

Outline of Archaeological Traditions

Compiled by

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Introduction

The Logic of Comparative Archaeology

Comparative research is a necessary tool in evolutionary science. It is only through comparison that we can identify diversity, and it is the creation and maintenance of diversity that evolutionary science attempts to understand. Within anthropology, comparative research is usually called cross-cultural research.

The unit of analysis in such research is the culture. What constitutes a culture is rather loosely defined, but includes sharing a common language, a common economic and socio-political system, and some degree of territorial continuity. Because any given population within a culture will show some divergence from the others, a culture is usually represented by a particular community, and because cultures are always changing, the representative or focal community is described as of a particular point in time.

Cross-cultural research makes two fundamental assumptions. First, that a culture can be adequately represented by a single community. And second, that cultures can be compared. The first assumption is based on the idea that any definition of culture will be broad enough that any given community in a culture will share fundamental features of behavior and organization with others similarly defined. The second is based on the uniformitarian assumption underlying all evolutionary science: if an explanation accurately reflects reality, “measures of the presumed causes and effects should be significantly and strongly associated synchronically” (Ember and Ember 1995:88).

Comparative archaeology extends traditional cross-cultural research in two dimensions. First, it adds new cases to those which can be used for comparison, and hence increases the sample size for cross-cultural research. Second, and perhaps more importantly, it allows the comparativist to determine whether the presumed cause of some phenomenon actually precedes its presumed effects. Like all forms of comparative research, comparative archaeology seeks to identify regular associations between variables and to test explanations for why those associations exist. Unlike in comparative ethnographic research, the associations identified can be either synchronic or diachronic, and the explanations for them can be tested both synchronically and diachronically.

The Purposes of Comparative Archaeology

Because of its ability to identify and test explanations diachronically, comparative archaeology is uniquely suited to exploring both unilinear and multilinear trends in cultural evolution. Unilinear trends refer to either progressive or regressive changes in societal scale, complexity, and integration which take place over a long period of time and large geographical areas. Comparative archaeology can examine change over a long period of time to determine empirically whether unilinear trends are present, and test explanations for those trends by determining whether presumed causes actually precede presumed effects. Similarly, multilinear evolutionary processes, those which create the specific features of different societies within the larger, unilinear trends, can be tested diachronically to see if presumed causes precede assumed effects.

The diachronic nature of comparative archaeology also makes it uniquely suited to exploring patterns of migration, innovation, and diffusion, and to investigating the roles of these processes in cultural evolution. A synchronic study of a given region might suggest that a trait diffused through cultures in a region, and perhaps might suggest the source and path of the diffused trait.

Only a diachronic study can demonstrate diffusion empirically, pinpoint the source of a given trait, and chart the path of its diffusion through time.

In short, the purpose of comparative archaeology is to establish and explain long-term processes of cultural stability and change.

The Methods of Comparative Archaeology

Comparative archaeology employs standard descriptive and inferential statistics to find patterns and test hypotheses about cultural evolution. Since both the ability to describe patterns in archaeological data and to test hypotheses is based on examining differences between actual observations and those expected from data collected under a specified set of conditions, the conditions governing case selection must be carefully defined. A random sample of cases from an established sampling universe is a basic requirement of almost all statistical explorations.

Such a sampling universe must meet several conditions. First, the cases included must all be equivalent on some set of defining criteria. Second, the criteria used to define cases must be sensitive enough to variables of interest that patterns within and among them can be recognized. Third, the universe should include all possible cases. Fourth, the universe must allow random samples large enough for hypothesis tests to be drawn from it, and taking into account the loss of cases due to missing data. Fifth, the universe must be small enough to allow basic information for stratified or cluster sampling, or for eliminating cases with specific characteristics from the universe.

The *Outline of Archaeological Traditions* was designed to fulfill these criteria and to serve as a sampling universe for comparative archaeological research.

The Units of Analysis

The *Outline of Archaeological Traditions*, as the name suggests, uses “archaeological traditions” as the units of analysis. Archaeological traditions are **not** equivalent to cultures in an ethnological sense because, in addition to socio-cultural defining characteristics, archaeological traditions have **both** a spatial and a temporal dimension. Ethnographic cultures are assumed to exist simultaneously in an “ethnographic present,” and hence lack a temporal dimension. Archaeological traditions have a temporal dimension. Archaeological traditions are also defined by a somewhat different set of socio-cultural characteristics than ethnological cultures. Archaeological traditions are defined in terms of common subsistence practices, socio-political organization, and material industries, but language, ideology, kinship ties, and political unity play little or no part in their definition, since they are virtually unrecoverable from archaeological contexts. In contrast, language, ideology, and cross-cutting ties are central to defining ethnographic cultures.

The concept of archaeological tradition as it is used here was influenced by, but is also **not** equivalent to, the concept of archaeological tradition as used by Gordon Willey and Philip Phillips (1958:37), which they define as “a (primarily) temporal continuity represented by persistent configurations in single technologies or other systems of related forms.” The emphasis for Willey and Phillips is on the temporal dimension, (Willey and Phillips [1958:33] use the concept of “horizon” to express the spatial dimension of archaeological traditions) and the focus is on technology (most frequently pottery) rather than broader socio-cultural characteristics. Once again, archaeological tradition as used here has both a spatial and temporal dimension, and is defined primarily by socio-cultural characteristics.

An archaeological tradition is defined as a *group of populations sharing similar subsistence practices, technology, and forms of socio-political organization, which are spatially contiguous over a relatively large area and which endure temporally for a relatively long period*. Minimal areal coverage for an archaeological tradition can be thought of as something like 100,000 square kilometers; while minimal temporal duration can be thought of as something like five centuries. However, these figures are meant to help clarify the concept of an archaeological tradition, not to formally restrict its definition to these conditions.

It must be emphasized that because the units of analysis are different, it is not valid to select cases for comparison from both the *Outline of Archaeological Traditions* and a list of ethnographic cases, such as the *Outline of World Cultures* (Murdock 1958; for an empirical evaluation of this issue see Peregrine 2003:6-9). The *Outline of Archaeological Traditions*, therefore, is best used as a stand-alone sampling universe.

The Scope of the *Outline of Archaeological Traditions*

The *Outline of Archaeological Traditions* is an attempt to catalogue all known archaeological traditions, covering the entire globe and the entire prehistory of humankind. It should be taken as a catalogue in process, which will be continually revised and updated as new information about human prehistory is generated, and as existing information is synthesized and reinterpreted.

The main concern in developing the *Outline of Archaeological Traditions* was to generate a catalogue of roughly equivalent units. In other words, in defining the archaeological traditions in a given area it was a primary concern to ensure that those archaeological traditions were roughly equivalent to those defined for other areas. In many cases, the archaeological record would have allowed a much more detailed division of the archaeological traditions than was actually made; similarly, the archaeological record was “stretched” in many cases to create divisions in archaeological traditions that might be considered tenuous by area specialists. It must be emphasized that these decisions were made actively and purposely, not arbitrarily, and that critique and revision of a given archaeological tradition or set of traditions must be made in the context **of the whole catalogue**, not just one region or segment of it.

To develop the *Outline of Archaeological Traditions*, the world was divided into six regions (North America and Mesoamerica [1000s], South America and the Caribbean [2000s], Europe and Western Asia [3000s], Central and Eastern Asia [4000s], Southern Asia and Oceania [5000s], and Africa and the Middle East [6000s]) with an additional division for human ancestors [7000s]. Basic, summary literature on the prehistory of each region was consulted, and a preliminary catalogue of the archaeological traditions was developed. The preliminary catalogue for each region was sent to members of the advisory board for comment and critique, and was then revised. The revised catalogue was synthesized into a complete draft of the *Outline*, and this was sent to members of the advisory board for their comments and critique, and final revisions were made based on their comments. Minor additional revisions were made while working with authors writing entries on the traditions for the *Encyclopedia of Prehistory* (Kluwer/Plenum 2001-2002). The *Encyclopedia of Prehistory* has more extensive descriptions of the traditions defined here.

