

North America

Early Paleo-Indian

Years BP: 12200 - 11000

Location: Found throughout the non-glaciated regions of North America, and in the mountainous regions of Mesoamerica and South America.

Description: Nomadic peoples with an economy focused on the group hunting of Pleistocene megafauna. Lived in small bands, perhaps within recognized territorial regions.

OAT code: 1001 *OWC code:* N034

Late Paleo-Indian

Years BP: 11000 - 6000

Location: Found throughout the unglaciated regions of North America and Mesoamerica except for the Arctic (see Paleo-Arctic).

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers with an economy focused on big-game hunting, but including a mix of smaller game and collected foods. Lived in small bands, perhaps in recognized territories. Ends ca. 10000 BP in the region of the contemporary U.S.; somewhat later (ca 7000 BP) in the northern Plains; and ca. 6000 BP in the Sub-Arctic.

OAT code: 1005 *OWC code:* N037

Paleo-Arctic

Years BP: 11000 - 6000

Location: The non-glaciated arctic regions of North America.

Description: Nomadic hunters of terrestrial arctic big game.

OAT code: 1010 *OWC code:* ND60

Late Tundra

Years BP: 8000 - 6000

Location: Aleutians, western and southwestern Alaska.

Description: Early nomadic hunter / gatherers of the western sub-arctic tundra.

OAT code: 1013 *OWC code:* NA45

Northern Archaic

Years BP: 6000 - 4000

Location: The unglaciated arctic and sub-arctic regions of North America.

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers of the western Sub-arctic.

OAT code: 1015 *OWC code:* ND63

Western Arctic Small Tool

Years BP: 4700 - 2500

Location: Western arctic and sub-arctic regions of North America, but not central Yukon and British Columbia, where a related but temporally and geographically distinct culture, Northwest Microblade, is present.

Description: Nomadic hunters with an economy focused on caribou and some sea mammals. Ancient ancestors of historic Inuit populations.

OAT code: 1020 *OWC code:* NA48

- Norton** *Years BP:* 3000 - 1000
Location: Western arctic regions of North America.
Description: Semi-sedentary hunter / fishers.
OAT code: 1025 *OWC code:* NA50
- Thule** *Years BP:* 2100 - 100
Location: Western Arctic regions of North America, moving eastward beginning by 1000 BP, established across all of the North American arctic by 700 BP.
Description: Prehistoric ancestors of the Inuit peoples. Nomadic hunter / gatherers living much of the year as independent nuclear families, and with an economy focused on arctic marine resources, especially sea mammals. The Dorset culture in the eastern arctic regions of North America is gradually replaced by Thule peoples beginning by 1000 BP.
OAT code: 1030 *OWC code:* ND75
- Eastern Arctic Small Tool** *Years BP:* 4000 - 2700
Location: Eastern arctic regions of North America and Greenland.
Description: Early hunter / fishers of the eastern Arctic and Greenland.
OAT code: 1035 *OWC code:* N050
- Dorset** *Years BP:* 2800 - 700
Location: Eastern arctic regions of North America and Greenland.
Description: Semi-sedentary hunter / fishers of the eastern Arctic. Replaced by Thule peoples from the western arctic beginning by 1000 BP.
OAT code: 1040 *OWC code:* ND85
- Shield Archaic** *Years BP:* 6000 - 3000
Location: The eastern sub-arctic region of North America.
Description: Hunter / gatherers living in nomadic bands with a diverse subsistence economy.
OAT code: 1045 *OWC code:* NC50
- Initial Shield Woodland** *Years BP:* 3000 - 600
Location: The eastern sub-arctic region of North America.
Description: Seasonally nomadic hunter / gatherers with a diverse economy.
OAT code: 1050 *OWC code:* NC54
- Terminal Shield Woodland** *Years BP:* 600 - 150
Location: The eastern sub-arctic region of North America.
Description: Regionally distinctive and seasonally nomadic hunter / gatherers with a diverse economy.
OAT code: 1055 *OWC code:* NC58

