

kinds of extinct bison. In Western Canada, these point types are reported only from the southern part of the prairie area, suggesting that perhaps these cultures were replaced by later ones before the northern part of the prairie region was inhabitable. On the other hand, fluted points have been found far to the northwest, in unglaciated parts of Alaska; their absence from the intervening area remains to be explained.

The succeeding complexes, generally dated from about 8000 to 5000 B.C., are also known only from surface finds, in this case of lanceolate points, lacking flutes and exhibiting a fine parallel flaking technique. They are probably derived directly from the preceding ones, and are part of what is called the Plano Tradition. Big game hunting continued to be the basis of the economy, but the number and distribution of the finds indicate a considerable increase in population and an expansion northward into areas not previously occupied. Similar projectile points have been reported from the Yukon and the southern Northwest Territories, as well as extreme northern Manitoba.

Perhaps contemporary with the early big game hunters of the prairies was a still hypothetical complex called Old Cordilleran, characterized by the occurrence of bipointed, leaf-shaped projectile points. The centre for this complex was in British Columbia, but similar points have been reported from the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Radio-carbon dates indicate a relatively early occupation for at least one site in the Fraser River canyon. However, it has been questioned whether all points of this relatively simple form necessarily represent a single cultural group or time period. In any case, the evidence from Fraser Canyon indicates a quite different economy, in which dependence on salmon fishing already prevailed even at this early date, from that of the area east of the mountains.

In the succeeding period, lasting from approximately 3000 B.C. to about 1 A.D., a number of changes are noticeable. One is an increase in tempo, with alterations in artifact styles, particularly projectile points, following one another in more rapid succession than previously. Another is an apparent increase in the variety of food resources exploited, although this may reflect inadequate knowledge of the food economy of earlier times. Several local cultural variants now become recognizable, but the geographic distribution of certain artifact types indicates considerable contact between them.

In the prairie region, the earlier lanceolate projectile points are gradually replaced by smaller stemmed points with indented bases. The change apparently represents an evolutionary sequence, rather than a series of sharp breaks. Contemporary with the earlier part of this sequence are large side-notched points from southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which show affiliations with points from bison-kill and campsites in Nebraska and western Iowa. There are, in fact, many resemblances to what is known as the Archaic tradition in eastern United States and Canada, and it has been suggested that people from the east were moving into the prairie area with the improvement of the climate. Although bison seem to have remained the major food source, there is now evidence of the hunting of birds and small animals and the collecting of shell fish and other foods.

Certain of the point types characteristic of the Prairie occur also in the Boreal Forest west of Hudson Bay, where their relationship to the still hypothetical Shield Archaic tradition is somewhat unclear. The latter tradition is typified by large and small oval bifaces, rough core scrapers, and a few round-based lanceolate points. The same observations apply to the Barren Grounds, at least as far north as Chesterfield Inlet. However, from time to time after about 3000 B.C., the area was pre-empted by cultures from the Arctic, presumably Eskimoan. West of the 110th meridian, a series of cultures possessing some relationship to those of the prairies but with an increment of Asian traits not found to the east and south prevailed for a long but still unmeasured period of time.

Beyond the Rockies, in the Northwest Plateau, the evidence available indicates a continuation of the pattern associated with dependence on salmon fishing. Microblades, like those of the far northwest, are common but probably represent the diffusion of this tool type to the Plateau rather than the migration of northern populations. For the first time in Western Canada, house structures are reported, of semi-subterranean form. That the region was not isolated from the country east of the mountains is confirmed by the