

numerous local varieties of Archaic culture developing in a number of different directions. Polished stone tools such as adzes and ground slate dart heads appear for the first time along with a wide range of chipped stone artifacts and bone tools. An elaborate burial cult involving the use of red ochre and grave offerings appears at an early date. The subsistence pattern of the Archaic stage also undergoes a change from the preceding Palæo-Indian stage represented by Clovis and Plano. Although big game is still of primary importance, a significant portion of the diet stems from smaller animals, fish and wild vegetable foods. In the Northern area a variety of Archaic markedly different from that noted in the south was apparently developing in a parallel fashion. The Northern complex with its large flaked choppers, blades, distinctive dart heads, and virtual absence of polished stone, probably began its development 6,000 years ago and gradually occupied the territory being vacated by the continental glacier then retreating into the Labrador highland. Contrary to the regional variations seen in the Archaic of the south, the Northern materials are amazingly similar over enormous tracts of land. In the Southern area the Archaic stage terminated with the appearance of pottery at approximately 1,000 B.C. In the northern bush, the Archaic stage is partly replaced by a complex possessing ceramics which entered the area roughly 2,700 years ago.

The introduction of pottery brought the Archaic stage to an end and introduced the Woodland stage of aboriginal cultural development. Divided into early, middle and late periods, the formation of the Woodland stage probably represents the most complex series of events to be seen in the archaeology of Eastern Canada. In the Southern area, Early Woodland pottery, indirectly derived from the southern United States, was adopted by the indigenous Archaic peoples in Quebec and, possibly, the Maritimes. The entry of these ceramics as a body into the remainder of Eastern Canada was blocked by the presence there of Middle Woodland ceramics which had entered the area from both the northwest and the south. Ceramics of the Middle Woodland period, however, appear to be the product of two forces coming from different directions. In the Northern area a Middle Woodland complex possessing distinctive ceramics of inferred Asiatic origin occupied the former territory of the Shield Archaic people in northern Ontario and western Quebec. Indeed, with the exceptions of the Clovis and, to a lesser extent, the Plano people of the Palæo-Indian stage and the Dorset Eskimo occupation of coastal Newfoundland-Labrador and parts of Quebec, the Laurel penetration appears to represent one of the few clear cases of an actual migration of people into Eastern Canada. In all other instances changes in the various cultures appear to have stemmed mainly from the borrowing and modifying of introduced traits and ideas by the indigenous Archaic people. The other Middle Woodland variety of ceramics, attributed to Hopewell of Illinois and Ohio, with possible origins in Central America, were being adopted by Archaic populations of the Southern area. These same people, however, were also adopting additional ceramics from Laurel, thereby ending up with a ceramic complex which represented a miscegenation of Laurel and Hopewell ideas grafted onto an Archaic base which perhaps already possessed Early Woodland ceramics. This confusing ceramic situation appears to have involved the entire Southern area. Other traits such as burial mound ceremonialism and the smoking pipe were also introduced from the Hopewell area. Most of northern Quebec and all of Newfoundland, however, did not accept ceramics and an Archaic stage of culture may have survived in that area to the time of European contact.

From this complex Middle Woodland base, most of the historic tribes of Eastern Canada must have evolved during the Late Woodland period. The exceptions are the Beothuk of Newfoundland who perhaps retained an Archaic form of culture. The Naskapi and some of the Cree-Montagnais of Quebec appear to have lacked pottery but the data are too limited to draw any meaningful conclusions. In the Maritimes the historic Micmac and Malecite probably had pottery but their prehistory is only now being explored. To the west, the Ojibwa, the Algonkin and most of the Cree possessed pottery, usually derived from a number of regional ceramic traditions and, indeed, portions of the Ojibwa and Cree can be traced archaeologically as far back as the tenth century. In the Southern area represented by Southern Ontario and portions of Quebec, the archaeological events that