Northwest Microblade*Years BP:* 7000 - 2000*Location:* Northwestern Canada.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in the boreal forests of western Canada. This culture is related to the Western Arctic Small Tool culture, but is temporally and geographically distinct. May be directly ancestral to later Athapaskan speaking cultures inhabiting the same region.*OAT code:* 1065*OWC code:* ND45**Proto-Athapaskans***Years BP:* 2000 - 150*Location:* Central portions of contemporary Canadian provinces of Yukon and British Columbia and adjacent areas of central Alaska--the areas inhabited historically by Northern Athapaskans.*Description:* Seasonally-sedentary hunter / gatherers of the western Subarctic.*OAT code:* 1070*OWC code:* ND50**Eastern Early Archaic***Years BP:* 10000 - 8000*Location:* Eastern North America south of the Canadian Shield.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in bands with a broader economy than the Late Paleo-Indians who preceded them. Used woodworking tools and ground stone tools, and made some use of riverine resources. Overlaps with Late Paleo-Indian in many areas.*OAT code:* 1075*OWC code:* NN45**Eastern Middle Archaic***Years BP:* 8000 - 6000*Location:* Eastern Woodlands of the United States.*Description:* Nomadic bands with a broad-spectrum hunting and gathering economy which included riverine resources and the extensive use of ground stone tools.*OAT code:* 1080*OWC code:* NN50**Eastern Late Archaic***Years BP:* 6000 - 3000*Location:* Eastern Woodlands of North America.*Description:* Specialized adaptations to local resources are common among these semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers. Long-distance trade in raw shell, stone, and ochre, and some finished goods occurs as well as burial ceremonialism including mound building and grave goods.*OAT code:* 1085*OWC code:* NN55**Eastern Early Woodland***Years BP:* 3000 - 2100*Location:* Eastern North America south of the Canadian Shield and east of the Great Plains.*Description:* Pottery-manufacturing hunter / gatherers with economies focused on localized resources. There is the beginning of a reliance on domesticated plants in some areas. Little inter-regional interaction and perhaps a strong territorial pattern is present. Represents a continuation of cultural patterns from the Eastern Late Archaic in many areas.*OAT code:* 1115*OWC code:* NN60

Adena*Years BP:* 2600 - 1900*Location:* Central Ohio River valley and adjacent regions.*Description:* Sedentary, mound-building peoples with distinctive burial ceremonialism. Interaction was apparently intense among Adena communities, in contrast with the apparent territorialism in other Early Woodland cultures. The economy is a diverse mix of hunting and gathering. Status differences appear to be present.*OAT code:* 1120*OWC code:* NP50**Eastern Middle Woodland***Years BP:* 2100 - 1300*Location:* Eastern North America*Description:* Represents a general continuation of cultural patterns from Early Woodland in most areas, but with greater reliance on domesticates, a more focused economy overall, and some regionally distinct cultural patterns. Most areas also displayed greater political centralization than earlier cultures.*OAT code:* 1125*OWC code:* NN64**Hopewell***Years BP:* 2100 - 1700*Location:* Central Ohio River valley north to the Great Lakes and west to the Mississippi.*Description:* Politically centralized and sedentary peoples with elaborate burial ceremonialism, partly relying on domesticates by 1800 BP. There is a distinct settlement hierarchy in some areas, and extensive long-distance trade.*OAT code:* 1130*OWC code:* NP55**Northeast Middle Woodland***Years BP:* 2400 - 1000*Location:* New York, Ontario, Quebec, New England.*Description:* These sedentary peoples show some similarity to Hopewell, but built effigy mounds rather than burial mounds, manufactured unique dentate-stamped pottery, and did not rely on domesticates. Rather, their economy was focused on forest resources.*OAT code:* 1140*OWC code:* NL54**Eastern Late Woodland***Years BP:* 1300 - 500*Location:* Eastern Woodlands of North America.*Description:* Semi-sedentary peoples with an economy focused on forest resources, but with some reliance on domesticates later in time. Most appear to have a simple and egalitarian political organization, but more complex ranked polities appear later in some areas. Somewhat of a catch-all for peoples of the Eastern Woodlands who were not influenced by regional cultural developments beginning ca. 1100 BP.*OAT code:* 1155*OWC code:* NN67**Northeast Late Woodland***Years BP:* 1000 - 500*Location:* Northeastern portions of the United States and Canada south of the Canadian shield.*Description:* Sedentary village horticulturalists, with subsistence substantially augmented by hunting and gathering forest resources.*OAT code:* 1160*OWC code:* NL57