The *Outline of Archaeological Traditions* begins its coverage with the origins of our genus, *Homo*, approximately two million years ago in Africa. *Homo* spread throughout Eurasia by 500,000 years ago, into Oceania by 40,000 years ago, and into the Americas by 12,000 years ago. Area coverage for those regions begins when humans first enter them. The ending date of the *Outline's* coverage also varies by region. In Oceania, the Americas, and Sub-Saharan Africa, coverage ends at approximately 500 BP with European exploration and initial colonization. In Central Asia coverage ends with the rise and spread of nomadic states such as the Hsuing-Nu and Sarmatian ca. 1500 BP. In Europe coverage ends with the expansion of the Roman Empire ca. 2000 BP. In China coverage ends with the Shang dynasty, ca. 3100 BP. And in Northern

Africa and the Middle East, coverage ends with the rise of the New Babylonian and Old Kingdom Egyptian civilizations ca. 3500 BP.

Each entry in the *Outline* contains six pieces of information on each archaeological tradition. First is the tradition's identification number. Second is the tradition's name. In many cases, this name was created to uniquely describe the tradition, or was chosen from a group of alternate names. The approximate temporal range of the tradition in years before present (BP--with present being A.D. 2000), and in many cases rounded to the nearest millennium, is listed to the right of the name. These are bracketing dates, and should not be taken as firmly established dates for the beginning and ending of the tradition. The main body of each listing contains information on the tradition's location and characteristics. The description of characteristics is a brief statement of the tradition's subsistence base, settlement pattern, and socio-political organization. Taken together, the bracketing dates, location, and description formally define the tradition. Finally, *Outline of World Cultures* alphanumerics have been assigned by the HRAF staff. These numbers are used in eHRAF Archaeology (see below).

eHRAF Archaeology

eHRAF Archaeology online provides full-text source documents on a sample of archaeological traditions. The *Outline of Archaeological Traditions* was used as the sampling frame for eHRAF Archaeology. Cases for the first two installments of eHRAF Archaeology were chosen using random sampling from the *Outline of Archaeological Traditions*. Installment 3 and later began to complete the temporal sequence (i.e. the traditions preceding and following) for a case included in previous installments. New cases were also added to eHRAF Archaeology by random sampling from the *Outline of Archaeological Traditions*. As of the fall of 2010, 28% of the traditions in the *Outline of Archaeological Traditions* are represented in eHRAF Archaeology; the number grows annually as additional installments are published. Users should consult the HRAF home page (<http://www.yale.edu/hraf>) to determine which traditions are currently included.

[Editor's note: A few traditions are merged in eHRAF Archaeology because the literatures were not separable. The original distinctions in the *Outline of Archaeological Traditions* are preserved below, with the combined traditions added.]

References Cited

Ember, Melvin and Carol R. Ember

1995 Worldwide Cross-Cultural Studies and their Relevance for Archaeology. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 3:87-111.

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New World

Early Paleo-Indian

Years BP: 14,000 – 10,200

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: W130

North America

Late Paleo-Indian

Years BP: 11,000 – 6000

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

Description: Nomadic hunting and gathering peoples 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. 10,000 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: 11,000 – 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:* 10,000 – 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: 10,000 – 8000

Location: Great Basin 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: 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:* 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:* 10,000 – 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:* [Combines Early and Late Hohokam]*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: [Combines Early and Late Mogollon]

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:* 3000 – 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:* 10,000 – 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 pithouses. 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 pithouses. 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:** 10,000 – 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

Middle America and the Caribbean

Trincheras

Years BP: 3000 – 450

Location: Northwestern Mexico (Sonora region).

Description: Sedentary or semi-sedentary horticulturalists of the desert and coastal regions of northwest Mexico. Interacted with pueblo regions of the southwest U.S. and may have traded Pacific shell with them.

OAT code: 1475

OWC code: NU77

Huatabampo

Years BP: 1800 – 500

Location: Northwestern Mexico (Sonora region).

Description: Sedentary or semi-sedentary horticulturalists of the coastal and desert regions of the Sonora region of northwestern Mexico.

OAT code: 1480

OWC code: NU75

Coahuila

Years BP: 8000 – 500

Location: Northeastern Mexico, southern Texas.

Description: Nomadic, desert-dwelling hunter / gatherers with a very low population density.

OAT code: 1485

OWC code: NU80

Early Mesoamerican Archaic

Years BP: 9600 – 7000

Location: Mesoamerica.

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers subsisting on localized, seasonal resources.

OAT code: 1505

OWC code: NY30

Highland Mesoamerican Archaic

Years BP: 7000 – 4000

Location: Highland Mesoamerica.

Description: Semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers with some domesticated plants used seasonally. Reliance on domesticates increases during this tradition, as does sedentism.

OAT code: 1510

OWC code: NY40

Lowland Mesoamerican Archaic

Years BP: 7000 – 3800

Location: Lowland Mesoamerica in Belize and Mexico.

Description: Semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers with some domesticated plants used seasonally. Reliance on domesticates increases during this tradition, as does sedentism.

OAT code: 1512

OWC code: NY50

Highland Mesoamerican Early Preclassic*Years BP:* 4000 – 2600*Location:* Highland Mesoamerica.*Description:* Sedentary village horticulturalists with a simple, decentralized political organization.*OAT code:* 1515*OWC code:* NY41**Highland Mesoamerican Late Preclassic***Years BP:* 2600 – 1600*Location:* Highland Mesoamerica.*Description:* Sedentary village horticulturalists living in politically centralized societies. Some urban centers are present late in this tradition. Ranking and / or stratification is present.*OAT code:* 1520*OWC code:* NY42**Preclassic Maya***Years BP:* 3800 – 1850*Location:* Lowland Mesoamerica in Mexico, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists living in villages and small cities. Political centralization increases during the period. Ranking and / or stratification is present.*OAT code:* 1522*OWC code:* NY52**Olmec***Years BP:* 3400 – 2100*Location:* Gulf Coast of Mexico east of Veracruz to near the southern edge of Yucatan.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists of the Gulf Coast. Political and religious centers present. Unique iconography and artifact styles appear and spread across central Mesoamerica.*OAT code:* 1525*OWC code:* NU95**West Mexico Classic***Years BP:* 1800 – 1100*Location:* Western Mexico.*Description:* Regional states of highly varying size and political centralization, but with widely shared iconography and artifact styles.*OAT code:* 1530*OWC code:* NU78**Southern Mexican Highlands Classic***Years BP:* 1700 – 1300*Location:* Valley of Oaxaca and surrounding highland valleys of southern Mexico.*Description:* Large, regional states of highland Mexico.*OAT code:* 1535*OWC code:* NU85

Central Mexico Classic*Years BP:* 2150 – 1350*Location:* Valley of Mexico and surrounding highland valleys in north-central Mexico.*Description:* Large, regional states of highland Mexico.*OAT code:* 1540*OWC code:* NU92**Gulf Coast Classic***Years BP:* 2100 – 800*Location:* Gulf Coast of Mesoamerica.*Description:* Localized states with a common iconography and artifact style.*OAT code:* 1545*OWC code:* NU98**Classic Maya***Years BP:* 2100 – 1100*Location:* Lowland Mesoamerica in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.*Description:* Localized but interacting states based on sophisticated lowland agriculture.*OAT code:* 1550*OWC code:* NY53**Postclassic Maya***Years BP:* 1100 – 400*Location:* Lowland Mesoamerica in Honduras, Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala.*Description:* Small militaristic states.*OAT code:* 1560*OWC code:* NY54**West Mexico Postclassic***Years BP:* 1100 – 480*Location:* Western Mexico.*Description:* Small, militaristic regional states, many unified by the Tarascan empire.*OAT code:* 1565*OWC code:* NU76**Central Mexico Postclassic***Years BP:* 1300 – 479*Location:* Central highland Mexico.*Description:* Large regional states which conquered and unified many smaller city-states in highland Mexico.*OAT code:* 1570*OWC code:* NU93**Southern Mexican Highlands Postclassic***Years BP:* 1300 – 430*Location:* Valley of Oaxaca and surrounding highland valleys of southern Mexico.*Description:* Small, militaristic regional states.*OAT code:* 1575*OWC code:* NU87

Early Caribbean*Years BP:* 3000 – 1000*Location:* Coastal Colombia and Venezuela, islands of the West Indies.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists maintaining a diverse economy including collected plants, fish, and shellfish. Manufactured the first pottery in the region.*OAT code:* 2040*OWC code:* S045**Late Caribbean***Years BP:* 1000 – 500*Location:* Coastal Colombia and Venezuela, islands of the West Indies.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in politically centralized societies with ranking or stratification.*OAT code:* 2045*OWC code:* S051**Coclé***Years BP:* 2000 – 400*Location:* Southern Panama.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in large villages with a complex political organization, likely a chiefdom.*OAT code:* 2145*OWC code:* SB65**Chiriquí***Years BP:* 1200 – 500*Location:* Southwestern Panama, southern Costa Rica.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in large villages with a complex political organization, likely a chiefdom.*OAT code:* 2150*OWC code:* SA85**Paya***Years BP:* 1500 – 500*Location:* Eastern Nicaragua, eastern Honduras.*Description:* Semi-sedentary horticulturalists living in large villages, some with mounds reminiscent of the Maya region.*OAT code:* 2155*OWC code:* SA65**Nicoya***Years BP:* 3600 – 500*Location:* Western Nicaragua, northwestern Costa Rica.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists living in large villages with centralized political organization.*OAT code:* 2160*OWC code:* SA75

South America

Old South American Hunting-Collecting

Years BP: 13,000 – 9000

Location: Andean region.

