

households, people shared lifeways and technologies, such as how they formed and decorated their pottery, the types of tools they made, and the raw materials they used. These were obtained locally according to what was readily available to each family, then exchanged with neighbors.

New lifestyles began to emerge around 700 years ago, perhaps as a response to increased aggression and the entry of new people into the region. Families congregated into larger settlements, and true village life developed. The classic Plains dual economy, based on corn agriculture and bison hunting, was established at this time. Exchange relationships beyond the Plains were realigned, and goods and materials from the American Southwest arrived in the Plains.

Protohistoric Period (500-200 years ago)

The Protohistoric period represents that time between the first meeting of Europeans and native populations in the area and the point when those encounters became a common occurrence. For some groups, trade and exchange became routine early on, while other groups remained relatively unknown into the Historic period. Two key developments contributed greatly to the cultural changes of the period: the introduction of European trade goods and the horse.

Quite limited prior to the 1700s, objects manufactured in Europe and the eastern United States began to replace native-made items at a rapid rate by 1800. Horses descended from Spanish stock were present on the Plains in the 1600s and became commonplace by 1800. They allowed greater mobility and became valued property and gifts.

A succession of equestrian nomad populations—Apache and Comanche, followed by Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Arapaho—made the western Plains home. Other tribes, including the Wichita, Pawnee, Kansa, and Osage, resided in villages in central and eastern Kansas, dividing their time between gardening near their villages and bison hunting on the western Plains. Many of these tribes remained in the region into the Historic period.

Historic Period (200 years ago-present)

Treaties with indigenous tribes allowed Euroamerican travel through the Plains, restricted the Indian land base, and relocated eastern tribes to reservations in eastern Kansas. By the late 1800s most tribes had been removed to reservations outside of Kansas.

In the early to mid-1800s, development of transportation networks began with pedestrian, horseback, and animal-drawn wagon traffic along trails (e.g., the Santa Fe, Oregon-California, and Smoky Hill), and steamboats. Later, county roads were improved, stagecoach service expanded, and railroads constructed. The modern state highway system developed in the 20th century.

Agricultural activity expanded as eastern settlers established self-sufficient family farms in the mid-1800s. These grew in number, then were gradually replaced by corporate farms and feed lots in the late 1900s.

Industrial activity began with grist and saw mills and blacksmith shops, expanding to include brick plants, minor manufacturing, coal and salt mines, and oil production by the early 1900s. Ever increasing diversity and quantities of Euroamerican goods developed into a modern industrialized economy with global connections. During the late 1900s oil production and airplane manufacture, as well as other industries and businesses, took the lead in the Kansas economy.



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Archaic dart point from Osage County

A Timeline of Kansas Archaeology



Professional Archaeologists of Kansas

Kansas Cultural History

Paleoindian Period (about 13,500-8,000 years ago)

The earliest evidence of humans in Kansas dates to the Paleoindian period. Although people were in the Americas prior to 13,500 years ago, pre-Clovis evidence has not been discovered in Kansas.

These earliest people lived at the end of the last ice age and adapted to a changing environment, as the region gradually became warmer and dryer. They were nomadic hunters and gatherers who often traveled great distances to obtain resources, such as stone for tool making, plant and animal foods, and water. They relied heavily on chipped stone tools but also used bone and perishable materials. Evidence that they hunted large animals, such as giant bison, has been found at sites in Kansas. Although they often hunted, they also gathered mussels, berries, seeds, and nuts.

Archaeologists identify Paleoindian peoples based on the types of spear points they made. Early on people made distinctive Clovis and Folsom points, while later people made a greater variety of styles.

Archaic Period (8,000-2,000 years ago)

About 8,000 years ago, the diversity of plants and animals used for food increased. Plants were ground using milling stones and cooked in rock ovens. Animals were hunted with spears propelled by spear throwers (atlatls). While people still traveled often, they did not travel as far and began adapting to local environments. Tool types also became more diverse, differing from one region to another.

About 6,000 years ago a significant drought began, causing people to settle close to water sources where resources were readily available. The earliest fired clay artifacts—two human head figurines and a clay bead—date to about 5,600 years ago. Pottery vessels were not made until later.

Some of the earliest cultivated plants—squash or gourds—appeared before the end of the Archaic period, but these peoples were not farmers. At the same time the earliest mounds containing human burials were built. Occasionally dogs were buried, demonstrating their importance to humans.

