

Minnesota Prehistory

Paleo-Indian
(10,000-6,000 BC)

Archaic
(6,000-1,000 BC)

Woodland
(1,000 BC – AD 900...)

Mississippian
(AD 900-1450)

Historic (Post-contact)
(AD 1450-present)

Paleo-Indian (10,000 – 6,000 BC)

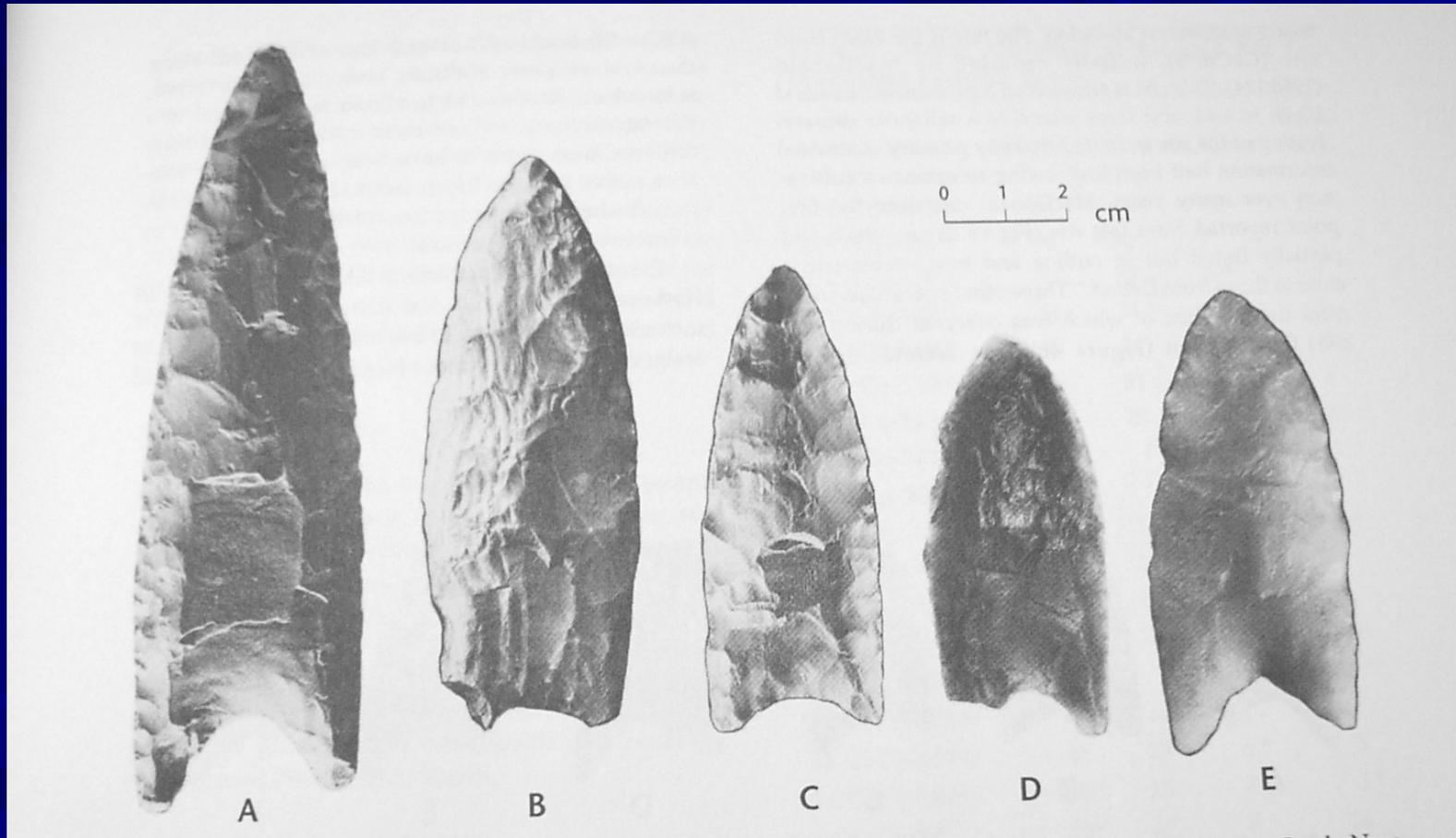
cooler and wetter environment

getting increasingly warmer



- Highly mobile small groups of hunters-gatherers
- Mammoth, small-game, fish and plant resources
- bison, increasing reliance in late Paleoindian
- Distinctive lanceolate projectile points (Clovis, Folsom, Agate Basin)
- Large bifacially flaked knives, choppers, large scrapers
- Lightweight and easily transportable toolkit

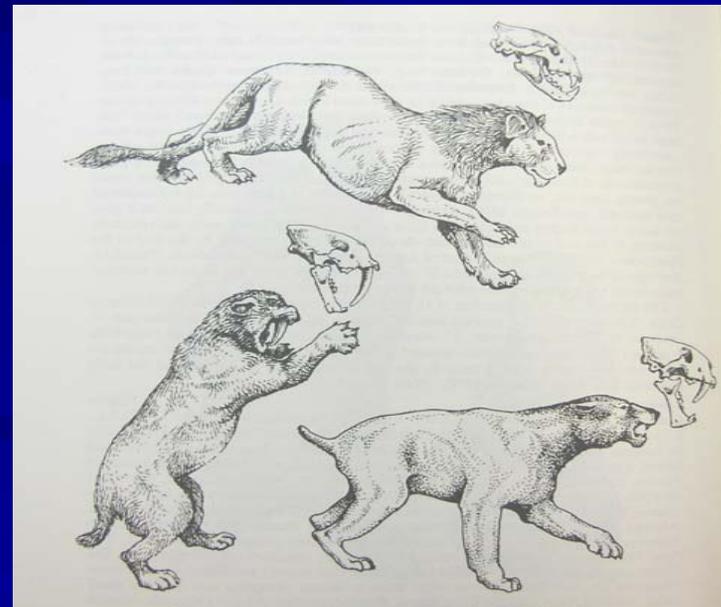
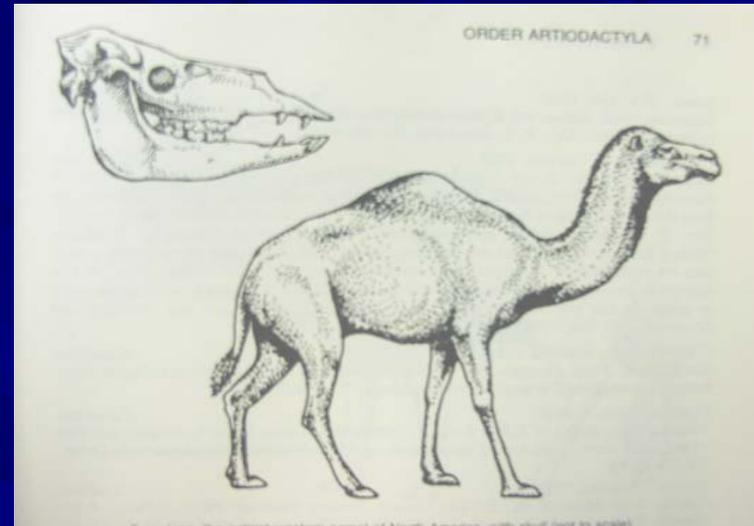
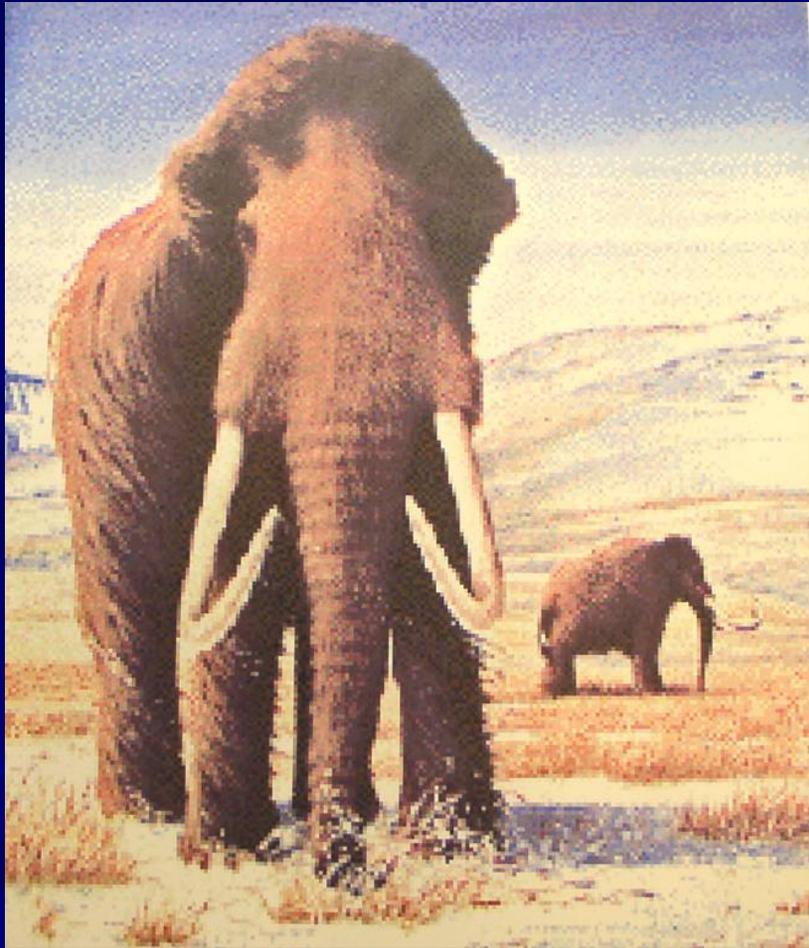
Clovis (earliest inhabitants of N. Am.)