Description: Nomadic hunters with a focus on cervids, camelids, and ground-dwelling birds.

OAT code: 2005

OWC code: S025

Old Amazonian Collecting-Hunting

Years BP: 11,000 – 7000

Location: Amazon basin.

Description: Nomadic food collectors and hunters of lowland South America.

OAT code: 2010

OWC code: SL60

Late Andean Hunting-Collecting

Years BP: 9000 – 7000

Location: Andes region, highland Colombia and Venezuela, western Argentina.

Description: Hunter / gatherers showing marked seasonal migration between highland and coastal sites. Restricted to western Argentina by 7000 BP.

OAT code: 2015

OWC code: S035

Early Northwest South American Littoral

Years BP: 9000 – 5500

Location: Coastal regions of Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama.

Description: Nomadic or semi-nomadic peoples with an economy focused on fish and shellfish. Lack chipped stone projectile points.

OAT code: 2030

OWC code: S060

Late Northwest South American Littoral

Years BP: 5500 – 3000

Location: Coastal regions of Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela. Islands of the West Indies.

Description: Nomadic or semi-nomadic populations with an economy focused on fish and shellfish, but including the use of diverse plant resources.

OAT code: 2035

OWC code: S065

Early Amazonian

Years BP: 7000 – 2000

Location: Amazon basin.

Description: Hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.

OAT code: 2050

OWC code: SL62

Late Amazonian*Years BP:* 2000 – 50*Location:* Amazon basin.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists living in large communal structures. Rapidly expands across the Amazon basin from west to east.*OAT code:* 2055*OWC code:* SL65**Early Paraná-Pampean***Years BP:* 7000 – 1500*Location:* Paraná-Pampas region.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / fisher / gatherers of the Pampas and Patagonia,*OAT code:* 2060*OWC code:* SI50**Late Paraná-Pampean***Years BP:* 1500 – 500*Location:* Paraná-Pampas region.*Description:* Hunting-fishing-gathering of localized resources is important for all these peoples. Some practice horticulture as well (Lower Paraná River region). Sedentism increases and pottery manufacturing spreads north to south across the region.*OAT code:* 2065*OWC code:* SI60**Magellan-Fuegian***Years BP:* 6300 – 50*Location:* Tierra del Fuego.*Description:* Nomadic, extended-family microbands subsisting off sea resources, particularly mammals and shellfish.*OAT code:* 2070*OWC code:* SH50**Early East Brazilian Uplands***Years BP:* 11,000 – 5000*Location:* Brazilian uplands.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers subsisting on diverse upland resources. Lasts until the historic period in remote areas, but not on the coast or major rivers.*OAT code:* 2075*OWC code:* SN50**Late East Brazilian Uplands***Years BP:* 5000 – 50*Location:* Brazilian uplands.*Description:* Semi-nomadic peoples intensively using localized resources.*OAT code:* 2080*OWC code:* SN60

Sambaquí*Years BP:* 7000 – 500*Location:* Coastal areas of northeastern South America.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers subsisting primarily on shellfish.*OAT code:* 2085*OWC code:* SO50**Tupi***Years BP:* 1500 – 150*Location:* Southeastern Brazil lowlands, but spreads rapidly northward.*Description:* Sedentary or semi-sedentary lowland horticulturalists.*OAT code:* 2100*OWC code:* SL72**Early Chibcha***Years BP:* 3500 – 1200*Location:* Southern Central America and western Colombia.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists living in small villages. Political centralization and status differences present in some areas. Ceremonial centers present in some areas.*OAT code:* 2105*OWC code:* SC60**Late Chibcha***Years BP:* 1200 – 500*Location:* Southern Central America, western Colombia.*Description:* Sedentary village horticulturalists living in complex, “regionalized” polities. Stratification present in some areas. Fishing important in some areas. Sophisticated polychrome pottery and figurines, and metalworking present.*OAT code:* 2110*OWC code:* SC70**Ecuadorian Coast Regional Development***Years BP:* 2300 – 1200*Location:* Central coast of Ecuador from La Plata Island north to the Manabí Coast.*Description:* Centralized polities with large villages containing platform mounds and ceremonial buildings. Manufactured unique pottery and figurines.*OAT code:* 2115*OWC code:* SD45**Manteño***Years BP:* 1500 – 500*Location:* Coastal Ecuador.*Description:* Complex, centralized polities with large towns and large populations. Inter-polity interaction continuous. Stone architecture was present including ceremonial buildings and palaces. Complex metallurgy is present.*OAT code:* 2120*OWC code:* SD50

Ecuadorian Highlands*Years BP:* 3500 – 500*Location:* Guayas River basin and surrounding highland regions of Ecuador.*Description:* Complex horticulturalists living in large communities with house platforms and burial mounds. Ranking and perhaps stratification present. Manufactured coarse pottery but highly sophisticated metal objects.*OAT code:* 2125*OWC code:* SD60**Coastal Andean Archaic***Years BP:* 7000 – 3800*Location:* Pacific coast of South America from southern Ecuador to northern Chile.*Description:* Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers with some domesticated crops. Heavy reliance on fish and shellfish, but highly seasonal in their exploitation.*OAT code:* 2200*OWC code:* SE40**Highland Andean Early Archaic***Years BP:* 7000 – 4500*Location:* High Andes from Ecuador to northern Chile.*Description:* Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers, but with domesticated llamas, alpacas, and guinea pigs and some domesticated plants.*OAT code:* 2205*OWC code:* SE45**Highland Andean Late Archaic***Years BP:* 4500 – 3500*Location:* High Andes from Ecuador to northern Chile.*Description:* Sedentary village dwellers, relying in part on domesticated plants and animals supplemented by seasonal exploitation of wild resources.*OAT code:* 2215*OWC code:* SE46**Highland Andean Archaic***Years BP:* 7000 – 3500*Location:* High Andes from Ecuador to northern Chile.*Description:* [eHRAF Archaeology combines the Highland Andean Early and Late Archaic traditions.]*OAT code:* 2216*OWC code:* SE47**Coastal Andean Early Formative***Years BP:* 3800 – 3000*Location:* Pacific coast of South America from Ecuador to northern Chile.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with domesticated animals, living in large villages and ceremonial centers on rivers near the Pacific coast. Ranking or stratification is present, as is pottery manufacture.*OAT code:* 2220*OWC code:* SE41

Coastal Andean Late Formative*Years BP:* 3000 – 2200*Location:* Pacific coast of South America from Ecuador to northern Chile.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with domesticated animals and a stratified sociopolitical system, living in large communities with ceremonial centers.*OAT code:* 2222*OWC code:* SE43**Highland Andean Formative***Years BP:* 3500 – 2200*Location:* High Andes from Ecuador to northern Chile.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with a reliance on maize and domesticated animals, living in large villages and ceremonial centers. Ranking or stratification is present, as is pottery manufacture and metallurgy.*OAT code:* 2225*OWC code:* SE48**Chavín***Years BP:* 2800 – 2200*Location:* Coast and highlands of central and northern Peru.*Description:* Sedentary maize agriculturalists with a complex symbol system and ideology. Large, highly decorated and complex ceremonial centers are present. Stone architecture and pyramidal construction. Ranking or stratification is present. Distinct differences between coastal and highland regions.*OAT code:* 2230*OWC code:* SE49**Andean Regional Development***Years BP:* 2200 – 1300*Location:* Andes region from Ecuador to northern Chile.*Description:* Localized but interacting states with complex ideologies, symbol systems, and social forms. Highly developed ceramics, metallurgy, and weaving.*OAT code:* 2235*OWC code:* S050**Moche***Years BP:* 1950 – 1200*Location:* Coastal regions of northern Peru.*Description:* A sedentary agricultural kingdom.*OAT code:* 2240*OWC code:* SE55**Nazca***Years BP:* 2200 – 1200*Location:* Coastal regions of southern Peru.*Description:* A sedentary agricultural kingdom.*OAT code:* 2245*OWC code:* SE51

Tiahuanaco*Years BP:* 1600 – 900

Location: Lake Titicaca region of highland Peru. Expands into western Bolivia and northern Chile by 1400 BP.

