Fort Loramie's Native American Heritage

One Man, One Lifetime, from One Farm

OHIO'S PREHISTORIC TIMELINE

12,000 BC | 11,000 BC | 10,000 BC | 9,000 BC | 8,000 BC | 7,000 BC | 6,000 BC | 5,000 BC | 4,000 BC | 3,000 BC | 2,000 BC | 1,000 BC | Time Of Christ | 1,000 AD | Present Day

The Paleoindian Period
~ 12,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C. ~

- The first Indians into North America as the ice sheets melted.
- Nomadic hunters and gatherers.
- Hunted ice age mega fauna.
- This was the time of the wooly mammoth and saber tooth tiger.
- They used a distinctive "fluted" spear point.

The Archaic Period
~ 8,000 B.C. to 500 B.C. ~

- As the Ice Age ended and the paleo mega fauna became extinct, the river drainages and climate emerged as it is today.
- Archaic Indians were semi-sedentary/semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers.
- Archaic Indians followed the ripening cycle of plants and the seasonal cycles of the animals on which they survived.
- New stone technologies became a part of the archaic tool kit.

The Early Woodland Period
~ 800 B.C. to time of Christ ~

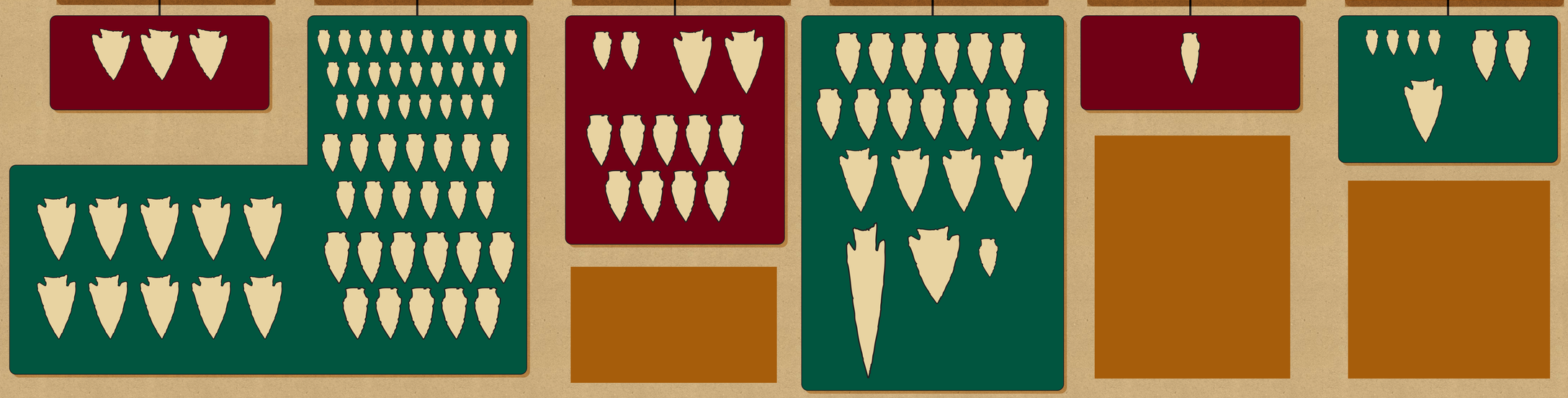
- Also known as The Adena Indians.
- The Woodland Indians were more sedentary than earlier cultures.
- This time period saw the beginnings of agriculture.
- The Adena were the first Ohio mound builders.
- The Adena were the first Indian culture in Ohio to have pottery.
- The Early Woodland Indians were known for their elaborate burials.

The Middle Woodland Period
~ 100 B.C. to 500 A.D. ~

- Also known as the Hopewell Indians.
- The most "advanced" prehistoric culture in Ohio.
- The Hopewell are known for their elaborate earthworks and fortifications.
- The Hopewell had a very developed material culture.
- The Hopewell culture developed a vast trade network, centered in Ohio, that stretched throughout North America.
- Hunting and gathering continued to provide the bulk of the food, but cultivation became increasingly important.

The Late Woodland Period
~ 500 A.D. to 900 A.D.

- The Hopewell Culture with its massive earthworks and complex material culture and trade network is in decline.
- The Late Woodland is referred to as the "Intrusive Mound" culture because they sometimes buried their dead in pre-existing mounds and earthworks.
- The bow and arrow is introduced during this time.
- Corn (maize) becomes the primary crop and dependence on it heralds a cultural decline.
- Communities were larger and were surrounded by defensive walls and ditches suggesting that warfare had become prevalent.

The Late Prehistoric Period
~ 900 A.D. to 1600 A.D. ~

- Also known as the Mississippian Indians.
- Agriculture centered on "The Three Sisters" – corn, beans and squash.
- As agriculture became the main food source, populations grew and villages became much larger.
- In the Mississippian period large cities grew along the Mississippi Valley and in what became the Southeastern United States.
- Mississippian culture disappears just prior to European contact, probably due to the introduction of European diseases.