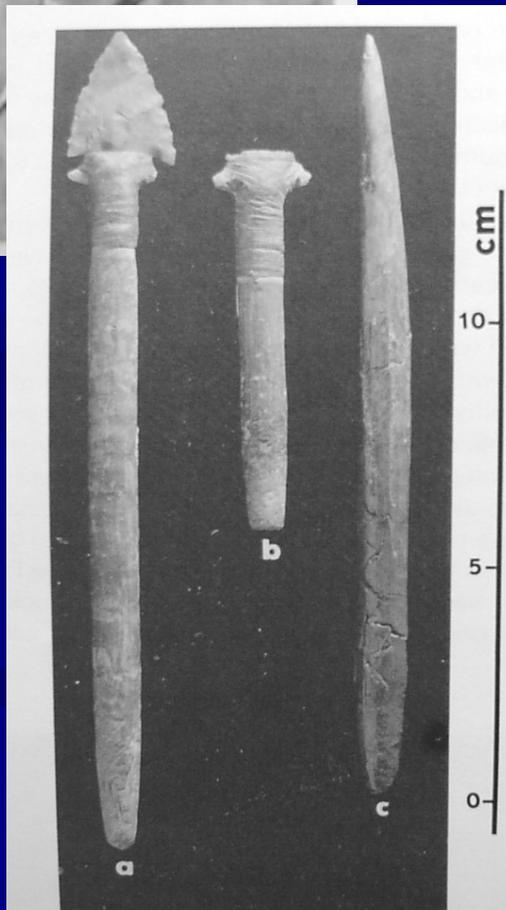
more Clovis points...



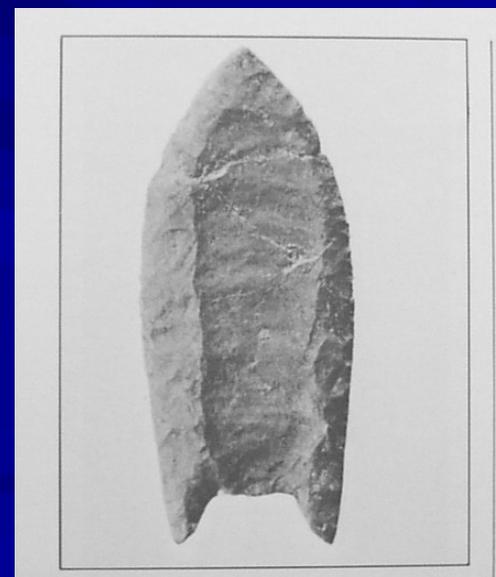
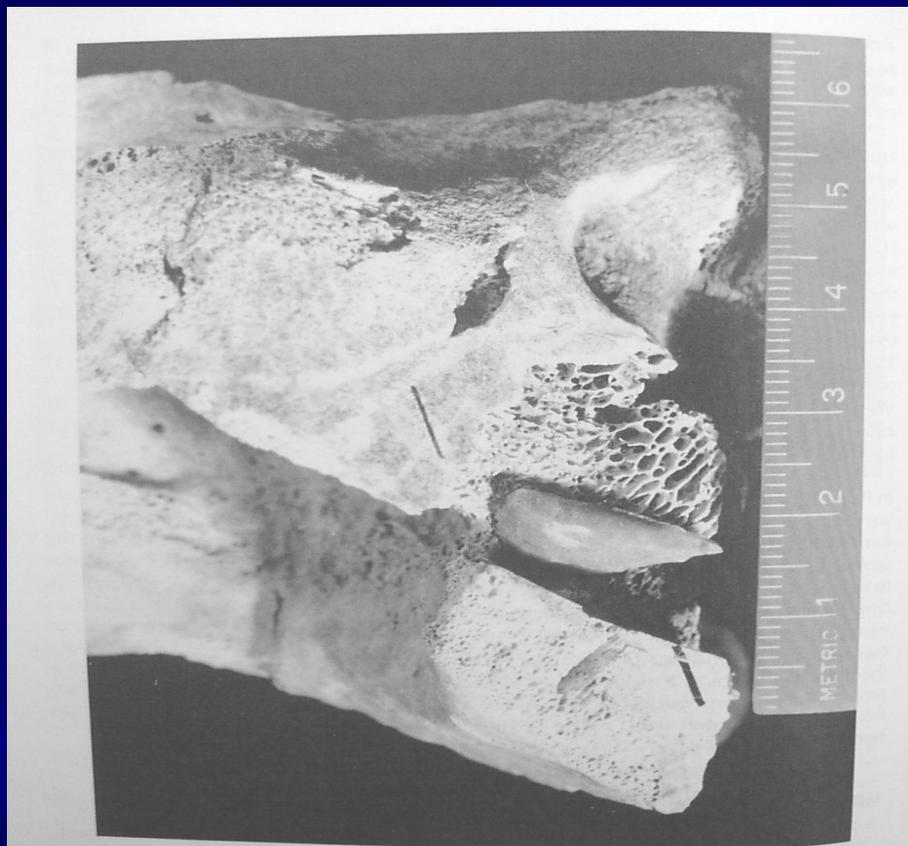
Mammoth, camel, horse, sabertooth cat



atlatl



Folsom, bison hunters



Folsom age bone beds



Photographs courtesy of the University of Wyoming

Paleoindian points



Paleo-Indian summary

- Sites are rare, small
- Poor context or hard to find or deeply buried



Archaic (8,000-500 BC)

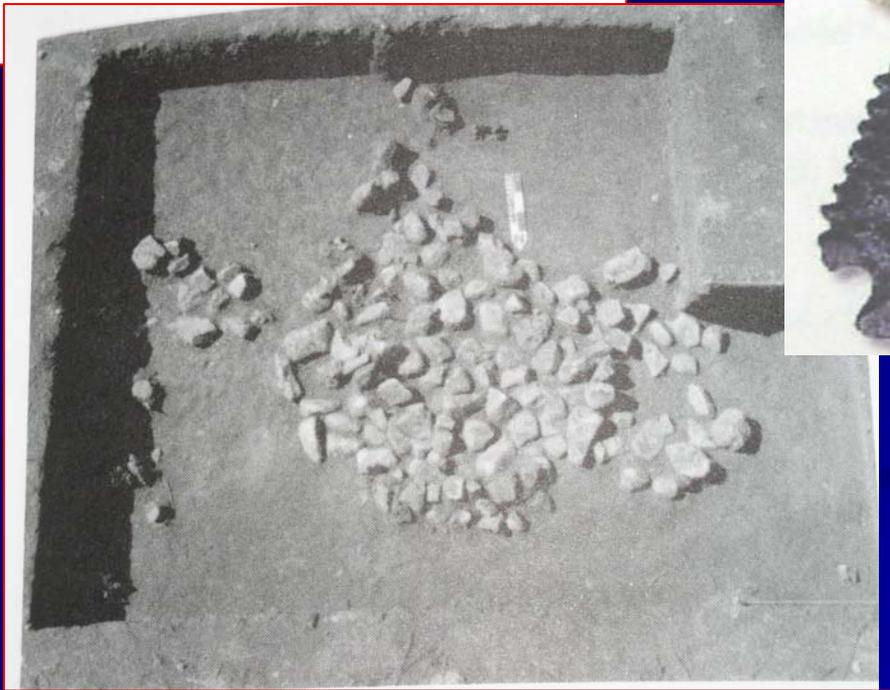
increased warming for most of the period then slow increase towards cooler and wetter and closer to present day climate