Description: A sedentary agricultural empire of the highland Andes.

OAT code: 2250

OWC code: SF45

Huari*Years BP:* 1200 – 900

Location: Andes from southern Ecuador to northern Chile.

Description: A sedentary agricultural empire which expanded to encompass virtually all of the central and northern Andes.

OAT code: 2255

OWC code: SE65

Andean Regional States*Years BP:* 900 – 530

Location: Andes from Ecuador to northern Chile.

Description: Localized but interacting states with complex ideologies, symbol systems, and social forms. Highly developed ceramics, metallurgy, and weaving.

OAT code: 2260

OWC code: SE70

Chimu*Years BP:* 1100 – 480

Location: Northern coastal regions of Peru.

Description: A sedentary agricultural kingdom.

OAT code: 2265

OWC code: SE75

Aymara Kingdoms*Years BP:* 900 – 530

Location: Andes in southern Peru, Bolivia and northern Chile.

Description: Related and interacting sedentary agricultural kingdoms of the high Andes.

OAT code: 2270

OWC code: SF50

Inka*Years BP:* 800 – 468

Location: Andes region from Ecuador to northern Chile and Argentina.

Description: The historic Empire of Tiwantinsuyu.

OAT code: 2275

OWC code: SE80

South Andean Ceramic*Years BP:* 2500 – 500

Location: Southern Andes from southern Bolivia through central Chile.

Description: Sedentary agricultural and fishing communities on the coast, agricultural in the highlands. Politically centralized but with great regional variation. Heavily influenced by the central Andean civilizations. Inka influence becomes marked by 500 BP

OAT code: 2280

OWC code: SG70

Europe

Mousterian

Years BP: 200,000 – 40,000

Location: Europe and the Middle East.

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small bands. Associated with *Homo neanderthalensis*

OAT code: 0025

OWC code: E025

Aurignacian

Years BP: 40,000 – 25,000

Location: Europe.

Description: Nomadic big-game hunters. Manufactured bone tools and portable art.

OAT code: 3005

OWC code: E030

Perigordian

Years BP: 30,000 – 22,000

Location: Europe.

Description: Nomadic big-game hunters. Spreads across Europe by 25,000 BP.

OAT code: 3010

OWC code: E033

Solutrean

Years BP: 22,000 – 18,000

Location: Southern France and Spain.

Description: Nomadic big-game hunters. Manufactured distinctive “laurel” and “willow” leaf projectile points.

OAT code: 3020

OWC code: E035

Magdalenian

Years BP: 18,000 – 11,000

Location: Western Europe.

Description: Nomadic big-game hunters.

OAT code: 3025

OWC code: E037

Eastern European Mesolithic

Years BP: 11,000 – 6500

Location: Eastern Europe from central Russia to the Urals.

Description: Semi-nomadic hunters, fishers, and gatherers.

OAT code: 3030

OWC code: RA55

Western European Mesolithic*Years BP:* 11,000 – 6000*Location:* Northern and western Europe.*Description:* Semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers with an economy focused on deer, elk, and other large game animals.*OAT code:* 3040*OWC code:* E040**Southeastern European Mesolithic***Years BP:* 11,000 – 8000*Location:* Italy, Greece, Anatolia, Islands of the Mediterranean.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers with an economy focused on marine resources. Collected grains also important.*OAT code:* 3045*OWC code:* E070**Southeastern European Neolithic***Years BP:* 8000 – 6500*Location:* Greece, Turkey, and southern Italy, Islands of the Mediterranean.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with supplementary animal husbandry living in small villages.*OAT code:* 3050*OWC code:* E072**Impressed Ware***Years BP:* 6800 – 6000*Location:* Northern coast of the Mediterranean.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with supplementary animal husbandry living in small villages.*OAT code:* 3060*OWC code:* E051**Linear Pottery***Years BP:* 6500 – 6000*Location:* Northern and western Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with supplemental animal husbandry living in villages composed of longhouses. Social differentiation is present.*OAT code:* 3065*OWC code:* E044**European Megalithic***Years BP:* 6000 – 4500*Location:* Western Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with supplementary animal husbandry living in small villages.*OAT code:* 3075*OWC code:* E047

Corded Ware*Years BP:* 6000 – 3800*Location:* Central and eastern Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with supplementary animal husbandry living in small villages.*OAT code:* 3080*OWC code:* E061**Bell Beaker***Years BP:* 4500 – 3800*Location:* Western Europe.*Description:* The Bell Beaker Tradition includes sedentary agriculturalists with supplemental animal husbandry living in the temperate areas of Western Europe between roughly 4500 BP and 3800 BP. The Bell Beaker peoples lived in small villages and developed a chiefdom form of political organization*OAT code:* 3085*OWC code:* E050**European Early Bronze Age***Years BP:* 4700 – 3800*Location:* Central and eastern Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with supplementary animal husbandry living in small villages.*OAT code:* 3090*OWC code:* E063**Western European Earlier Bronze Age***Years BP:* 3800 – 3300*Location:* Western Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with supplemental animal husbandry living in villages with a ranked form of social organization.*OAT code:* 3095*OWC code:* E052**Western European Late Bronze Age***Years BP:* 3300 – 2800*Location:* Western Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with supplemental animal husbandry living in villages, some very large. Increasing social differentiation is present but with great regional diversity.*OAT code:* 3100*OWC code:* E053**West-Central European Early Iron Age***Years BP:* 2800 – 2400*Location:* Western and central Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in complex chiefdoms and simple states.*OAT code:* 3105*OWC code:* E056

West-Central European Late Iron Age*Years BP:* 2400 – 2033*Location:* Western and central Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in complex chiefdoms and simple states. Ends in the historic period with the expansion of the Roman Empire under Julius Cesar and Augustus.*OAT code:* 3110*OWC code:* E057**Northeastern European Bronze Age***Years BP:* 3900 – 2750*Location:* Central and eastern Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with supplemental animal husbandry living in villages, some very large. Increasing social differentiation is present but with great regional diversity.*OAT code:* 3115*OWC code:* E065**Northeastern European Iron Age***Years BP:* 2800 – 2000*Location:* Eastern Europe north and west of the Carpathians.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in complex chiefdoms and simple states, including the Dacians. Ends in the historic period with the expansion of the Roman Empire.*OAT code:* 3120*OWC code:* E067**East-Central European Iron Age***Years BP:* 2800 – 2000*Location:* East-Central Europe including the southern Danube and Carpathian basins.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in complex chiefdoms and simple states, including the Thracians. Ends in the historic period with the expansion of the Roman Empire.*OAT code:* 3125*OWC code:* E068**Southeastern European Early Chalcolithic***Years BP:* 6500 – 5500*Location:* Greece, Turkey, and southern Italy, Islands of the eastern Mediterranean.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages with a ranked or simple stratified form of social organization.*OAT code:* 3130*OWC code:* E074**Southeastern Europe Late Chalcolithic***Years BP:* 5500 – 4500*Location:* Greece, Turkey, and Southern Italy, Islands of the eastern Mediterranean.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages with a stratified form of social organization.*OAT code:* 3131*OWC code:* E075

