

Paleoindian Period (Pre-8000 BC)

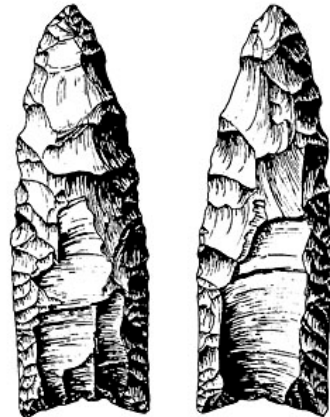


While glaciers still covered much of the Ozarks, hardy bands of hunters and gatherers came here to live. They found rivers and creeks teeming with fish.

Mastodons and **mammoths** roamed the grasslands.

Caves and **rock shelters** protected these people from cold and storms.

A few ancient sites are found above major rivers like the White. These sites are identified by the presence of **Clovis or fluted points** (see drawing). The hunter chipped a flute or channel in the stone to mount on a spear or javelin.



Archaic Period (8000-1000 BC)

As the glaciers melted, **broadleaf forests** gradually replaced the evergreens. The mastodons and mammoths had been hunted to extinction. The warmer climate allowed these ancient Americans to improve their diet. Besides deer and turkey, they ate fish, birds and small mammals as well as nuts, seeds and plant parts. Hickory nuts are commonly found in **Archaic** sites.



With a more dependable food supply, population increased. Many sites show people staying longer and using more **specialized tools**. Many of the new tools were made using a grinding stone rather than by flaking and chipping.

Woodland Period (1000 BC–AD 1000)



Great changes occur during this time. People cultivated garden spots with native sunflower, marsh elder, and goosefoot. The **bow and arrow**, appearing late in the period, made hunters more successful.

Later in this period local people raised maize (corn) and squash, which is native to Mexico. This meant that ideas and materials were being traded over hundreds, even thousands of miles. Known as the **Hopewell Interaction Sphere**, copper from Wisconsin, obsidian from the Southwest, and marine shells from the Gulf of Mexico came to the Ozarks.

The earliest **pottery** is found at Woodland sites. These undecorated thick-walled vessels were used for food cooking or storage. The Native Americans now had **axes** for cutting wood.

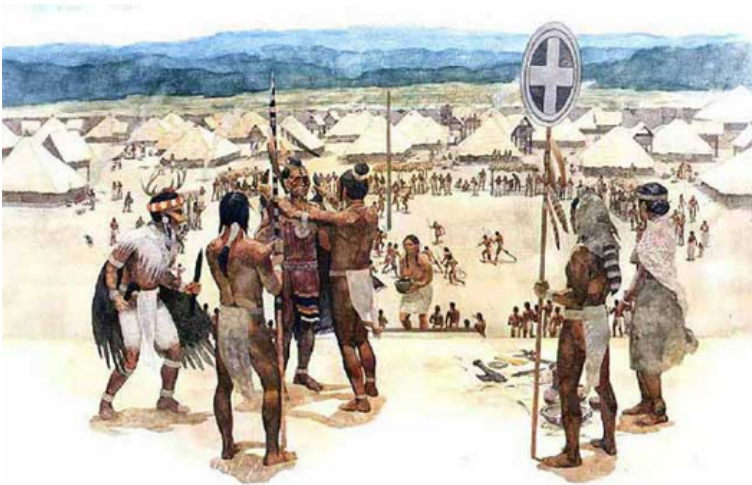
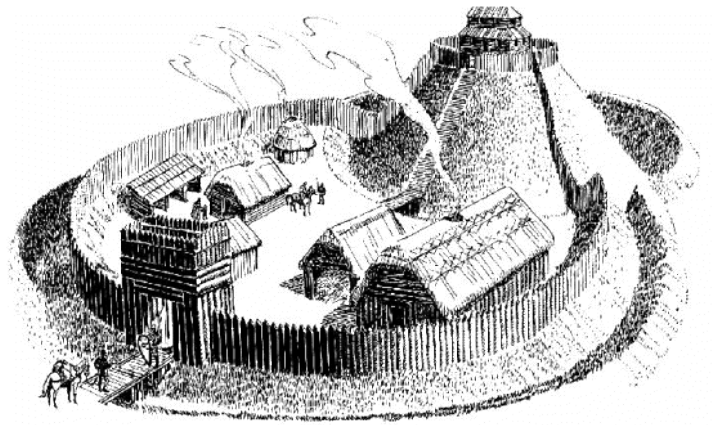
Evidence of **post molds** show they were building houses. Some of their large, cone shaped burial mounds can still be seen.



Mississippian Period (AD 1000–1600)

The most developed social and political systems in prehistoric North America are found at Mississippian sites. Towns with as many as 2000 residents sprang up.

Many towns had **flat-topped earthen mounds**, bases for ceremonial structures, built at the edge of public plazas. One important site on the White River near Calico Rock has a village surrounded by farms. It includes numerous burial plots.



Town life allowed some people to specialize in **tool making**. By now the hunters were using smaller arrowheads. Some pottery has crushed **mussel shells** from the White River mixed in the clay. This is known as shell-tempered pottery.

Historic Period (AD 1600–Present)



Archeologists aren't sure which Native American tribes lived in this area between **1200 and 1817**. Because of the mountains, wild rivers and frequent floods, the Ozarks has always been a challenging place to live.

Native American and even today's European-American populations are fairly sparse. But fresh water springs, sheltering caves, no malaria swamps, and abundant game overcame the disadvantages.

In 1541, Spanish explorer **Hernando DeSoto's** expedition came to the present town of Batesville and possibly as far upriver as Calico Rock.



By the time **French fur traders** arrived in the 1600's, the Mississippian peoples had disappeared. They found the local tribes living a more simple life.