. 200 B.C.–A.D. 600

- ▶ 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 • ca. A.D. 500–1200; 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 • ca. A.D. 1000–1650

- ▶ 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

References

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