Southeastern European Bronze Age*Years BP:* 5100 – 3100*Location:* Greece, Turkey, and southern Italy, Islands of the eastern Mediterranean.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in city-states with a complex bureaucracy and market system. Ends in the historic period with the rise of Greco-Roman civilization.*OAT code:* 3135*OWC code:* E076**Scandinavian Neolithic***Years BP:* 6000 – 3800*Location:* Scandinavia.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers with supplemental agriculture and animal husbandry in some areas. Lived in small villages with some social differentiation.*OAT code:* 3140*OWC code:* E083**Scandinavian Bronze Age***Years BP:* 3800 – 2500*Location:* Scandinavia.*Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in villages, some large. Political organization in the form of complex chiefdoms and simple states. Evidence of both craft specialization and social stratification in some areas.*OAT code:* 3145*OWC code:* E085**Roman Iron Age***Years BP:* 2033 – 1500*Location:* Northern parts of western Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in complex chiefdoms and simple states. Continues into the historic period.*OAT code:* 3150*OWC code:* E059**Scandinavian Iron Age***Years BP:* 2500 – 1500*Location:* Extreme northern Europe.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in complex chiefdoms and simple states. Continues into the historic period.*OAT code:* 3155*OWC code:* E087**Romano-British***Years BP:* 2100 – 1500*Location:* British Islands.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in simple states. Continues into the historic period.*OAT code:* 3165*OWC code:* ES71**Eurasian Steppe Nomad***Years BP:* 6500 – 4000*Location:* Steppes north of the Caucasus and south of the Urals.*Description:* Semi-nomadic pastoralists.*OAT code:* 4405*OWC code:* RA60

Asia

Zhoukoudianian

Years BP: 800,000 – 600,000

Location: Eastern Asia.

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small bands. Associated with *Homo erectus*.

OAT code: 0015

OWC code: A050

East Asian Middle Paleolithic

Years BP: 200,000 – 40,000

Location: Eastern Asia.

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small bands. Associated with archaic *Homo sapiens*.

OAT code: 0030

OWC code: A060

Siberian Mousterian

Years BP: 130,000 – 42,000

Location: Southwest and south-central Siberia.

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers of Pleistocene big game. Associated with *Homo neanderthalensis*.

OAT code: 0050

OWC code: RR45

Caucasian Neolithic

Years BP: 8000 – 6500

Location: Caucasus region.

Description: Horticulturalists and pastoralists living in small villages.

OAT code: 3170

OWC code: RH55

Caucasian Chalcolithic

Years BP: 6500 – 5500

Location: Caucasus region.

Description: Sedentary agriculturalists and pastoralists living in small villages with a ranked or stratified social organization.

OAT code: 3175

OWC code: RH60

Caucasian Bronze Age

Years BP: 5600 – 2700

Location: Caucasus region.

Description: Sedentary agriculturalists and pastoralists living in complex chiefdoms or simple states. Region conquered by Scythians ca. 2700 BP.

OAT code: 3180

OWC code: RH65

North China Upper Paleolithic*Years BP:* 40,000 – 8500*Location:* Middle and lower Yellow River valley and northern China plains.*Description:* Hunter / gatherers living in small nomadic bands.*OAT code:* 4005*OWC code:* AF40**Yellow River Early Neolithic***Years BP:* 8500 – 6200*Location:* Yellow River valley, including the northern China plain.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists living in small villages with some social differentiation.*OAT code:* 4015*OWC code:* AF45**Southeast China Early Neolithic***Years BP:* 9000 – 5500*Location:* Southeastern China.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists living in small egalitarian villages.*OAT code:* 4020*OWC code:* AF70**Middle-Upper Yellow River Middle Neolithic***Years BP:* 7000 – 5000*Location:* Middle and upper Yellow River valley, and northern China plain.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages. Socio-political organization possibly based on ranked descent groups.*OAT code:* 4025*OWC code:* AF48**Dawenkou***Years BP:* 6300 – 4500*Location:* Lower Yellow River valley.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages. Socio-political organization possibly based on ranked descent groups.*OAT code:* 4030*OWC code:* AF50**Hongshan***Years BP:* 7000 – 4500*Location:* Manchuria, northeast China.*Description:* Sedentary village agriculturalists with a socio-political organization possibly based on ranked descent groups. Large public structures suggest a complex religious / ritual system.*OAT code:* 4035*OWC code:* AG50

Daxi**Years BP:** 7000 – 4500*Location:* Central Yangtze River valley.*Description:* Sedentary village-dwelling agriculturalists.*OAT code:* 4040*OWC code:* AF60**Majiabang****Years BP:** 7000 – 5000*Location:* Lower Yangtze River valley.*Description:* Village-dwelling rice agriculturalists.*OAT code:* 4045*OWC code:* AF62**Yellow River Late Neolithic****Years BP:** 4600 – 3900*Location:* Yellow River valley and northern China plain.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in complex chiefdoms or simple states. Spreads across north China and coastal regions of central China by 4000 BP.*OAT code:* 4055*OWC code:* AF51**Yellow River Bronze Age****Years BP:** 3900 – 3100*Location:* Yellow River valley.*Description:* Complex state society with specialized communities, military, and political bureaucracy.*OAT code:* 4060*OWC code:* AF52**Early Xiajiadian****Years BP:** 4500 – 3600*Location:* Northeast China.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages. Socio-political organization based on ranked descent groups.*OAT code:* 4070*OWC code:* AG55**Late Xiajiadian****Years BP:** 3600 – 2500*Location:* Northeast China.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages. Socio-political organization based on ranked descent groups.*OAT code:* 4075*OWC code:* AG60

Southeast China Late Neolithic**Years BP:** 5500 – 2500**Location:** Southeastern China.**Description:** Sedentary agriculturalists living in small villages.**OAT code:** 4080**OWC code:** AF75**Chulmun****Years BP:** 8000 – 4000**Location:** Korean peninsula.**Description:** Sedentary agriculturalists living in small, egalitarian villages.**OAT code:** 4105**OWC code:** AA50**Mumum****Years BP:** 4000 – 2300**Location:** Korean peninsula.**Description:** Sedentary agriculturalists living in moderate to large villages with some social differentiation.**OAT code:** 4110**OWC code:** AA55**Japanese Upper Paleolithic****Years BP:** 20,000 – 12,000**Location:** Islands of Japan.**Description:** Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers.**OAT code:** 4150**OWC code:** AB70**Jomon****Years BP:** 12,000 – 2500**Location:** Islands of Japan.**Description:** Sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers living in small, egalitarian villages.**OAT code:** 4155**OWC code:** AB75**Yayoi****Years BP:** 2500 – 1500**Location:** Islands of Japan.**Description:** Sedentary rice agriculturalists living in large, politically centralized villages, with class stratification. Spreads south to north. Continues into the historic period.**OAT code:** 4160**OWC code:** AB80**Siberian Early Upper Paleolithic****Years BP:** 42,000 – 28,000**Location:** Southern Siberia to northern Mongolia.**Description:** Nomadic big game hunters.**OAT code:** 4300**OWC code:** RR50

Siberian Middle Upper Paleolithic*Years BP:* 28,000 – 19,000*Location:* Southern and subarctic Siberia to northern Mongolia.*Description:* Nomadic big game hunters.*OAT code:* 4301*OWC code:* RR52**Siberian Late Upper Paleolithic***Years BP:* 19,000 – 10,000*Location:* Southern and subarctic Siberia to northern Mongolia.*Description:* Nomadic big game hunters.*OAT code:* 4302*OWC code:* RR55**Amur Paleolithic***Years BP:* 30,000 – 12,000*Location:* Amur River basin and northern Manchuria.*Description:* Semi-sedentary, broad-spectrum hunter / gatherers.*OAT code:* 4305*OWC code:* RX55**Amur Neolithic and Bronze Age***Years BP:* 12,000 – 1500*Location:* Amur River basin and northern Manchuria.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers living in large egalitarian bands. Continues into the historic period.*OAT code:* 4310*OWC code:* RX65**Baikal Neolithic and Bronze Age***Years BP:* 8000 – 3000*Location:* Forested areas north of Mongolia and south of Siberia.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunter / fishers living in large egalitarian bands. Continues into the historic period.*OAT code:* 4320*OWC code:* RT65**Siberian Neolithic and Bronze Age***Years BP:* 10,000 – 2100*Location:* Forests and tundra of Siberia.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / fishers living in small egalitarian bands.*OAT code:* 4340*OWC code:* RR65