- Mobile hunters and gatherers

Changes from Paleo:

- Hotter, drier = greater local diversity and an altered plant and animal life
- New tool kit (for processing a variety of foods such as hard seeds and nuts, roots, greens)
- Ground Stone artifacts (mano, metate)
- axes, net sinkers, pipes, baskets, nets, fishing and birding tools, storage pits
- Regional trade networks, (i.e. copper from Great Lakes region, marine shell, exotic stone)
- Reduction in size of territory but increase in group size and social complexity
- Adaptations to local environments, repeated use of specific areas
- Notched and stemmed projectile points, No ceramics
- Cemeteries, elaborate burials

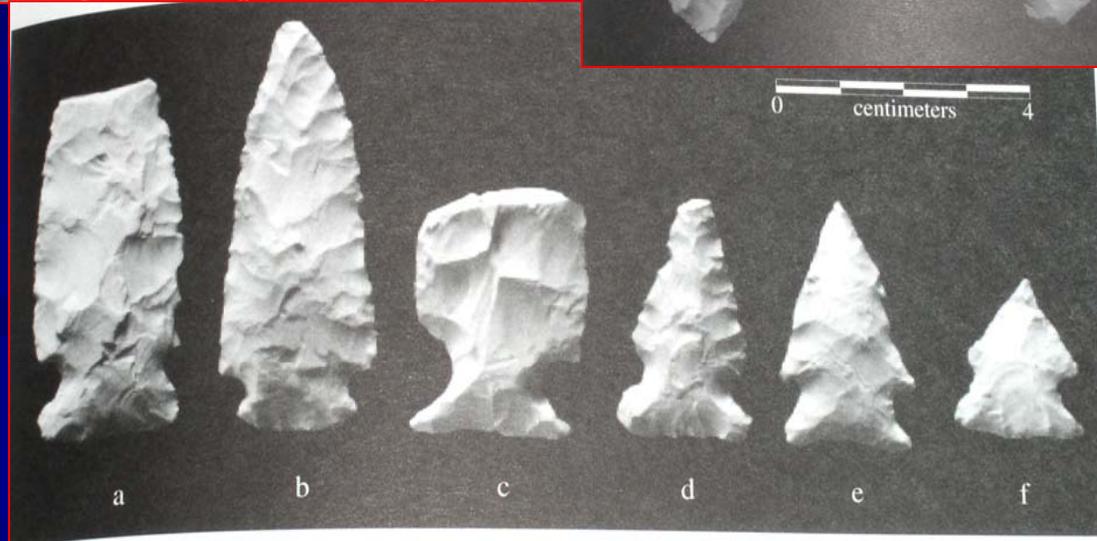
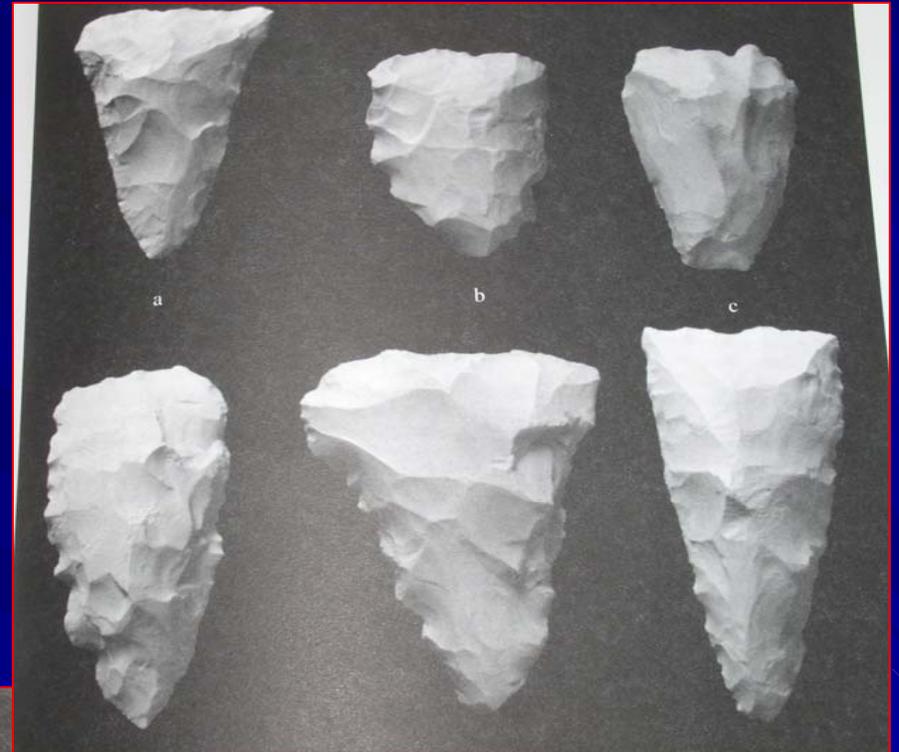
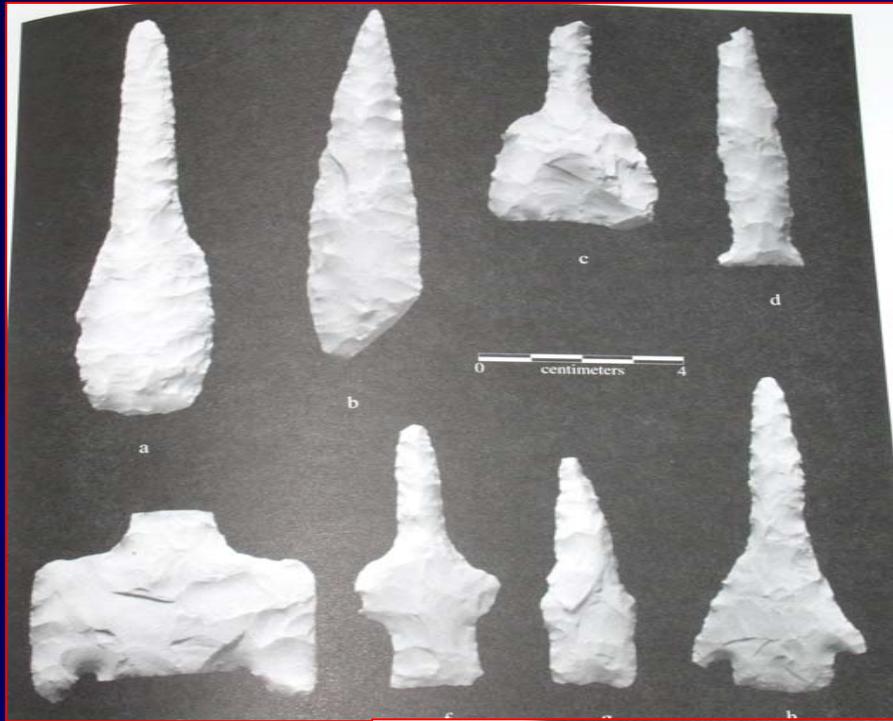
Cooking features, change in point styles