Ceramic Period (2000-500 years ago)

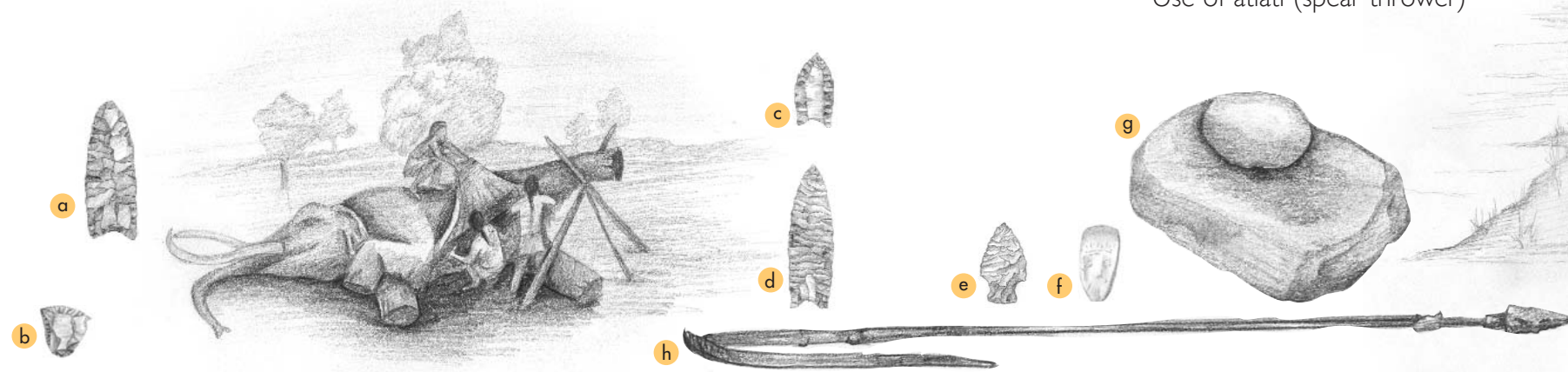
By 2,000 years ago native Kansans were hunting and gathering a wide variety of animals and wild plants. They also cultivated assorted domesticated native plants, including sunflowers, marshelder, and goosefoot. Base camps were established in resource-rich areas such as stream valleys. In parts of eastern Kansas, individuals were buried under low mounds on bluffs overlooking valleys. Work with clay developed into pottery vessels that were used for cooking and storage. Other technological changes occurred around 1,500 years ago, as hunters began using the bow and arrow. Ceramic styles and other objects indicate external relations with peoples to the east.

While a wide variety of animals and wild plants continued to be used, by 1,000 years ago farming was well established in eastern Kansas, and corn and beans became staple crops. The increased emphasis on gardening led to permanent shelters and common use of farming implements, such as hoes made of bone. Families lived in dispersed farmsteads along stream valleys where arable soils and other resources were abundant. Although living as scattered