Siberian Protohistoric*Years BP:* 2100 – 500*Location:* Tundra and forests of northern Siberia.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / fisher / gatherers living in small egalitarian bands. Continues into the historic period.*OAT code:* 4350*OWC code:* RR70**Holocene Stone Age of Northeast Asia***Years BP:* 10,500 – 3000*Location:* Chuckchi peninsula and Okhotsk coast.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in egalitarian bands.*OAT code:* 4360*OWC code:* RY50**Kamchatka Mesolithic***Years BP:* 7000 – 4000*Location:* The Kamchatka peninsula.*Description:* Sedentary or semi-sedentary fishers and hunters of marine mammals.*OAT code:* 4370*OWC code:* RY60**Tarya Neolithic***Years BP:* 4000 – 2500*Location:* The Kamchatka peninsula.*Description:* Sedentary or semi-sedentary fishers and hunters of marine mammals.*OAT code:* 4375*OWC code:* RY64**Old Itel'man***Years BP:* 2500 – 500*Location:* The Kamchatka peninsula.*Description:* Sedentary or semi-sedentary fishers and hunters of marine mammals. Ancestral to the historic peoples of Kamchatka.*OAT code:* 4380*OWC code:* RY67**Kelteminar***Years BP:* 8000 – 4000*Location:* Steppes and forests of Central Asia.*Description:* Sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers with some supplemental agriculture, and living in egalitarian villages.*OAT code:* 4400*OWC code:* RL55

Andronovo*Years BP:* 4000 – 2800*Location:* Steppes and grasslands of central Asia.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists and pastoralists living in small villages with a ranked or stratified social organization.*OAT code:* 4410*OWC code:* RL58**Early Nomad***Years BP:* 2800 – 2300*Location:* Steppes of east Central and Eastern Asia.*Description:* Nomadic pastoralists living in stratified societies.*OAT code:* 4420*OWC code:* RL60**Late Nomad***Years BP:* 2300 – 1500*Location:* Steppes of eastern Central and Eastern Asia.*Description:* Nomadic pastoralists living in complex state societies. Continues into the historic period.*OAT code:* 4425*OWC code:* RL62**Scythian-Sarmatian***Years BP:* 4000 – 1700*Location:* Steppes north of the Black Sea from the Don River to the Urals.*Description:* Nomadic and militaristic pastoralists living in a state society.*OAT code:* 4430*OWC code:* MA51**Eastern Central Asia Paleolithic***Years BP:* 40,000 – 6000*Location:* Western China, Tibet, Himalayan region.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small egalitarian bands.*OAT code:* 4500*OWC code:* AJ45**Eastern Central Asia Neolithic and Bronze Age***Years BP:* 6000 – 1500*Location:* Western China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.*Description:* Semi-nomadic pastoralist / hunters, some sedentary communities in river valleys, but all small and egalitarian.*OAT code:* 4510*OWC code:* AJ50

Southeast Asia Upper Paleolithic**Years BP:** 40,000 – 10,000**Location:** Island and mainland Southeast Asia from India to China.**Description:** Nomadic hunter / gatherers with an economy based on hunting and shellfish. Most known occupations in caves or rock shelters. Exists only in Island Southeast Asia after 12,000 BP.**OAT code:** 5100**OWC code:** AL50**Hoabinhian****Years BP:** 10,000 – 4000**Location:** Southeast Asia.**Description:** Nomadic hunter / gatherers living off shellfish, small game, and diverse plant foods.**OAT code:** 5105**OWC code:** AL55**Southeast Asia Neolithic and Early Bronze****Years BP:** 6500 – 2500**Location:** Mainland and island Southeast Asia.**Description:** Sedentary and mobile horticulturalists living in farmsteads, hamlets, and some villages. Raised rice, pigs, tubers, and fruit trees. Developed metallurgy by ca. 3800 BP**OAT code:** 5110**OWC code:** AL60**Island Southeast Asia Late Prehistoric****Years BP:** 2500 – 1500**Location:** Island (and southern mainland) Southeast Asia.**Description:** Sedentary agriculturalists living in hamlets or small villages. Metal tools, traction animals (cattle and buffalo), and irrigation agriculture used. Increasing social stratification. Contact with states of India and China. Probably ancestral to Lapita.**OAT code:** 5115**OWC code:** OB70**Mainland Southeast Asia Late Prehistoric****Years BP:** 2500 – 1500**Location:** Mainland Southeast Asia.**Description:** Settled village agriculturalists, using metal tools, traction animals, and irrigation, and living in chiefdoms or incipient states. Contact with Indian and Chinese states.**OAT code:** 5120**OWC code:** AL65**South Asian Upper Paleolithic****Years BP:** 40,000 – 7000**Location:** The South Asian subcontinent.**Description:** Mobile hunter / fisher / gatherers.**OAT code:** 5505**OWC code:** AQ30

South Asian Microlithic*Years BP:* 7000 – 3500*Location:* The South Asian subcontinent, retreating into non-riverine settings through time.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers living in small hamlets or villages. Some groups practiced animal husbandry and horticulture later in the tradition.*OAT code:* 5510*OWC code:* AQ35**Indus Neolithic***Years BP:* 9000 – 6800*Location:* Indus River valley and tributaries.*Description:* Sedentary village agriculturalists growing wheat and barley. Social differentiation present. First pottery made by 7000 BP.*OAT code:* 5515*OWC code:* AQ40**Ganges Neolithic***Years BP:* 4000 – 2500*Location:* Ganges River valley and tributaries.*Description:* Settled village agriculturalists living in small-scale societies with minimal social differentiation.*OAT code:* 5520*OWC code:* AQ50**South Indian Chalcolithic***Years BP:* 4500 – 2700*Location:* The Indian subcontinent south of the Ganges River valley.*Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in small villages with minimal social differentiation.*OAT code:* 5525*OWC code:* AQ73**Early Indus***Years BP:* 7500 – 4600*Location:* Indus River valley and tributaries.*Description:* Settled agriculturalists, some living in large villages and/or regional centers.*OAT code:* 5530*OWC code:* AQ43**Mature Indus***Years BP:* 4600 – 3900*Location:* Indus River valley and tributaries.*Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in complex urban settings with writing, elaborate craft technology, and large public works.*OAT code:* 5535*OWC code:* AQ45

Central Indian Neolithic*Years BP:* 5000 – 3100

Location: Central Indian subcontinent south of the Thar Desert, west of the central Ganges River, and north of the Ghat Mountains.

Description: Settled village agriculturalists living in regionally-distinct, stratified societies.

OAT code: 5540

OWC code: AQ63

Gangetic India*Years BP:* 2500 – 2000

Location: Ganges River valley and its tributaries.

Description: Urban civilization with writing, coinage, political and religious bureaucracy, craft specialists and artisans, and markets. Time range covers only the protohistoric period, the tradition continues as the historic Gangetic civilization.

OAT code: 5550

OWC code: AQ56

Vedic*Years BP:* 3900 – 2500

Location: The Indus River valley and its tributaries, extending eastward to the Ganges and south into the Thar Desert.

Description: Sedentary agriculturalists and semi-sedentary pastoralists living in large villages and regionally-distinct stratified polities. Time range only covers prehistoric period, the tradition continues into the historic period.

OAT code: 5555

OWC code: AQ47

Central Indian Iron Age*Years BP:* 3100 – 2100

Location: Central Indian subcontinent south of the Thar Desert, west of the central Ganges River, and north of the Ghat Mountains.

Description: Settled village agriculturalists living in regionally-distinct, stratified societies. Time range only covers prehistoric period, the tradition continues into the historic period.

OAT code: 5560

OWC code: AQ66

South Indian Iron Age*Years BP:* 3100 – 2100

Location: Southern Indian subcontinent, between the two ranges of the Ghat mountains.

Description: Settled village agriculturalists living in regionally-distinct, stratified societies. Time range only covers prehistoric period, the tradition continues into the historic period.

OAT code: 5565

OWC code: AQ76

Oceania

Lapita

Years BP: 3500 – 2000

Location: Island Melanesia, Coastal New Guinea, Western Polynesia.