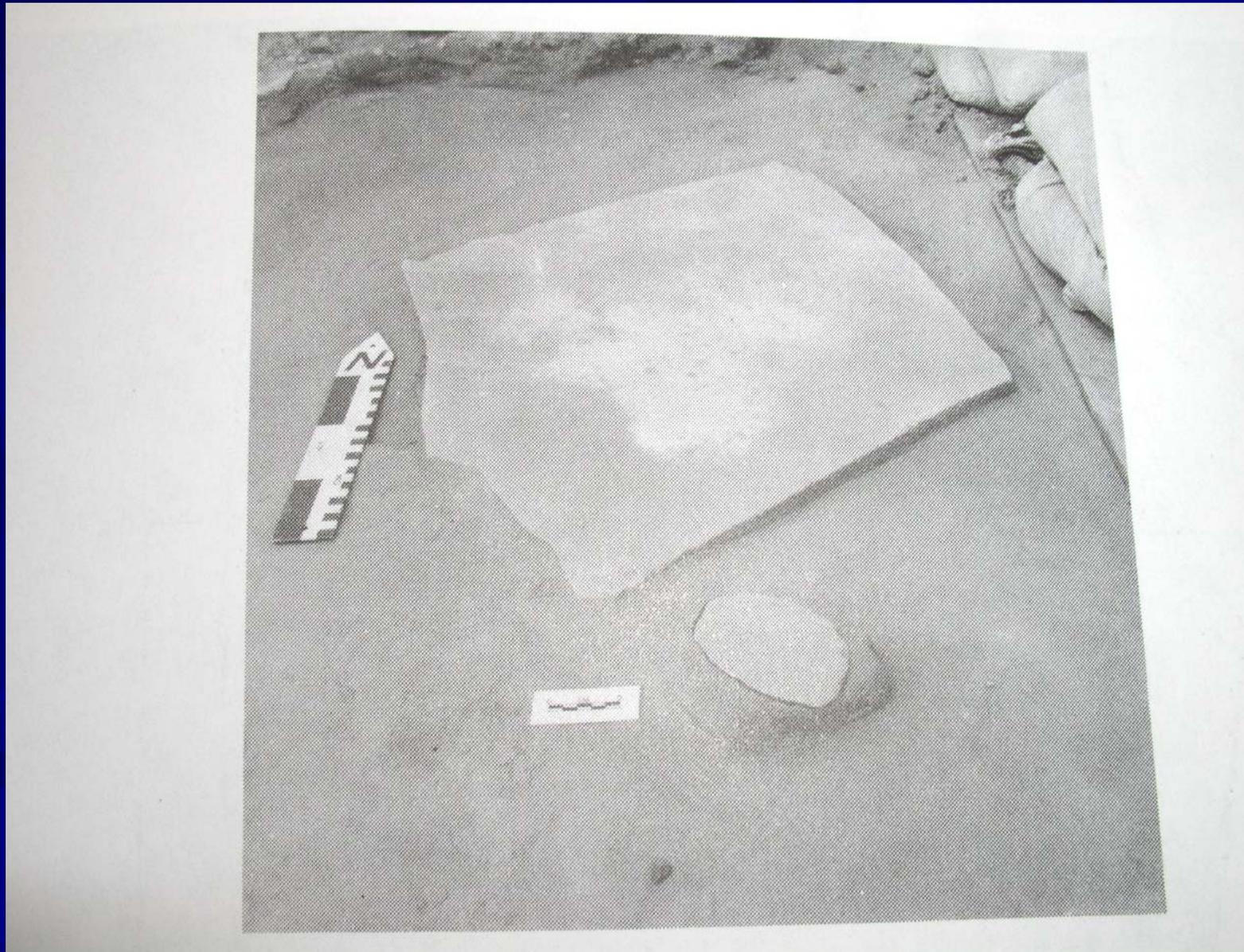
Point diversity, first use of copper



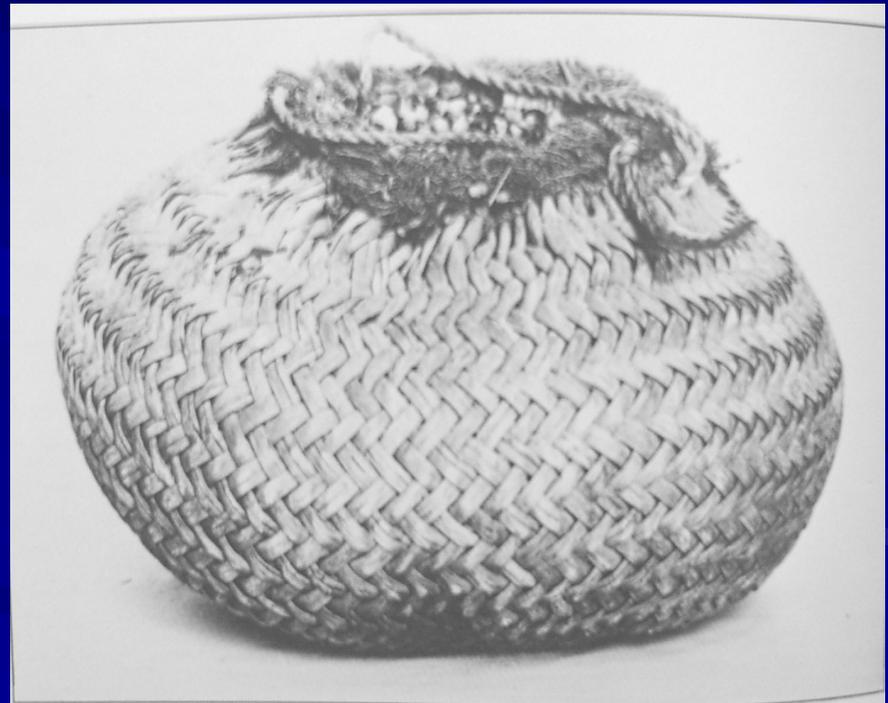
Cutting, scraping, puncturing tools



Food processing (mano and metate)