Mississippian*Years BP:* 1100 - 500

Location: Central Mississippi River valley from northern Illinois to the Gulf, and the Ohio River valley and south throughout southeastern North America.

Description: Sedentary, ranked or stratified, horticultural peoples living in large, planned communities in major river valleys of southeastern North America. Practiced extensive inter-regional trade and warfare. Were present during the early period of European exploration of the Southeast. Ends earlier (ca. 800 BP) in the northern range of Mississippian culture.

OAT code: 1175 *OWC code:* NP60

Oneota*Years BP:* 1000 - 230

Location: The western Great Lakes region, south into northern Illinois and Indiana.

Description: Sedentary or semi-sedentary peoples living in villages in riverine environments. Economy based on a mix of horticulture and hunting and gathering. Communal bison hunting was important for some communities. Political organization varied from simple village headmen to chiefs.

OAT code: 1180 *OWC code:* NP70

Fort Ancient*Years BP:* 1000 - 200

Location: Central Ohio River valley and adjacent regions.

Description: Sedentary village horticulturalists living in ranked societies with a centralized political organization.

OAT code: 1185 *OWC code:* NP80

Proto-Iroquois*Years BP:* 950 - 350

Location: Western New York state and southern Ontario.

Description: Sedentary agriculturalists living in large, palisaded communities composed of multi-family longhouses. Ranking and political centralization is present. Ancestral to historic Iroquois populations.

OAT code: 1195 *OWC code:* NM57

Plains Archaic*Years BP:* 9000 - 2500

Location: Eastern and southern Great Plains. Some parts of this region appear to have been uninhabited for long periods of time.

Description: Small nomadic or semi-nomadic band-level hunter / gatherers, subsisting on a seasonal round of local plant and animal resources. Bison was an important resource for some groups, but not for all Plains Archaic peoples nor for the entire Plains Archaic time period.

OAT code: 1205 *OWC code:* NQ50

Plains Woodland*Years BP:* 2500 - 200*Location:* Eastern and southern Great Plains.*Description:* Semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers focused on creek-valley resources. Deer and small mammals are important resources, and in some areas domesticated plants gain importance. Plains Woodland culture appears to be influenced by Eastern Woodland culture, particularly Hopewell. Pottery is first made on the Plains by these peoples.*OAT code:* 1210*OWC code:* NQ54**Central Plains Village***Years BP:* 1050 - 150*Location:* Central and southern Great Plains. The central Plains seem to have been abandoned around 600 BP.*Description:* Semi-sedentary horticulturalists who lived in villages with large, multi-family dwellings. Cord-marked pottery is characteristic. Most villages were in river valley locations, and were occupied only part of the year. Communal bison hunts were an important aspect of subsistence for some Central Plains Village groups.*OAT code:* 1215*OWC code:* NQ60**Northern Plains Village***Years BP:* 950 - 150*Location:* Eastern and northeastern regions of the Great Plains.*Description:* Settled village horticulturalists living in large, multi-family dwellings. Villages are located in river valleys and are sometimes fortified. Horticultural products are important to subsistence, as are deer, small game, and bison.*OAT code:* 1216*OWC code:* NQ65**Early Desert Archaic***Years BP:* 10000 - 8000*Location:* Great Basin region and desert Southwest.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers with a diverse subsistence base focused on locally available and seasonal resources.*OAT code:* 1220*OWC code:* NT50**Middle Desert Archaic***Years BP:* 8000 - 1600*Location:* The Great Basin and desert Southwest.*Description:* Semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers who lived in mobile bands. Population apparently expanded over those of the Early Desert Archaic, and moved into more diverse environments. Some populations built semi-permanent villages in lakeside or riverine environments, although even these peoples ranged broadly to hunt and gather. Subsistence was diverse, and based on localized and seasonal resources.*OAT code:* 1225*OWC code:* NT54**Middle-Late Desert Archaic***Years BP:* 8000 - 150*Location:* The Great Basin and desert Southwest.*Description:* [eHRAF Archaeology combines the Middle and Late Desert Archaic traditions.]*OAT code:* 1227*OWC code:* NT55

