Archaeologists look at long-term trends in the use of different kinds of resources. One variable to consider is the size of the animal – do people tend to take fewer but larger animals, or more of the smaller animals for food? Have there been systematic changes in the choices made? See what you can learn from the following graph:

The following graph shows some changes in the size of animals taken by people over the last 10,000 years, (from the Middle Holocene (8000 years ago) to the Late Holocene (the present).

Figure 2. Mammalian faunal profile from ca-fre-61, western sierran foothills of California (from McGuire 1993).