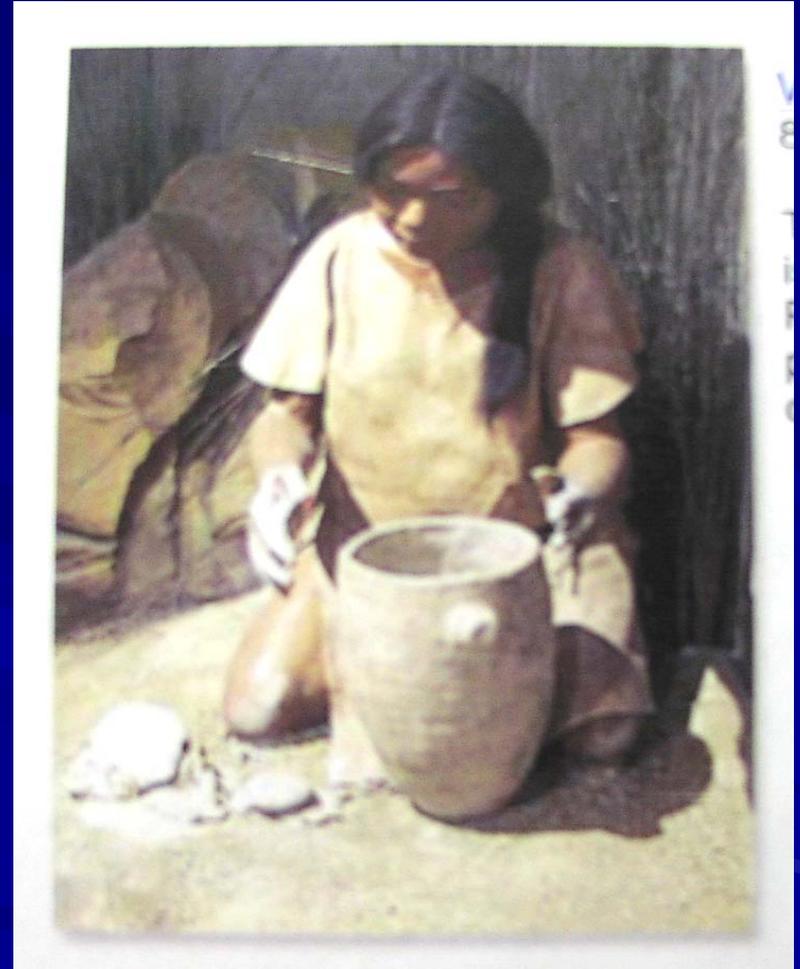


Food storage

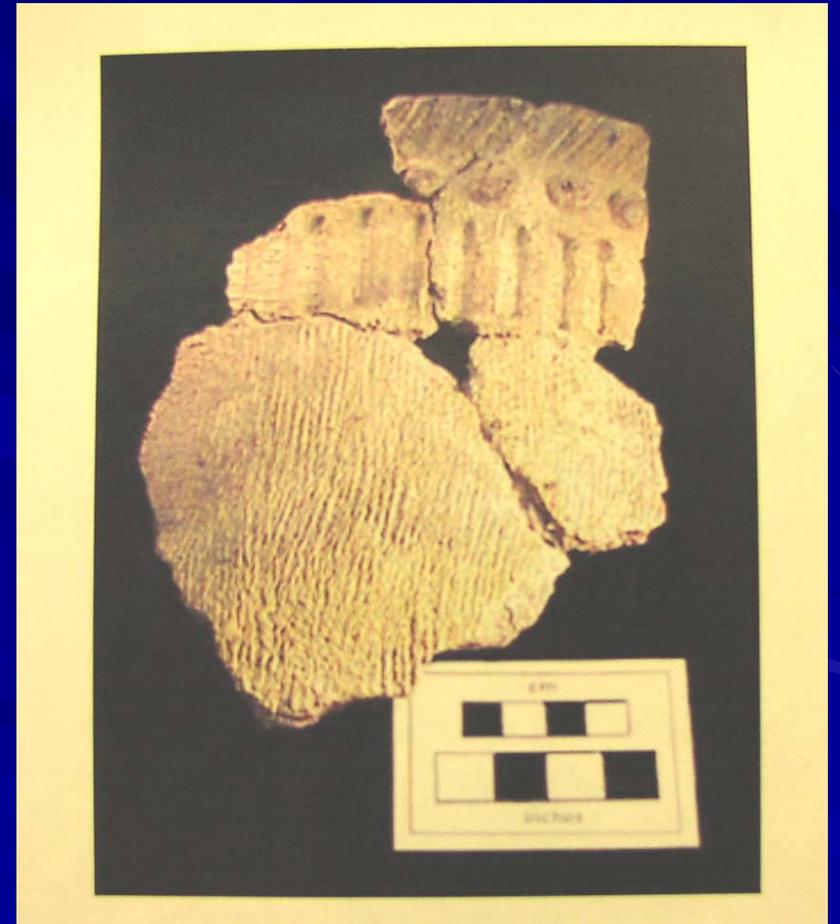
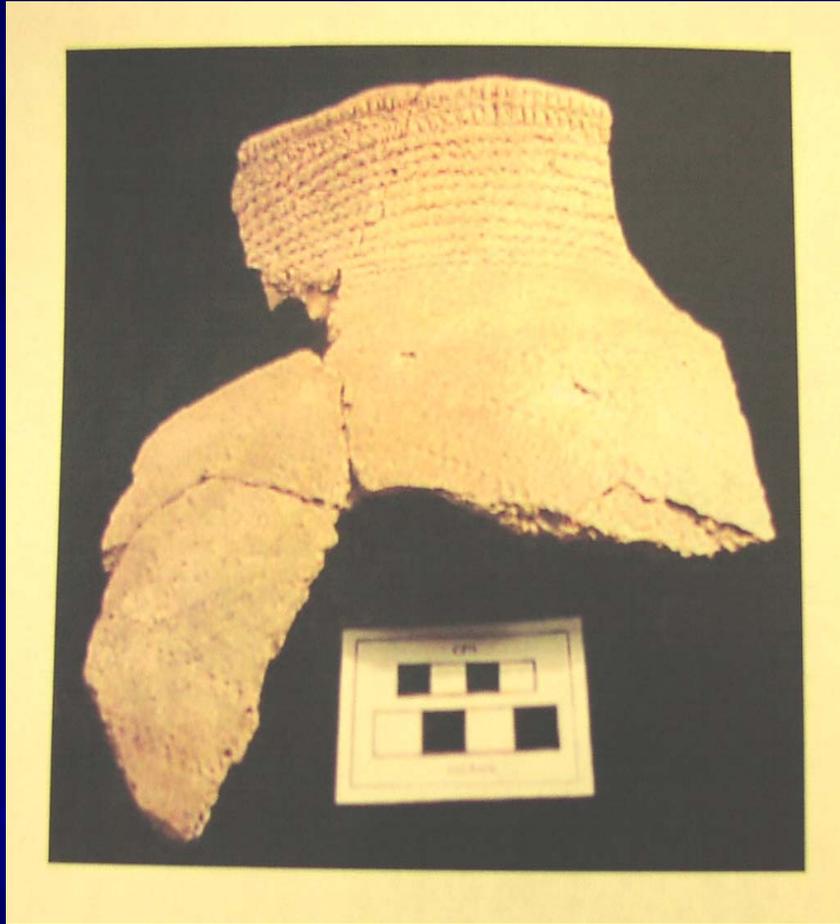


Woodland (500 BC – AD 1000)

- First use of pottery ca. 500 BC
- Elaborate mortuary system, increased burial mound construction, and exchange of exotic materials, exotic lithic material like obsidian for non-utilitarian uses (influenced by Hopewell Culture ca. 200 BC-AD 400, out of Ohio - Illinois), decrease in copper
- After Hopewell, continued mound building (smaller) but without exotic artifacts
- Effigy Mound culture spreads from SW Wisconsin (ca. AD 650-1000)
- Pottery becoming more elaborate
- Bow and arrow (ca. AD 800)
- Cultivated plants, corn horticulture, wild rice (ca. AD 800-900)
- Permanent villages