- Fremont** *Years BP:* 1600 - 500
- Location:* Northeastern portions of the Great Basin west of the Colorado River and north to the Great Salt Lake.
- Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists who moved into marginal horticultural environments of the eastern Great Basin replacing hunting and gathering populations there. They lived in villages with substantial, rectangular houses, made pottery, and had a subsistence based on corn.
- OAT code:* 1230 *OWC code:* NT60
- Late Desert Archaic** *Years BP:* 1600 - 150
- Location:* Desert Southwest and Great Basin.
- Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, mobile bands adapted to the desert Southwest. These were the first peoples in the region to use the bow and arrow, and this apparently led to a considerable expansion of the subsistence base. These were also the first people in the region to make pottery. They are likely the direct ancestors of the region's historic Numic speakers.
- OAT code:* 1235 *OWC code:* NT57
- San Dieguito** *Years BP:* 10000 - 8000
- Location:* Desert Southwest, Baja California, and along the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains to Oregon.
- Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers who made unique crescent-shaped stone tools and used stones to hold down or reinforce the bases of their dwellings. Subsistence was regionally diverse, but was focused on big-game animals.
- OAT code:* 1240 *OWC code:* NS40
- High Plains Early and Middle Archaic** *Years BP:* 8000 - 3000
- Location:* High Plains and northwestern Great Plains region.
- Description:* Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers. The first side-notched points, pithouses, and stone circles (tent bases?) in the area are made by these people.
- OAT code:* 1260 *OWC code:* NQ70
- High Plains Late Archaic** *Years BP:* 3000 - 1500
- Location:* High Plains and northwestern Great Plains region.
- Description:* Semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers. Bison may have been an important subsistence item for these people, as communal kill sites become common; although there also appears to be great regional diversity in subsistence strategies.
- OAT code:* 1270 *OWC code:* NQ74

High Plains Late Prehistoric*Years BP:* 1500 - 150*Location:* High Plains and northwestern Great Plains region.*Description:* Semi-nomadic hunting and gathering peoples. The bow and arrow appears to have been first used by these people (based on the presence of small, triangular projectile points), and subsistence practices change from a focus on communal bison kills to one with a broader range of target species and more individual hunting. Pottery is also first manufactured by these people. Somewhat arbitrary beginning date, based on the appearance of the bow and arrow.*OAT code:* 1280*OWC code:* NQ77**Early Hohokam***Years BP:* 2000 - 900*Location:* Southern Arizona.*Description:* Sedentary village horticulturalists living in large pithouse villages. They manufactured paddle-and-anvil pottery and built platform mounds and ball courts. Practiced extensive irrigation agriculture. Time frame includes two well-defined Hohokam periods, Pioneer and Colonial.*OAT code:* 1300*OWC code:* NT74**Hohokam***Years BP:* 2000 - 500*Location:* Southern Arizona.*Description:* [eHRAF Archaeology combines the Early and Late Hohokam traditions.]*OAT code:* 1303*OWC code:* NT76**Late Hohokam***Years BP:* 900 - 500*Location:* Southern Arizona.*Description:* Sedentary pueblo-dwelling agriculturalists. By the time of Spanish exploration, most Hohokam villages appear to have been abandoned.*OAT code:* 1305*OWC code:* NT77**Early Mogollon***Years BP:* 2000 - 1000*Location:* Central Arizona, New Mexico, extreme western Texas, and adjacent regions of Mexico.*Description:* Sedentary rainfall horticulturalists living in villages composed of pithouses. Manufactured coiled pottery. Encompasses three major Mogollon periods, 1, 2, and 3, and is commonly broken into several branches including Mimbres, Forestdale, and San Simon.*OAT code:* 1310*OWC code:* NT84**Mogollon***Years BP:* 2000 - 600*Location:* Central Arizona, New Mexico, extreme western Texas, and adjacent regions of Mexico.*Description:* [eHRAF Archaeology combines the Early and Late Mogollon traditions.]*OAT code:* 1312*OWC code:* NT85

