

Functions and Graphs-Pattern Detection #1

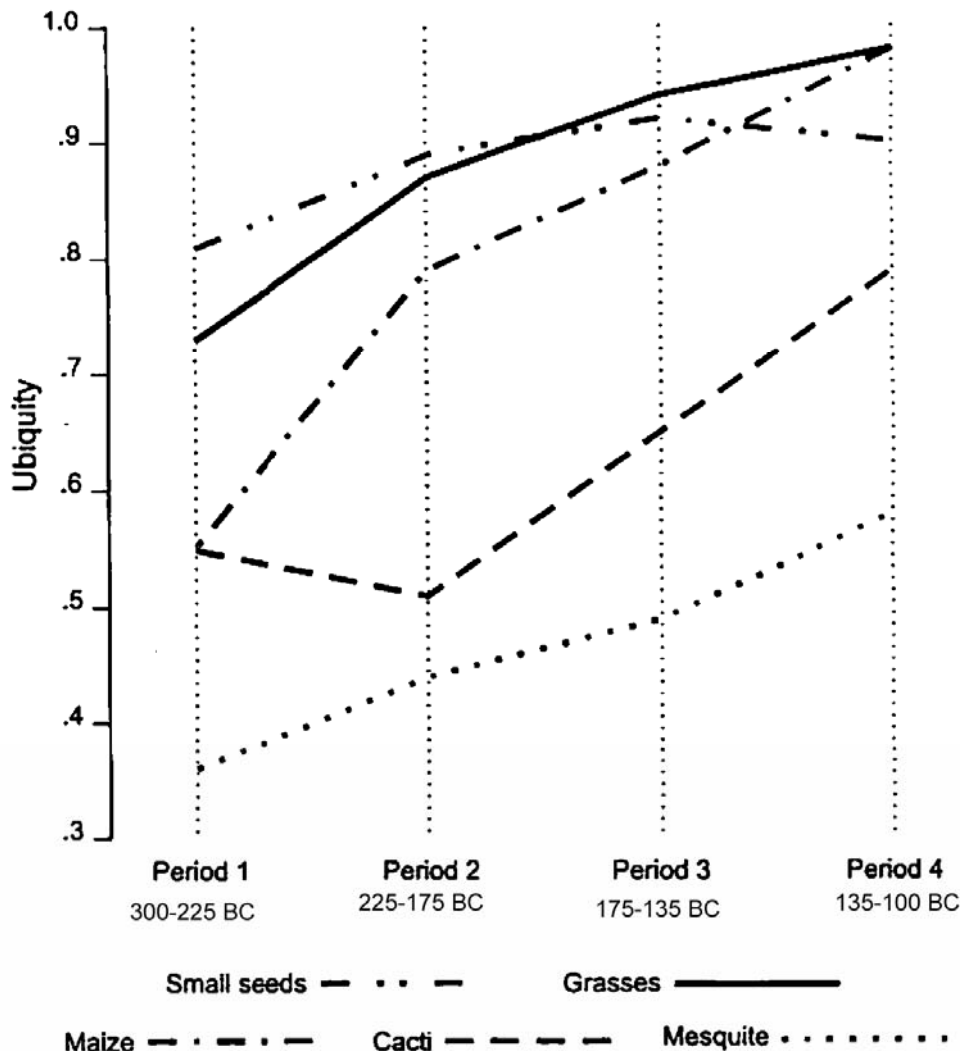
General Background:

Archaeologists look at changes through time in how people use their environment and available resources. One area of particular interest is in how people incorporate agricultural products into their diet, along with wild plants, and how their society changes with the addition of agriculture.

The graph below deals with a site in Arizona that was occupied during the period when Native Americans were first farming with maize. (This is about 1000 years earlier than agriculture was used in Wisconsin.)

Reference:

Graph adapted from Mark Schurr and David Gregory 2002;
Fluoride Dating of Faunal Materials by Ion-Selective Electrode: High Resolution Relative Dating at an Early Agricultural period Site in the Tucson Basin. In *American Antiquity* 67(2):281-299.



(Adapted from Schurr and Gregory 2002)

Changes in plant use over time.

Questions for discussion

What does this graph show?

What is ubiquity?

Why do you think some resources increase in use, while others decrease?

Are these continuous values, or values for each “period”? Do we know how things changed within each period?

Note that the time span for each period is not equivalent, though the graph shows them as equally far apart. Could this have been graphed differently? How would the graph change?