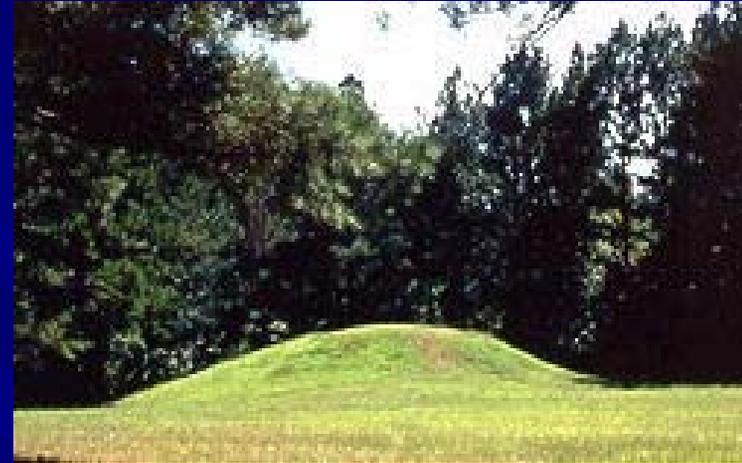
Woodland pottery



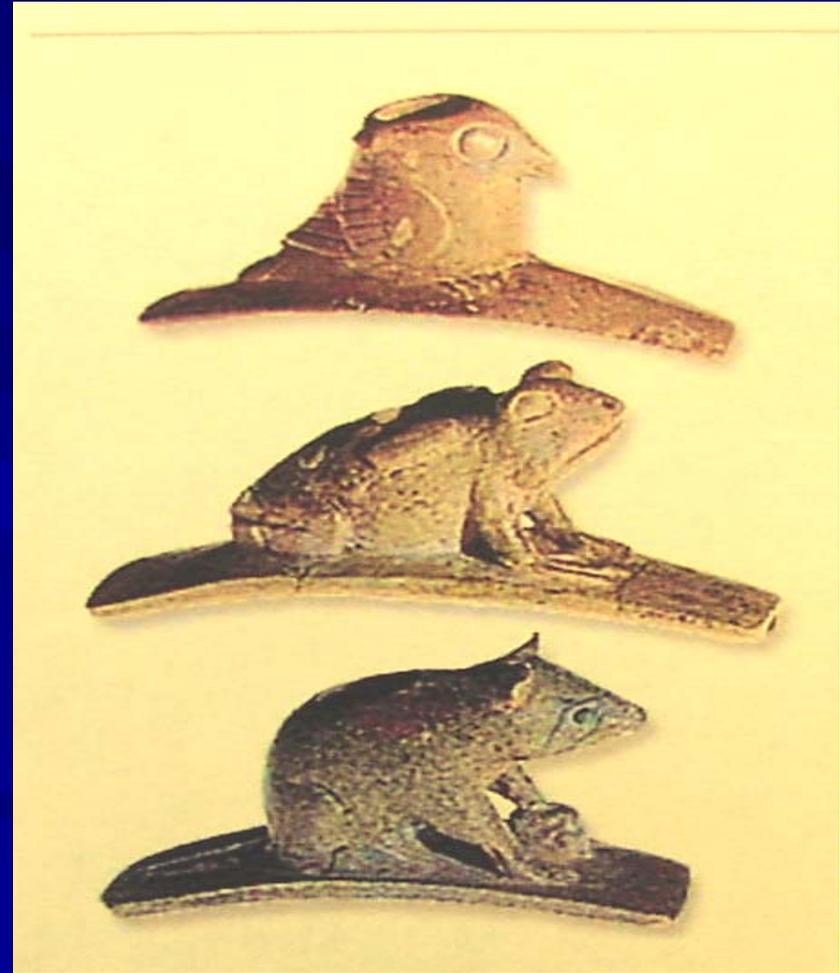
Woodland Pottery and points



Woodland mounds



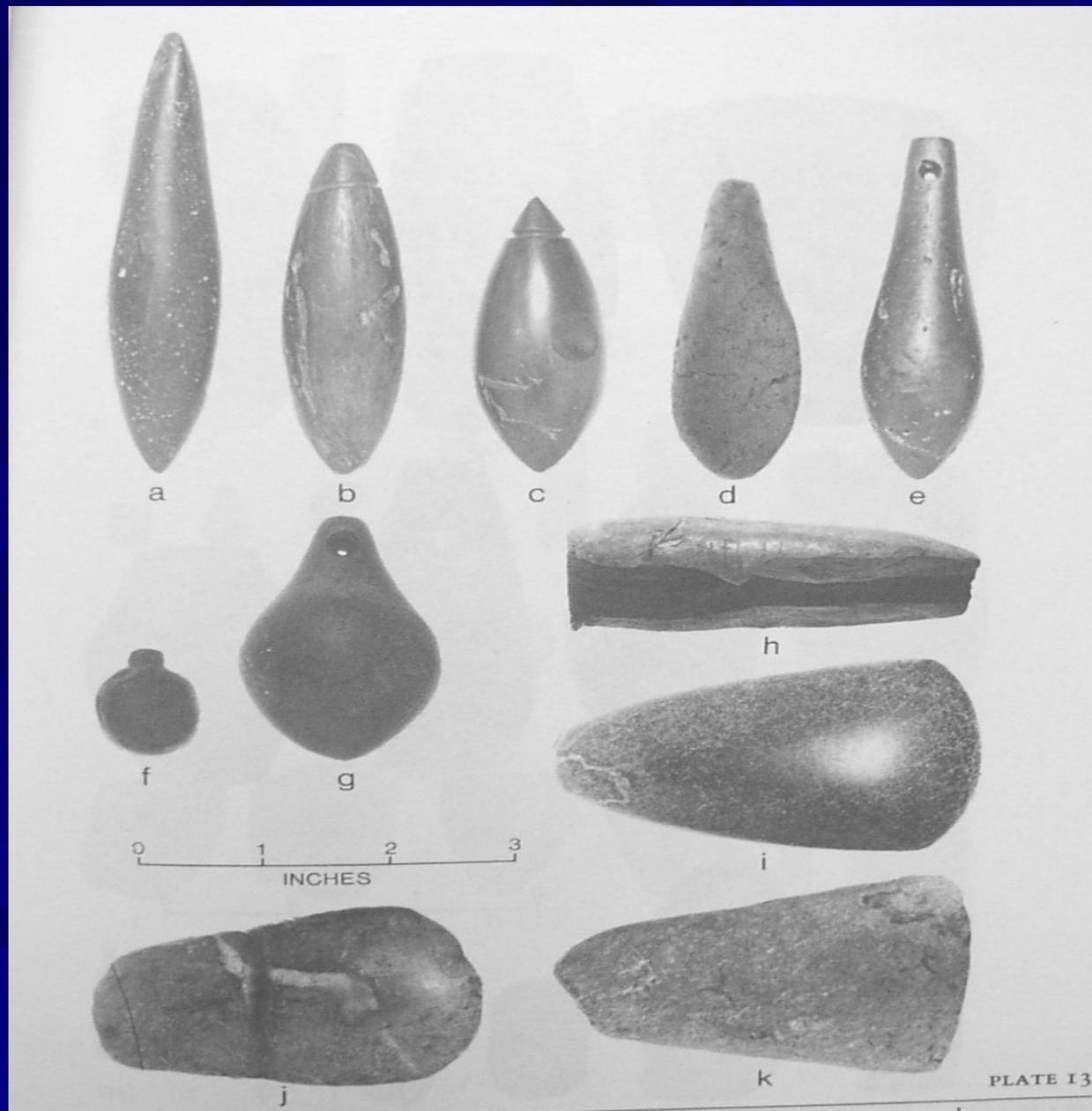
Copper frog effigy, animal effigy pipes
(Hopewell influence)



Multi-purpose tools



Net sinkers, axes (celts)



Major Characteristics of Mississippian/Oneota

- Adaptation to linear floodplain habitat zones
- Pottery tempered with crushed shell, improved technology, new forms
- Village-based maize horticulture by 800-900 AD, beans by 1000 AD, squash (resulting in increased population), wild rice
- Construction of large-flat-topped mounds (mostly ceremonial) near town plazas
- Stratified social organization
- Bow and arrow (deer, elk, and bison)
- Religion connected to agricultural productivity
- Long-distance trade

Mississippian/Oneota (AD 900 - 1450)



Oneota (southcentral Minnesota)

- Influenced heavily by Cahokia (St. Louis)
- Shell-tempered ceramics, triangular arrowheads, numerous end scrapers (for processing game)
- Relied heavily on the river for fish, turtles, clams, and plant foods
- Farmed corn, beans, and squash
- Established several large mound and village complexes on high terraces near Red Wing
- Shifted down to La Crosse then moved west into Iowa and southern Minnesota
- Emerge as the Ioway, Oto, Winnebago