Late Mogollon*Years BP:* 1000 - 600*Location:* Central Arizona, New Mexico, extreme western Texas, and adjacent portions of Mexico.*Description:* Settled rainfall horticulturalists living in large Pueblos. A variety of pottery with sophisticated designs was manufactured. Marked regional variation in architecture and artifacts. Area was abandoned by the time of the first European exploration.*OAT code:* 1315*OWC code:* NT87**Basketmaker***Years BP:* 2300 - 1300*Location:* Northern Arizona and New Mexico, southern Colorado and Utah.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists mostly living in small villages composed of small pithouses. Pottery is not used, but sophisticated fiber baskets are characteristic. Encompasses three recognized periods, Basketmaker I, II, and III.*OAT code:* 1320*OWC code:* NT93**Early Anasazi***Years BP:* 1300 - 700*Location:* Northern Arizona and New Mexico, southern Colorado and Utah.*Description:* Settled horticulturalists living in villages of pithouses early in the period and in small pueblos later. Great regional variation in settlement, architecture, and artifacts, but with a general pattern of elaborate black-on-white coiled pottery. Encompasses three recognized periods, Pueblo I, II, and III, as well as several sub-cultures, including Mesa Verde, Virgin, and Kayenta.*OAT code:* 1325*OWC code:* NT95**Late Anasazi***Years BP:* 700 - 450*Location:* Northern Arizona and New Mexico, southern Colorado and Utah.*Description:* Large pueblo villages of up to several thousand rooms clustered in regional systems of 10 to 20 villages. Commonly divided into Eastern and Western Pueblo, with some separating Chaco into an entirely separate tradition. Continued into the historic period.*OAT code:* 1330*OWC code:* NT97**Patayan***Years BP:* 1600 - 500*Location:* Western Arizona, extreme southern Nevada and California.*Description:* Semi-sedentary horticulturalists living in small villages primarily in riverine locations. Hunting and gathering remained important to subsistence. Ancestral to historic Yuman-speaking peoples of the Colorado River region.*OAT code:* 1335*OWC code:* NT64**Windmill***Years BP:* 8000 - 3000*Location:* Central valley of California.*Description:* Riverine focused, broad-spectrum hunter / gatherers.*OAT code:* 1350*OWC code:* NS60

Cosumnes*Years BP:* 3000 - 1500*Location:* Central valley of California.*Description:* Sedentary or semi-sedentary village dwelling hunter / gatherers. Economy focused on riverine resources (especially fish) and acorns. Broad regional exchange of goods.*OAT code:* 1355*OWC code:* NS64**Hotchkiss***Years BP:* 1500 - 150*Location:* Central valley of California.*Description:* Sedentary or semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers with economies focused on intensely harvestable localized resources such as acorns. Extensive inter-regional exchange and some status differences present.*OAT code:* 1360*OWC code:* NS67**Early Southern California***Years BP:* 8000 - 3000*Location:* Coastal regions of southern California from Santa Barbara to Baja.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers with mixed economies based on plants and shellfish and some marine mammals and fish.*OAT code:* 1365*OWC code:* NS45**Late Southern California***Years BP:* 3000 - 150*Location:* Coastal regions of southern California, from Santa Barbara to Baja.*Description:* Hunter / gatherers living in large, sedentary communities. Economy focused on marine resources including mammals, fish, and shellfish. Long-distance exchange and complex political structures present.*OAT code:* 1370*OWC code:* NS50**Early Sierra Nevada***Years BP:* 10000 - 3800*Location:* The Sierra Nevada mountains in California.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers subsisting primarily on big game and diverse plant resources.*OAT code:* 1385*OWC code:* NS70**Late Sierra Nevada***Years BP:* 3800 - 150*Location:* The Sierra Nevada mountains of California.*Description:* Hunter / gatherers living in villages in foothill river valleys. Some villages have populations of several hundred. Regional and inter-regional trade is practiced, and there are status differences present. War appears to be common, especially later in the tradition.*OAT code:* 1395*OWC code:* NS75