Description: Semi-sedentary colonizers of Oceania with an economy based on marine resources. Social organization likely based on ranked clans. First pottery manufacturers in Oceania.

OAT code: 5005

OWC code: O050

Fijian

Years BP: 2100 – 200

Location: Fiji Islands.

Description: Ancestral to historic Fiji culture. Politically centralized and sedentary horticulturalists with plant foods supplemented by pigs and fish. Political centralization appears to increase through time. Fortifications are built by 900 BP. Ceramics change from impressed to incised by 900 BP.

OAT code: 5010

OWC code: OQ50

Samoa

Years BP: 2000 – 200

Location: Samoan Islands.

Description: Politically centralized and sedentary horticulturalists living in coastal communities. Plant foods supplemented by pigs and fish. Ancestral to historic Samoan culture. Political centralization appears to increase through time, as to large ceremonial constructions increase. Completely aceramic.

OAT code: 5015

OWC code: OU40

Tongan

Years BP: 2000 – 200

Location: Tongan Islands.

Description: Politically centralized and sedentary horticulturalists living in coastal communities. Plant foods supplemented by pigs and fish. Ancestral to historic Tongan culture. Political centralization appears to increase through time, as to large ceremonial constructions increase. Completely aceramic.

OAT code: 5020

OWC code: OU80

Marquesan

Years BP: 1700 – 175

Location: Marquesas Islands.

Description: Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in chiefdoms. Ancestral to historic Marquesan culture. May be ancestral to most eastern Polynesian cultures.

OAT code: 5030

OWC code: OX60

Hawaiian*Years BP:* 800 – 200*Location:* Hawaiian Islands.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in complex chiefdoms. Ancestral to historic Hawaiian culture. First clear evidence of agriculture at 800 BP, first clear evidence of chiefs at 600 BP. Political centralization appears to increase through time.*OAT code:* 5035*OWC code:* OV50**Tahitian***Years BP:* 1400 – 200*Location:* Society Islands.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in complex chiefdoms. Ancestral to historic Tahitian culture.*OAT code:* 5040*OWC code:* OX80**Easter Island***Years BP:* 1500 – 400*Location:* Easter Island.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in a complex chiefdom. Collapsed in the late prehistoric period. Sophisticated religious/ritual system prompted the construction of complex structures and massive stone effigies.*OAT code:* 5045*OWC code:* OY50**Maori***Years BP:* 900 – 200*Location:* New Zealand.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in complex chiefdoms. Ancestral to the historic Maori.*OAT code:* 5050*OWC code:* OZ70**New Guinea Neolithic***Years BP:* 10,000 – 100*Location:* Central highlands of New Guinea.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and pig herders living in small egalitarian communities. Ancestral to historic peoples of highland New Guinea.*OAT code:* 5070*OWC code:* OJ50

Melanesian*Years BP:* 2500 – 200*Location:* Islands of Melanesia.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in egalitarian or ranked societies, and with a strongly marine-oriented lifestyle. Ancestral to the historic peoples of Melanesia. Expands throughout Melanesia by 3500 BP.*OAT code:* 5075*OWC code:* OK50**Micronesia***Years BP:* 3000 – 200*Location:* Islands of Micronesia.*Description:* Sedentary horticulturalists and fishers living in small, egalitarian or ranked villages on the tiny islands of Micronesia. A strongly marine-oriented lifestyle. Ancestral to the historic peoples of Micronesia.*OAT code:* 5080*OWC code:* OR50**Early Australian***Years BP:* 50,000 – 7000*Location:* Australia, New Guinea, and Melanesia.*Description:* Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian bands.*OAT code:* 5085*OWC code:* OI50**Late Australian***Years BP:* 7000 – 200*Location:* Australia.*Description:* Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian bands. Ancestral to historic Aboriginal peoples. Marked by a change in technology towards small flake tools, and by apparently greater status differences and more elaborate individual / group ceremonialism.*OAT code:* 5090*OWC code:* OI60

Africa

Oldowan

Years BP: 2,300,000 – 1,600,000

Location: Eastern Africa.

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherer / scavengers living in small bands. Associated with *Homo habilis* and early *Homo erectus*.

OAT code: 0005

OWC code: F030

Acheulean

Years BP: 1,800,000 – 200,000

Location: Africa and Western Europe.

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small bands. Associated with *Homo erectus*.

OAT code: 0010

OWC code: F035

Southern and Eastern Africa Middle Stone Age

Years BP: 200,000 – 40,000

Location: Africa.

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small bands. Associated with archaic *Homo sapiens*.

OAT code: 0020

OWC code: F045

Middle Paleolithic Egypt

Years BP: 230,000 – 45,000

Location: Nile valley in Egypt and westward in northern Egypt and Sudan.

Description: Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities. Associated with archaic *Homo sapiens*.

OAT code: 0040

OWC code: MR45

Aterian

Years BP: 100,000 – 8000

Location: northern Africa

Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers, focused on big game, and living in small, egalitarian bands.

OAT code: 6005

OWC code: M060

Late Pleistocene–Early Holocene Maghreb

Years BP: 20,000 – 7500

Location: Mediterranean coast of northern Africa.

Description: Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.

OAT code: 6010

OWC code: M050

Southern Mediterranean Neolithic*Years BP:* 7500 – 4000*Location:* Mediterranean coast of north Africa*Description:* Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers with some domesticated livestock (sheep, pigs, and cattle), and living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6025*OWC code:* M053**Neolithic of Capsian***Years BP:* 7500 – 4000*Location:* northern Africa*Description:* Nomadic or semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers with some domesticated livestock (sheep, pigs, and cattle), and living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6030*OWC code:* M062**North African Protohistoric***Years BP:* 4000 – 3000*Location:* northern Africa*Description:* Sedentary or semi-sedentary pastoralists and agriculturalists living in large villages with a chiefdom political organization. Historic period follows.*OAT code:* 6035*OWC code:* M066**Saharo-Sudanese Neolithic***Years BP:* 8000 – 3000*Location:* Sahara region of northern Africa.*Description:* Semi-nomadic pastoralists, some with supplementary agriculture, living in small communities. Desertification begins late in the period and climaxes by 3000 BP. Desert areas become virtually uninhabited.*OAT code:* 6040*OWC code:* MS60**Southern and Eastern Africa Later Stone Age***Years BP:* 40,000 – 2000*Location:* Eastern and southern Africa.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian bands.*OAT code:* 6060*OWC code:* F050**Wilton***Years BP:* 10,000 – 2000*Location:* Cape region of southern Africa.*Description:* Nomadic hunter/gatherers living in small, egalitarian bands. Some reliance on marine resources in coastal areas.*OAT code:* 6065*OWC code:* FX50

South African Iron Age*Years BP:* 2000 – 500*Location:* Southern Africa.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists and pastoralists living in villages, some large. Late in the tradition there is evidence of regional chiefdoms or states developing. Continues into the historic period.*OAT code:* 6075*OWC code:* F057**East African Microlithic***Years BP:* 20,000 – 5000*Location:* northeast Africa and the Horn*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6080*OWC code:* M071**East African Neolithic***Years BP:* 5000 – 1200*Location:* northeastern Africa and the Horn*Description:* Semi-sedentary pastoralists and agriculturalists living in small villages, most integrated into larger, regional chiefdoms and states. Ends in the historic period.*OAT code:* 6090*OWC code:* M074**Early Khartoum***Years BP:* 10,000 – 5700*Location:* Nile valley in Nubia and the Sudan.*Description:* Semi-sedentary or sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers living in small villages.*OAT code:* 6095*OWC code:* MS45**Khartoum Neolithic***Years BP:* 5700 – 3550*Location:* Nile valley in Nubia and the Sudan.*Description:* Sedentary pastoralists and agriculturalists living in villages, integrated into regional chiefdoms or states, particularly late in the tradition. Integrated into Egyptian empire by the end of the time period.*OAT code:* 6100*OWC code:* MS50**Late Paleolithic Egypt***Years BP:* 45,000 – 7000*Location:* Upper Nile valley in Egypt.*Description:* Village-dwelling hunter / fisher / gatherers with an egalitarian or ranked form of social organization.*OAT code:* 6110*OWC code:* MR50