Measuring the Past

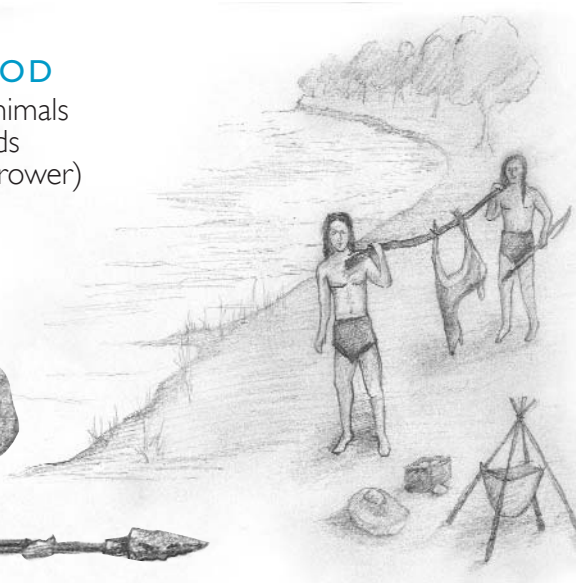
PALEOINDIAN PERIOD

Big game hunting



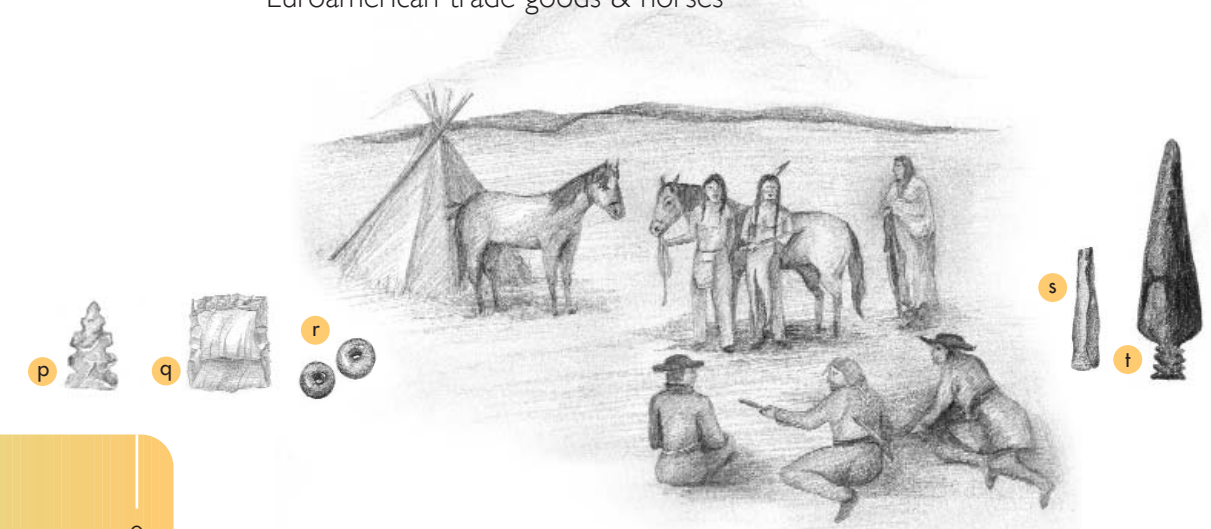
ARCHAIC PERIOD

Hunting of smaller animals
Use of plant foods
Use of atlatl (spear thrower)



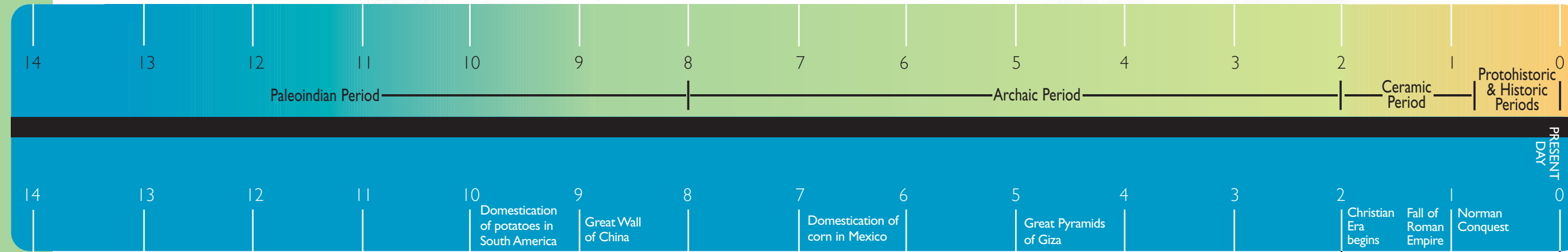
PROTOHISTORIC PERIOD

First European contact with Plains Indians
Increasing use of European & Euroamerican trade goods & horses

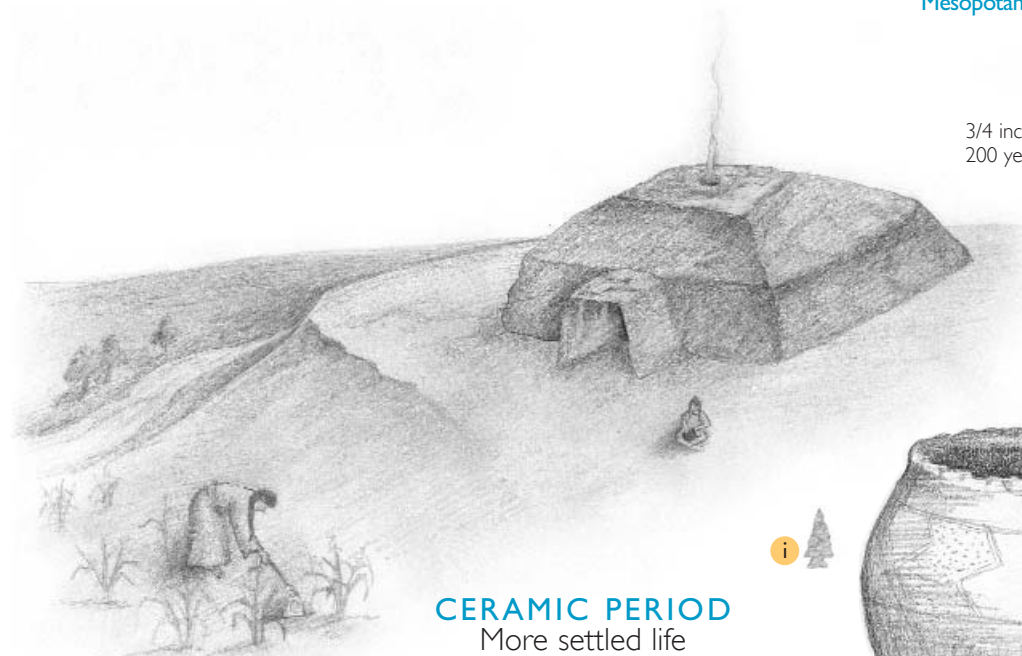


ARTIFACT LEGEND:

- a Clovis spear point
- b spurred end scraper
- c Folsom spear point
- d Allen spear point
- e dart point
- f fired clay figurine
- g milling stones
- h atlatl & dart
- i early arrow point
- j early pottery vessel
- k bone fish hook
- l bison scapula hoe
- m later pottery vessel
- n clay smoking pipe
- o beveled knife
- p later arrow point
- q gun flint
- r glass beads
- s metal tinkler
- t metal arrow point
- u iron axe head
- v bullet
- w 7th US Cavalry insignia
- x horse bridle bit
- y medicine bottle
- z sardine can



1 inch = 1,000 years

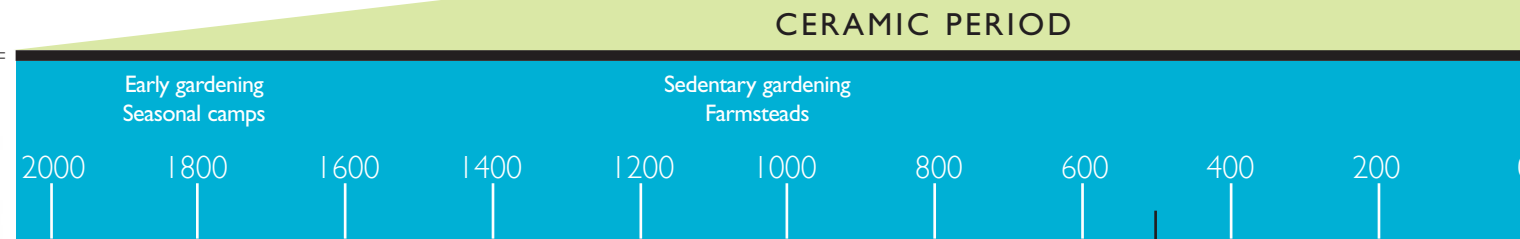


CERAMIC PERIOD

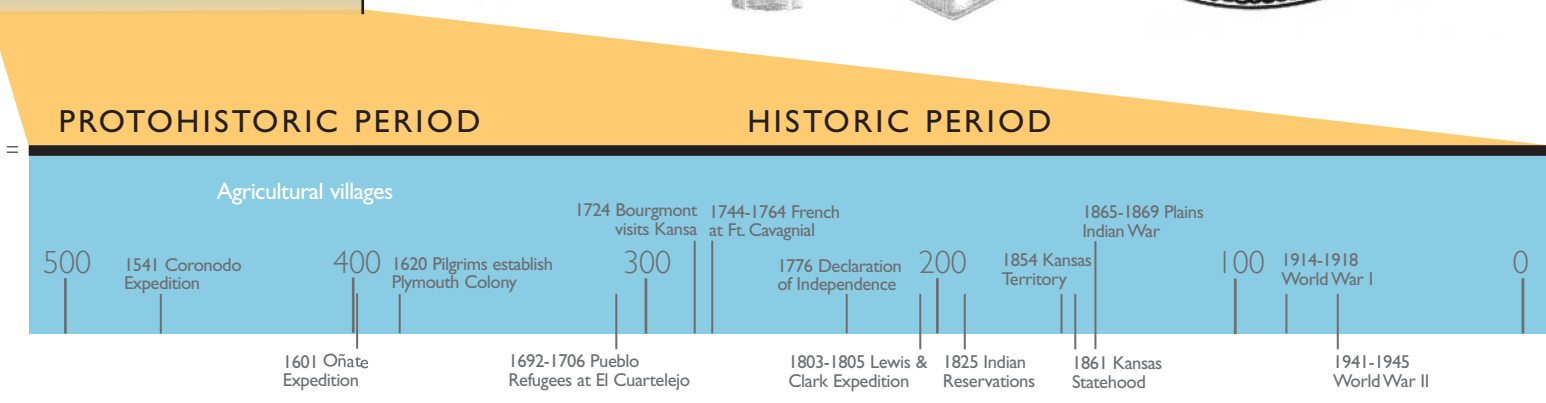
More settled life
Invention of pottery & bow & arrow



3/4 inch = 200 years



1-1/2 inches = 100 years



HISTORIC PERIOD

Euroamerican exploration & settlement

