

Iowa's Archaeological Timeline



The earliest known people to live in Iowa made fluted spear-points called Clovis and Folsom, sometimes found in Johnson Co.



The atlatl, an spearthrower, was in use early in the Paleoindian period, increasing the distance a spear could travel, and the force of its impact.

Picasso and his short include from central Iowa (Iowa Moines, LaMoine)

Mammouth teeth and bones have been discovered in Johnson County. Did Paleoindian people hunt them here as scavengers?



Milling stones, known from local sites, reflect the growing importance of nuts and seeds.



Evidence of the earliest domesticated dogs in Iowa (5400 BC)

Maintains point of mind to late Archaic type, from a camp in the Kent Park area. Point is made of local chert.



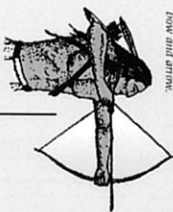
Native Copper from Lake Superior was used to make tools in Archaic times; this buried point was found in Louisa Co.

Thin site, Monona Co., earliest known burials in Iowa; this point type was found among the grave goods. (3400 BC).



Pottery became widespread in Iowa after 500 BC.

Small points found in late Woodland sites indicate use of the bow and arrow.



Sagittae holes show the importance of bow hunting and corn horticulture in late Prehistoric times.

Excavated Cahokia Tablet Burial Row Site, Iowa Co. AD 1600



Johnson County part of the Black Hawk Purchase (1832)



John Gilbert's 2 mounding points within Kootuk Reserve (1836-1839).



11,500 BC 10,500 BC 8500 BC 5500 BC 3000 BC 800 BC 200 BC AD 300 900 1250 1673 1832 1842 1860

Early Paleolithic Late Paleolithic Early Archaic Middle Archaic Late Archaic Early Woodland Middle Woodland Late Woodland Oneota Historic



Dallian points made of locally available stone suggest that hunting-gathering territories were shrinking in eastern Iowa.



Hickories and other nuts were increasingly important foods for occupants of eastern Iowa during the Middle Archaic period.



Cast Spring site, Louisa Co.; evidence earliest known house in Iowa. (4500 BC)

Cultivation of goosefoot as a food crop begins during Late Archaic times; corn was not important until after AD 800.



Stemmed points like this Waukesha are common on Early Woodland sites.



Platform pipes like this one from Troschkeno, in Louisa Co., are characteristic of Hopewell sites.

Effigy Mounds were built by Late Woodland groups in northeastern Iowa.



Shell-tempered pottery with red and tan designs is found at Onondia site.



Harley Fort, Allamakee Co. (AD 1100)



The French arrive along the Mississippi (AD 1673)



Mesquaki Chief Pomechuck's Village (1836-1839)

Mesquaki and Sac displaced from Iowa (1845).



Menomni Handcart Trail (1850)

Clavis hunters, earliest known people to live in North America, made fluted points and hunted the Mammouth and Mastodon.

White-tailed deer becomes an important food animal as Europeans and its become established across eastern Iowa.



Ground stone axes came into widespread use early in Middle Archaic times as activities like woodworking became more important.