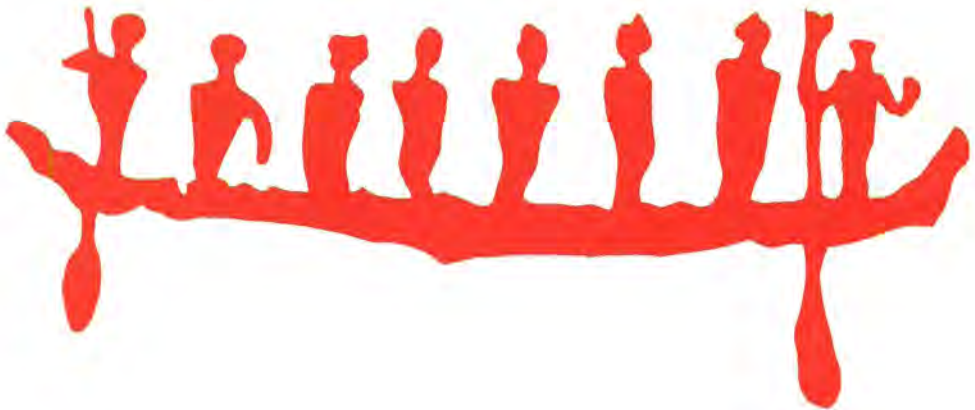


finely ground slate dart heads were used as they are found for the first time along with a wide range of flaked stone implements and bone artifacts. Associated with this complex was an elaborate burial cult involving the use of red ochre and grave offerings. The subsistence pattern of the Archaic populations became more diversified than the preceding pattern of the Clovis and Plano hunters. Although big game was still of primary importance, a significant portion of the diet stemmed from smaller animals, fish and wild vegetable foods. In the Northern Area, a variety of Archaic, termed the Shield Archaic, was apparently developing in a parallel fashion. This northern variant, with its large knives, scraping implements, distinctive dart heads, and general absence of polished stone tools, drifted eastward following the caribou who were then reoccupying the territory vacated by the retreat of the continental ice sheet.

Contrary to the regional variations seen in the Archaic of the south, the northern culture exhibits amazing similarity over enormous tracts of land. An exception to this occurs in the Atlantic coastal region and Newfoundland where a distinctive maritime-adapted population developed early in the 3rd millennium B.C. The material culture of these coastal peoples shares some similarities with Archaic groups of the Southern Area. However, considerable future archaeological research is yet required to determine the full extent of this relationship.

In the Southern Area, about 3,000 years ago, a number of changes took place among the Archaic peoples, marking the beginning of what is known as the Woodland period, the most notable being the introduction of a ceramic technology. Stylistic changes can also be seen in the flaked stone tool inventories. Burial practices became even more elaborate; burial mounds, exotic trade materials and elaborately decorated artifacts are typically associated with these burials. The subsistence base for the early stages of this period remained essentially unchanged. In the western portions of the Northern Area, ceramics appeared approximately 300 to 400 years later. To the east, among the Algonkian-speaking peoples of northern Quebec and Labrador, the basic Archaic way of life continued with only minor Woodland influence.

During the Woodland period, the gradual development and evolution of many of the historic native populations can be traced in the archaeological record. The events which led to the historic Huron, Petun, Neutral and St. Lawrence Iroquois are relatively well known. It is generally accepted that the ancestry of these peoples represents an indigenous development, rather than extensive migrations of peoples from other areas. One of the most significant factors influencing the development of the Iroquois was the acquisition of corn, introduced from the south between 500 and 800 A.D. This change in the subsistence base had a gradual, yet profound effect on the settlement pattern and social life of these people. Villages grew as great numbers could be supported by an increased food supply. Daily life became increasingly



Rock paintings are widely distributed throughout the Shield country of Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. They were still being produced during the historic period and are believed to be associated with certain religious rites. This particular painting is located near the city of Thunder Bay, Ontario. (*Archaeological Survey of Canada*)