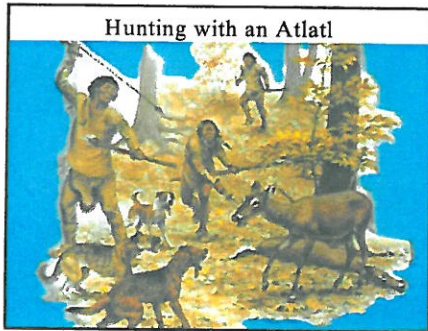


Prehistoric Timeline

Paleoindian Period (9500-8900 B.C.) Paleoindian people arrived in the area near the end of the last Ice Age practicing a nomadic settlement scheme. Subsistence relied on hunting megafaunal species using atlatls and gathering a wide variety of plants. Artifacts indicative of this period are Clovis and Folsom points.

Dalton Period (8900-7900 B.C.) At the end of the Ice Age, the Dalton is a transitional period during which people switched from a nomadic lifestyle to a seasonal round settlement pattern within a defined territory. Families moved from one area to another for resources, returning to the original location the following year to repeat the cycle. Storage pits and rock shelters were utilized to store tools to be used the next year. Artifacts diagnostic of this period are partially fluted Dalton points and lanceolate shaped spears.



Early Archaic Period (7900-6500 B.C.) Dalton Period trends were modified during this time. Most camps were small and occupied for a short duration due to the seasonal round. Indicative of this period are diagonally flaked spear points hafted by corner notches.

Middle Archaic Period (6500-3500 B.C.) The Hypsithermal Climatic Episode caused the area to be warmer than it is today. Prairies expanded and people moved closer to waterways, relying more heavily on fish, waterfowl, and various nuts as principal foods. Points were side notched and less carefully made, suggesting a decreased reliance on hunting. People

became more selective in the foods they consumed, developing specialized tools to more efficiently procure and process food.

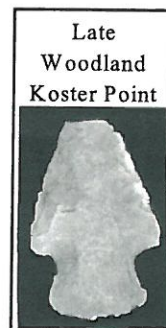
Late Archaic Period (3500-700 B.C.) Climate became similar to today's. People continued to rely on resources along the waterways. The first permanent communities were utilized during this time, which led to the experimentation with plant domestication. Trade was established with distant places, with Burlington chert from western St. Louis County exchanged for exotic goods. The first burial mounds were constructed during this time.

Early Woodland Period (700-200 B.C.) Long distance exchange was discontinued and reliance on local resources predominated. There was a return to small, hunting and gathering camps near the waterways. The hallmark of this period was the introduction of pottery, which replaced grass fiber baskets for preparing meals and food storage.

Middle Woodland Period (200 B.C. - A.D. 300) The use of pottery vessels, establishment of large communities, and the development of interregional exchange and communication networks was widespread. There were more pottery vessel types, which were often ornately decorated. The appearance of large burial mounds during this time represented the power of the leaders and community pride. Oval shaped points were used at this time.

Late Woodland Period (A.D. 300-900)

People move from large villages into small communities. Long distance trading for exotic goods ceased and burial mounds were smaller. People became full time farmers, growing native starchy plants (lambsquarter, maygrass, knotweed, and little barley). The bow and arrow was introduced, replacing atlatls. Large spear points are replaced by small arrowheads.



Transitional Period (A.D. 900-1050) Long distance trade was re-established. Although corn had previously been introduced into the area, it gained importance in people's diet. Native starchy seeds, however, continued to dominate subsistence strategies. By end of the period, several new pottery vessel types were being used, some having loop handles for the first time. Stone or clay effigies (e.g., figurines) also were produced. Burial mounds were larger in this period than during the Late Woodland.

Mississippian Period (A.D. 1050-1400) The economy flourished and was supported by communities that ranged from extremely large ceremonial/market centers to small, isolated family farmsteads. Burial mounds persisted and flat topped mounds were introduced, on which important buildings and homes of the elite were built. Surplus crops began to be raised to provide food for larger communities, the elite, and trade. Long distance trade networks continued to play an important role during this time.



Protohistoric Period (A.D. 1400-1700s) The large Mississippian centers declined around A.D. 1300-1400 and the major influence of the Mississippian culture shifted to the south. Evidence from eastern Missouri indicates that this region was abandoned after A.D. 1400. French colonists recorded that eastern Missouri was an open territory used for only short durations by various tribes for hunting, trapping, and mining. Why everyone left this region is still a mystery.