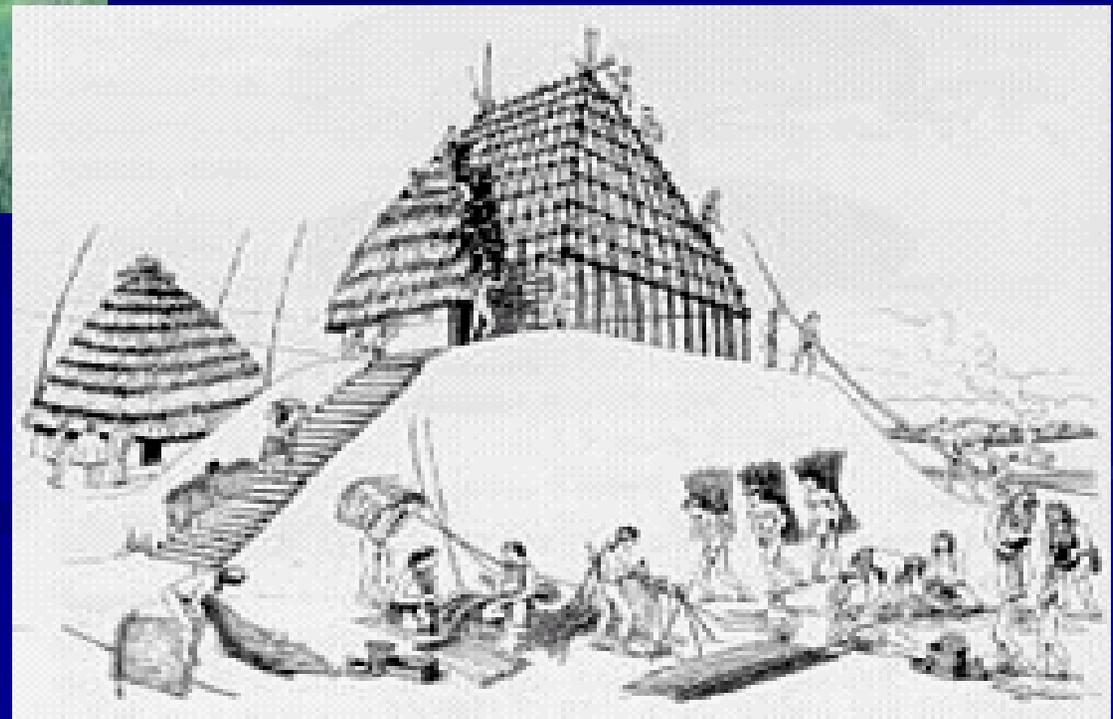
Large Ceremonial Mounds



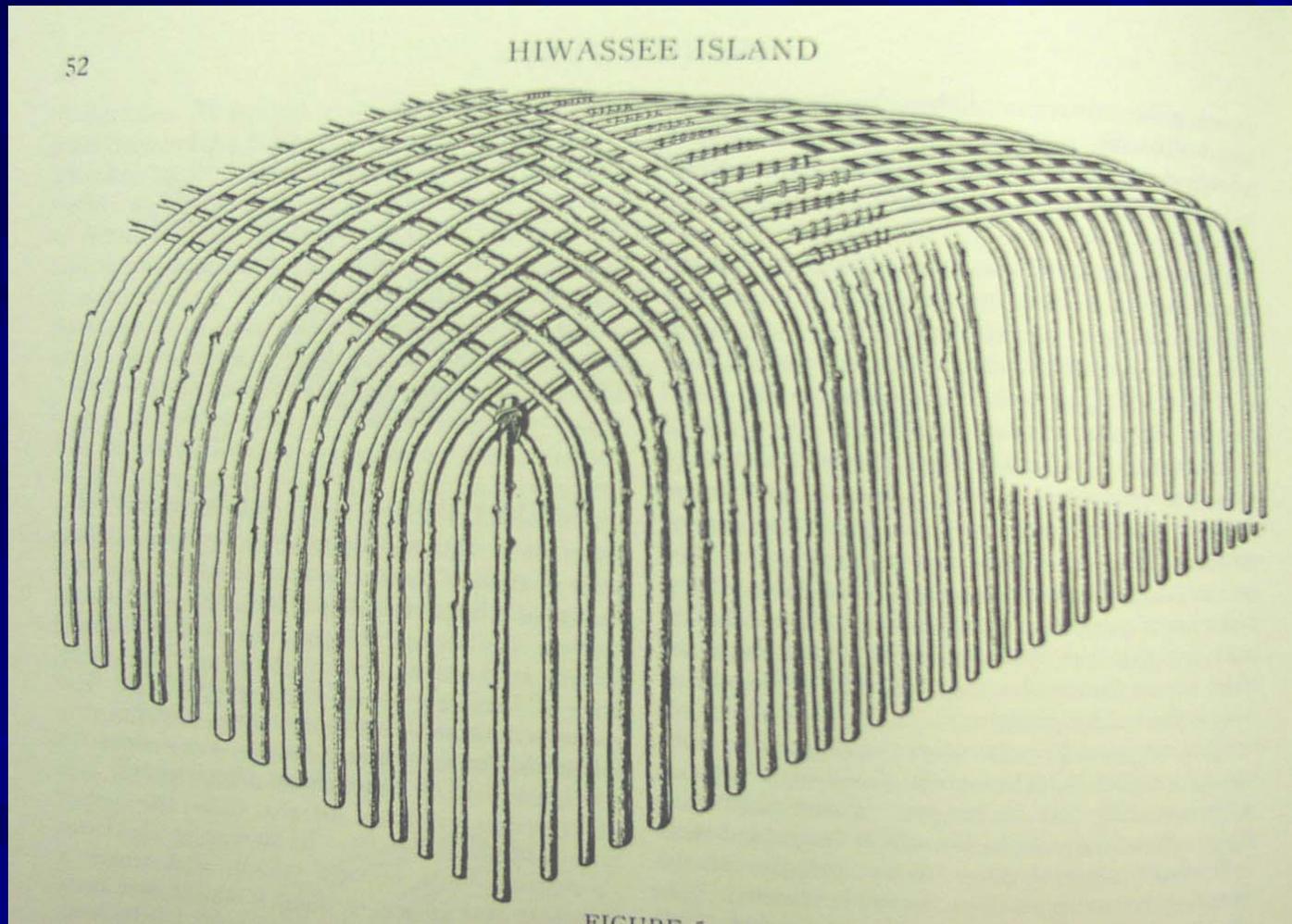
Mound complexes



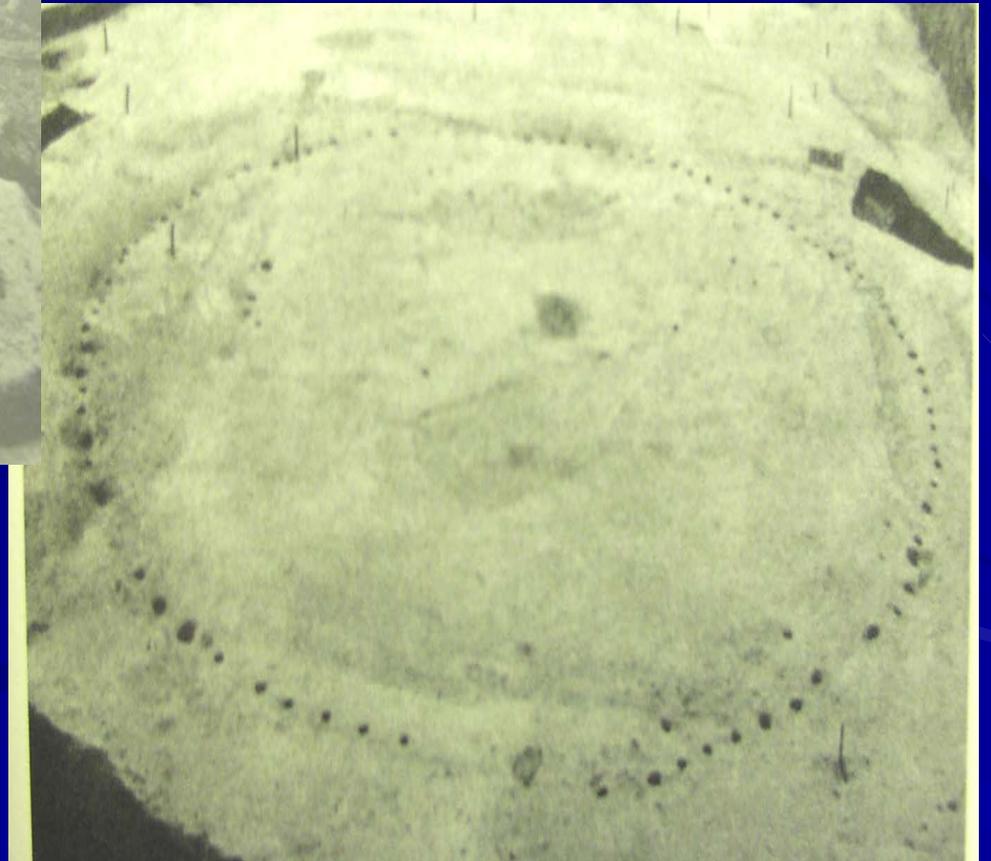
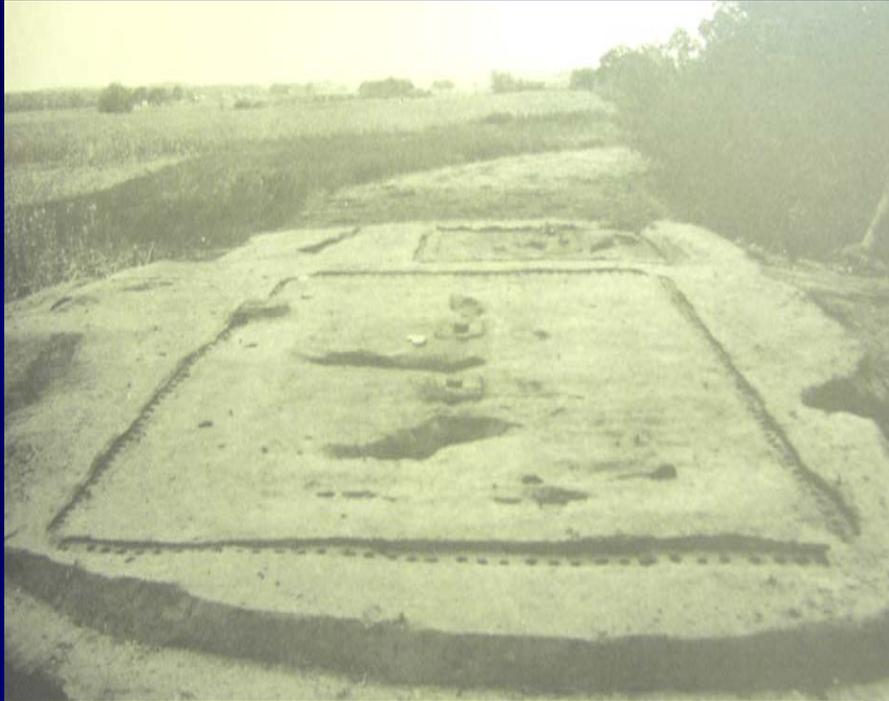
Mississippian mounds