Upper Egypt Predynastic*Years BP:* 7000 – 5000*Location:* Upper Nile valley in Egypt.*Description:* Sedentary, village-dwelling agriculturalists and fishers living in regional chiefdoms or simple states.*OAT code:* 6115*OWC code:* MR55**Lower Egypt Predynastic***Years BP:* 7000 – 5000*Location:* Lower Nile valley in Egypt.*Description:* Sedentary, village-dwelling agriculturalists and fishers living in regional chiefdoms or simple states.*OAT code:* 6125*OWC code:* MR60**Early Dynastic Egypt***Years BP:* 5000 – 4575*Location:* Nile valley in Egypt.*Description:* Sedentary, emerging state with a politico-religious hierarchy.*OAT code:* 6130*OWC code:* MR70**Protohistoric Egypt***Years BP:* 4575 – 3552*Location:* Nile valley in Egypt.*Description:* Powerful, expanding state with a complex bureaucracy, politico-religious hierarchy, and military organization. Includes the Old Kingdom, First Intermediate Period, and Middle Kingdom.*OAT code:* 6135*OWC code:* MR80**Tshitolian***Years BP:* 10,000 – 4000*Location:* Congo basin.*Description:* Semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6160*OWC code:* FI71**Central African Neolithic***Years BP:* 4000 – 2000*Location:* Congo basin.*Description:* Settled village agriculturalists with a continuing reliance on hunting, fishing, and gathering. Cereal agriculture moves from north to south during this time period.*OAT code:* 6165*OWC code:* FI74

Central African Iron Age*Years BP:* 2000 – 500*Location:* Congo basin.*Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in large villages.*OAT code:* 6170*OWC code:* FI76**West African Late Stone Age***Years BP:* 40,000 – 4000*Location:* Western Africa south of the Sahara and north of the Congo basin.*Description:* Nomadic or semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6175*OWC code:* FA70**West African Neolithic***Years BP:* 4000 – 2000*Location:* Western Africa south of the Sahara and north of the Congo basin.*Description:* Semi-sedentary agriculturalists living in small communities.*OAT code:* 6180*OWC code:* FA73**West African Iron Age***Years BP:* 2500 – 1200*Location:* Western Africa south of the Sahara and north of the Congo basin.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in small to moderate communities, some linked into regional chiefdoms or simple states.*OAT code:* 6185*OWC code:* FA75**West African Regional Development***Years BP:* 1200 – 630*Location:* Western Africa south of the Sahara and north of the Congo basin.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in communities of varying size, some very large, and linked into regional chiefdoms and states. Time range covers only the period before European contact, but the tradition continues into the historic period.*OAT code:* 6190*OWC code:* FA77**Nachikufan***Years BP:* 16,000 – 2000*Location:* Zambia, Luangwa valley, western Turkana region.*Description:* Semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6195*OWC code:* FQ50

Middle East

Epipaleolithic

Years BP: 40,000 – 10,500

Location: Levant and Mesopotamia

Description: Semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.

OAT code: 6205

OWC code: M080

Natufian

Years BP: 12,000 – 10,500

Location: Levant

Description: Sedentary hunter / gatherers with supplemental agriculture living in small egalitarian communities.

OAT code: 6210

OWC code: M082

Aceramic Neolithic

Years BP: 10,500 – 7500

Location: Levant and Mesopotamia

Description: Settled village agriculturalists, some living in very large villages, some with social differentiation or stratification present. Ends ca. 8000 BP in the Levant.

OAT code: 6215

OWC code: M084

Ceramic Neolithic

Years BP: 8000 – 6100

Location: Levant and Mesopotamia

Description: Settled village agriculturalists with animal husbandry. Some very large villages with stratified social organization present. Begins ca. 7500 BP in Mesopotamia.

OAT code: 6220

OWC code: M087

Chalcolithic

Years BP: 6100 – 5500

Location: Levant

Description: Settled village agriculturalists living in complex societies with craft specialists, markets, and social stratification.

OAT code: 6225

OWC code: M090

Early Bronze Age

Years BP: 5500 – 4000

Location: Levant

Description: Settled agriculturalists living in large villages and cities with chiefdom or simple state forms of political organization.

OAT code: 6230

OWC code: M093

Middle Bronze Age*Years BP:* 4000 – 3595*Location:* Levant*Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in large villages and cities with state forms of political organization. Ends in the historic period with the expansion of the New Babylonian empire.*OAT code:* 6235*OWC code:* M095**Halafian***Years BP:* 7500 – 7000*Location:* Northern Mesopotamia*Description:* Settled village agriculturalists. Some villages are very large. Good evidence of social stratification. Replaced by Ubaid ca. 7000 BP.*OAT code:* 6245*OWC code:* M086**Ubaid***Years BP:* 7500 – 6000*Location:* Mesopotamia.*Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in large villages with temple complexes and social stratification. Moves from south to cover all of Mesopotamia by 7000 BP.*OAT code:* 6250*OWC code:* MH55**Late Chalcolithic Mesopotamia***Years BP:* 6000 – 5100*Location:* Mesopotamia.*Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in city-states. Expands northward during the time period.*OAT code:* 6255*OWC code:* MH60**Jemdet Nasr***Years BP:* 5100 – 4900*Location:* Southern Mesopotamia.*Description:* Continuation of Uruk, but with more unified political organization between the city-states.*OAT code:* 6260*OWC code:* MH62**Early Dynastic Mesopotamia***Years BP:* 4900 – 4334*Location:* Mesopotamia.*Description:* Unification of Mesopotamian city states into the Sumerian empire by the end of the tradition.*OAT code:* 6265*OWC code:* MH64

Akkadian*Years BP:* 4334 – 4112*Location:* Mesopotamia.*Description:* Expanding, militaristic empire. Conquers the Sumerians and expands north and west.*OAT code:* 6270*OWC code:* MH66**Arabian Upper Paleolithic***Years BP:* 40,000 – 11,000*Location:* Western parts of the Arabian peninsula.*Description:* Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian bands.*OAT code:* 6300*OWC code:* MJ50**Early Arabian Pastoral***Years BP:* 11,000 – 5750*Location:* Arid regions of the Arabian peninsula.*Description:* Nomadic pastoralists with supplemental hunting and gathering.*OAT code:* 6305*OWC code:* MJ53**Middle Arabian Pastoral***Years BP:* 5750 – 4200*Location:* Arid regions of the Arabian peninsula.*Description:* Nomadic pastoralists living in small communities.*OAT code:* 6310*OWC code:* MJ55**Late Arabian Pastoral***Years BP:* 4200 – 3595*Location:* Arid regions of the Arabian peninsula.*Description:* Nomadic pastoralists living in small communities. Ends in the historic period with the rise of the New Babylonian empire.*OAT code:* 6315*OWC code:* MJ57**Early Arabian Littoral***Years BP:* 11,000 – 7000*Location:* East coast of the Arabian peninsula.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6320*OWC code:* MJ63

Middle Arabian Littoral*Years BP:* 7000 – 3300*Location:* East coast of the Arabian peninsula.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists with hunting / fishing / gathering remaining important. Some evidence of social differentiation.*OAT code:* 6325*OWC code:* MJ65**Late Arabian Littoral***Years BP:* 3300 – 2300*Location:* East coast of the Arabian peninsula.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages and cities with a stratified social system. Fishing and marine resources remain important. Ends in the historic period.*OAT code:* 6330*OWC code:* MJ67**Southern Asia Upper Paleolithic***Years BP:* 40,000 – 12,000*Location:* Southern and southwestern Asia.*Description:* Semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6340*OWC code:* MA35**Iranian Mesolithic***Years BP:* 12,000 – 8000*Location:* Iran.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6350*OWC code:* MA40**Iranian Neolithic***Years BP:* 8000 – 7000*Location:* Iran.*Description:* Sedentary village agriculturalists with some animal husbandry.*OAT code:* 6355*OWC code:* MA44**Iranian Chalcolithic***Years BP:* 7000 – 5000*Location:* Iran.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages with a chiefdom or simple state form of political organization.*OAT code:* 6360*OWC code:* MA47**Iranian Bronze Age***Years BP:* 5000 – 3500*Location:* Iran.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in villages and cities, some very large, and with a state form of political organization. Pastoral nomads from the north begin spreading into the region ca. 4000 BP.*OAT code:* 6365*OWC code:* MA50