



Early Cultures: Pre-European Peoples of Wisconsin

OVERVIEW OF THE WOODLAND TRADITION

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Tradition Name	Woodland
Lifeways	Hungers, gatherers, fishers and gardeners
Time	Southern Wisconsin 500 B.C. to 1200 A.D. Northern Wisconsin 500 B.C. to 1700 A.D.
Climate	It was very much like it is today.
Environment	It was very similar to today.
Settlement	Larger groups of 50 to 100 people, or more, would gather for short times during the summer. They separated into smaller groups of 25 to 50 during the winter when food was scarce. Camps developed along rivers and lakes in the summer and in more protected places during the winter.
Food	Squash and sunflower seeds, which were grown in small gardens, were added to the previously used wild food items. Towards the end, people started growing corn. Rivers and lakes provided fish, clams and turtles. Deer, small mammals and birds continued to be used.
Tools	The smaller and more efficient bow and arrow began to be used by the individual hunter. Spears and nets were now used for fishing.
Toolkit	Spear points, arrowheads, bow and arrow, knives, modified flakes, hammerstones, manos and metates, abraders and pottery
Household	Seasonal, housing structures began to be used during this period. Pottery was first introduced during this time. Gourds and squashes were used for vessels and food. Textiles and fabrics were decorated with shell beads and dyed with natural dyes. Tobacco and pipes began to be used.
Religion/Rituals	During this period large scale and elaborate burial rituals took place, particularly the Hopewell culture. Conical, linear, and animal shaped mounds began to be employed. Rock art also appeared during this time.
Social/Political	A large scale network of trade developed at this time, extending from the Gulf Coast to Canada, Wyoming to West Virginia and Ohio. Ritual goods and raw materials were exchanged. People were organized in large groups for social and ritual gatherings.
How Different From Previous Group	Burials of the dead were more elaborate. People were more politically structured and became more localized and territorial. Pottery and gardening had their beginnings at this time.
Major World Events	100 B.C. - Great Wall of China 0 - Birth of Christ 400 A.D. - Fall of Rome 1,000 A.D. - City of Timbuktu built in West Africa