Mississippian house frame



Mississippian house floors



Pit features at Oneota site before excavation



Pit features at Oneota site after excavation



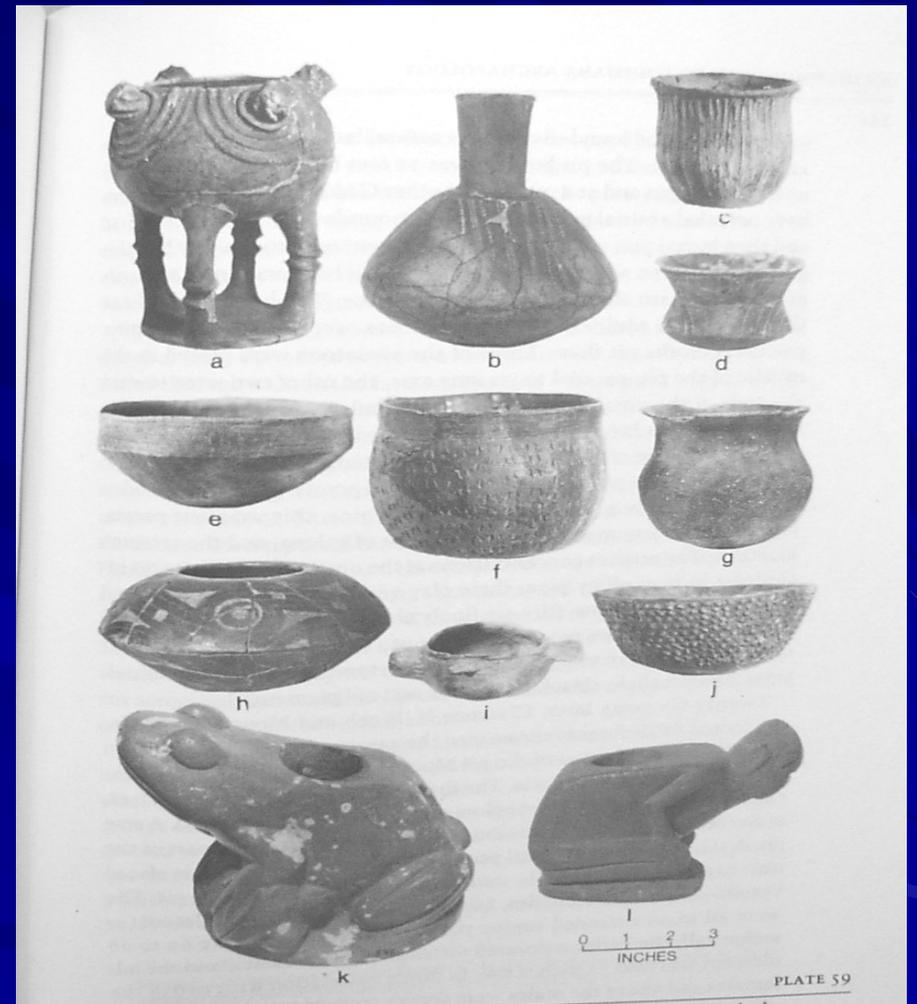
Broken Pottery in place at Oneota site



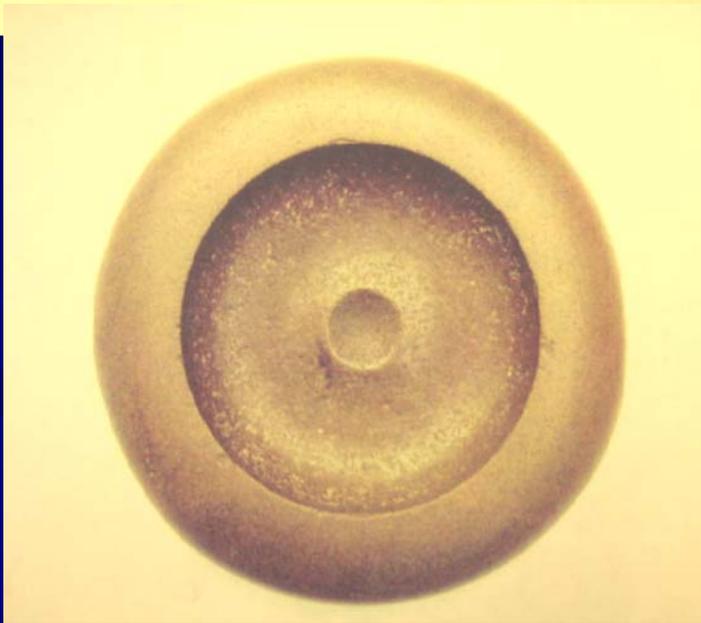
Mississippian/Oneota artifacts



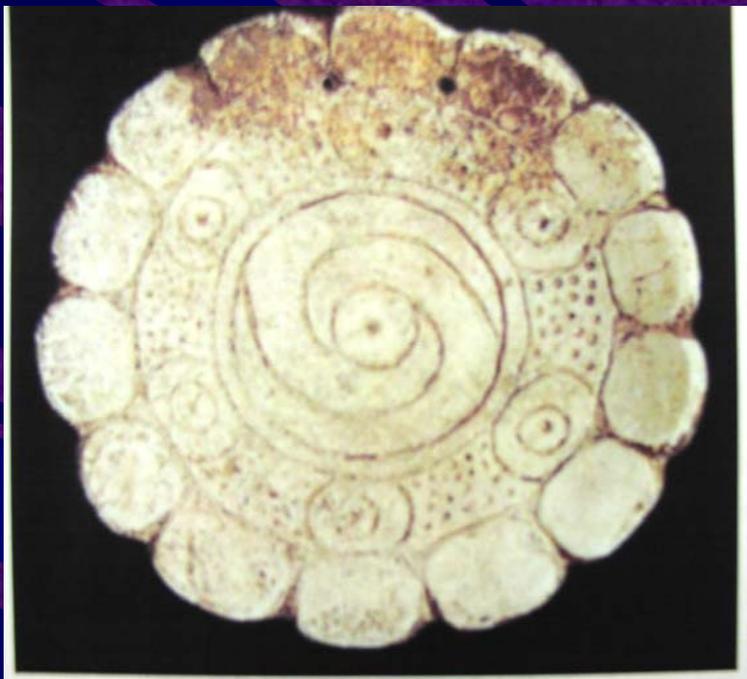
Elaborate pottery



Ceremonial Stone artifacts



Ornaments



...more Ornaments



Contact

- By 1541, Spanish into central Great Plains
- French, English, Dutch and Spanish had explored the eastern seaboard extensively for fishing, later developing extensive trade networks with natives, settlements, etc.
- French entered Great Lakes by early 1600's and established extensive fur trade
- Ojibwe migrate in to MN early 1700's, pushing the Dakota south and west
- diseases that were passed through contact led to the dislocation of native peoples, entire regions were abandoned, migration into new territories, integration with other groups, warfare, etc. = steady decrease in population
- Studies show a depopulation of 90-95% of Native Americans within 100-200 years of European contact (based on research in Am. Southwest, Central America, Mexico)

Dakota, ojibwe

- Fishers and hunters
- Retreated to forest and tree-sheltered river valleys after harvesting wild rice in the fall
- Venison and elk in the winter, food stores and fish and water fowl in early spring
- buffalo in spring and summer



Wild rice harvest



Historic Period



Tipi rings in the archaeological record



11 Minnesota tribes



11 Minnesota Tribes

- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Tribe
- White Earth Chippewa
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Bois Fort (Nett Lake) Band of Chippewa Indians
- Grand Portage (Lake Superior) Band of Chippewa
- Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
- Upper Sioux Community
- Lower Sioux Indian Community
- Shakopee Mdewakaton Sioux
- Prairie Island Indian Community