



Early Cultures: Pre-European Peoples of Wisconsin

OVERVIEW OF THE MISSISSIPPIAN & ONEOTA TRADITIONS

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Tradition Name	Mississippian and Oneota
Lifeways	Hunters, gatherers, fishers and farmers
Time	1,000 - 1,650 A.D.
Climate	It was very much like it is today.
Environment	It was very similar to today.
Settlement	Mississippian people lived in permanent villages, sometimes with stockades. Oneota people began to gather in large semi-permanent villages along rivers and lakes and near farmland. Over 100 people would gather in summer camps.
Food	Previously adopted foods continued to be used in addition to large quantities of animal resources found by rivers and lakes. This was the beginning of agriculture and the introduction of corn and beans.
Tools	Earlier developed tools continued to be employed at this time. The bison scapula hoe first appears during this time.
Toolkit	Arrowheads, bow and arrow, knives, modified flakes, scrapers, hammerstones, manos and metates, abraders, drills, hoes and pottery
Household	Bundles of grasses were used for a variety of household purposes such as for the walls and roofs of houses or lining of storage pits. Large pots, shell spoons and turtle shell bowls were employed. Grinding stones were now mainly used for corn instead of nuts.
Religion/Rituals	Decorative and ceremonial pieces made out of exotic materials continued to be used although less than in Woodland times. Rock art as well as bone and stone engravings were created by these people.
Social/Political	Mississippian cultures arose in Illinois, and their unique artifacts and ideas spread into Wisconsin. Oneota cultures may have arisen from interactions between these Mississippian peoples and the local Wisconsin Woodland populations. Both cultures were agriculturalists, which required people to work co-operatively. Ranking within the social structure increased. Mississippian peoples traded widely, but the Oneota groups traveled less than the Mississippian.
How Different From Previous Group	The Mississippian and Oneota people were the first true farmers. They grew domesticated corn and beans. They created few mounds but possibly buried their dead in group cemeteries.
Major World Events	1,100 A.D. - Rise of Inca empire 1,300 A.D. - Aztecs settle Mexico city 1,492 A.D. - Columbus arrives in North America