HISTORY



Restoration of a Chilcotin semi-subterranean house structure in Anahim Lake, British Columbia plateau. The restoration is based upon archaeological and historical evidence. In the illustration the framework has been completed and sod will be used to cover the entire outside of the house. These dwellings were entered through the roof. (Archaeological Survey of Canada)

In the prairie region, the earlier lanceolate projectile points were gradually replaced by smaller stemmed points with indented bases. The change apparently represented an evolutionary sequence, rather than a series of sharp breaks. Contemporary with the earlier part of this sequence were large side-notched points from southern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which show affiliations with points from bison kill-sites and campsites in Nebraska and western Iowa. In fact, the many resemblances to what is known as the Archaic in the eastern United States and Canada suggest 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. A number of these southern hunters also spread into the Boreal Forest sections of the Prairie Provinces and even farther north.

In the plateau of British Columbia, available evidence indicates a continuation of the pattern associated with dependence on salmon fishing. There is evidence of the diffusion of northern technologies into the area and for the first time semi-subterranean house structures appear. That the region was not isolated from the country east of the mountains is confirmed by the discovery in the plateau of projectile point types like those of the prairies and the finding of plateau artifact types in Alberta. During this period on the coast of British Columbia, a rapid adaptation to the inter-tidal resources and to the salmon migration took place. This is evidenced by a shift from a hunting technology to a fishing technology featuring an assortment of bone implements. This basic technology maintained itself throughout the whole west coast cultural development.

From approximately 1 A.D. to the beginning of historic times, further development in the prairie area centred around a dramatic increase in the importance of bison hunting. This shift followed the general adoption of the use of buffalo jumps, a hunting technique which

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