- Cascade** *Years BP:* 8000 - 5000
Location: Plateau region of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho in the United States.
Description: Semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers, with an economy focused on salmon during the Fall, and otherwise diverse.
OAT code: 1400 *OWC code:* NR50
- Tucaunon** *Years BP:* 5000 - 2500
Location: Plateau region of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.
Description: Semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers with an economy focused on big game (deer, elk, and antelope) and salmon.
OAT code: 1405 *OWC code:* NR52
- Harder** *Years BP:* 2500 - 500
Location: Plateau region of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.
Description: Sedentary or semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers living in large, multi-family pit houses. Economy focused on big game and salmon.
OAT code: 1410 *OWC code:* NR55
- Piquin** *Years BP:* 500 - 150
Location: Plateau region of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.
Description: Sedentary or semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers living in large, multi-family pit houses. Economy focused on bow and arrow hunting of a variety of game, and on salmon during the fall. Ancestral to historic peoples of the region.
OAT code: 1415 *OWC code:* NR58
- Archaic Oregon Coast** *Years BP:* 10000 - 2000
Location: Coastal regions of Oregon from the Columbia River mouth to California.
Description: Generalized hunter / gatherers living in small, nomadic bands. Some use of marine resources, but an overall mixed economy.
OAT code: 1430 *OWC code:* NR60
- Formative Oregon Coast** *Years BP:* 2000 - 150
Location: Coastal regions of Oregon from the Columbia River mouth to California.
Description: Sedentary or semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers living in coastal villages and subsisting largely on marine resources.
OAT code: 1435 *OWC code:* NR65
- Early Northwest Coast** *Years BP:* 9500 - 5500
Location: Coastal regions of northwestern North America from Alaska to Oregon.
Description: Localized semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers with an economy focused on marine resources. Diverse local cultural traditions.
OAT code: 1440 *OWC code:* NE50

Middle Northwest Coast*Years BP:* 5500 - 1500*Location:* Coastal regions of northwestern North America from Alaska to Oregon.*Description:* Large localized populations of hunter / fisher / gatherers with economies focused on marine resources. Considerable inter-regional interaction.*OAT code:* 1445*OWC code:* NE54**Late Northwest Coast***Years BP:* 1500 - 200*Location:* Coastal regions of northwestern North America from Alaska to Oregon.*Description:* Large villages of hunter / fisher / gatherers with an economy focused on marine resources. Status differences and a chiefdom form of political organization is present.*OAT code:* 1450*OWC code:* NE57**Aleutian***Years BP:* 6000 - 250*Location:* Aleutian Islands.*Description:* Sedentary hunter / fishers living in small villages with an economy focused on fish and marine mammals, and manufacturing unique chipped stone and bone tools.*OAT code:* 1460*OWC code:* NA60**Ocean Bay***Years BP:* 8000 - 4000*Location:* Kodiak Island and adjacent coastal areas.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunters with an economy focused on marine mammals.*OAT code:* 1463*OWC code:* NA70**Kodiak***Years BP:* 4000 - 700*Location:* Kodiak Islands and adjacent coastal regions.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunters with an economy focused on marine mammals. Had unique ground stone and bone tool industries.*OAT code:* 1465*OWC code:* NA75