Archaeology is the study of past human behavior. It seeks to identify patterns in human activity and explain how and why they change. Archaeology is descriptive. It paints a picture of how people once lived. Using information recovered from the ground, archaeologists can reconstruct the histories of societies who do not have written records as well as minority populations who were insufficiently documented due to their social standing. One way archaeologists study the past is by examining locations (sites) where people once lived, played, and worked. Prehistoric and historic sites are non-renewable resources. When a site is destroyed, information about the past is lost forever. Unfortunately, sites are ruined on a daily basis due to modern development and urban sprawl. Because unrecorded archaeological sites are those most often destroyed, every effort must be made to locate, evaluate, and record their content for the benefit of future Pennsylvanians before a development project is undertaken. If you know of locations where artifacts have been found and wish to assist with the preservation of archaeological sites, we encourage you to record these locations with the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (P.A.S.S.). Information, recording forms, and instructions can be obtained at:

- www.phmc.state.pa.us and
- www.pennsylvaniaarcheology.com

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Map shows the movement of natural resources and goods during the Prehistoric and Historic Periods of Pennsylvania.

**Paleoindian**

Eleven thousand years ago, Clovis point stone tools were carried by hunters from western New York to Pennsylvania. These Ice Age peoples are called Paleoindians.

**Archaic**

Many different types of chert stone tools fashioned from Adams County and Franklin County quarries were traded into isolated regions of Pennsylvania 1,000 to 1,000 years ago.

**Transitional**

Between 3,000 and 4,000 years ago, soapstone from Lancaster County was mined as raw material for the production of stone bowls, then transported far and wide by dugout canoe.

**Early/Middle Woodland**

From 3,000 to 1,500 years ago, quantities of highly sought-after multicolored Flint Ridge flint from east-central Ohio were traded into many regions of western Pennsylvania.

Brass kettles and beaver pelts formed the basis for early trade relations between Europeans and indigenous Native Americans during the 17th through 18th centuries.
This was a period of cultural transition, fragmentation and eventual collapse. Europeans moved into Pennsylvania and essentially displaced Native American cultures. Native made objects were replaced by European equivalents such as iron axes, brass kettles and glass beads. Extensive warfare occurred for control of the fur trade and land acquisition.

Horticulture was practiced across the state and, by the end of this period, most groups practiced agriculture and lived in permanent stockaded villages. Native Americans organized into tribes. Numerous pottery shapes and designs were used along with elaborate clay smoking pipes. Stone celts were common and the bow and arrow developed as the main mode of weaponry.

Semi-permanent settlements began during this period. Fired clay pottery was introduced from the south along with stone gorgets and tube-shaped smoking pipes. Trade was widespread and in western Pennsylvania, burial mounds, burial ceremonialism and larger semi-permanent villages developed.

A climatic change resulted in less precipitation and Native Americans focused their activities on floodplains. New tools were developed to adapt to this environment, including soapstone bowls and broad bladed spear points reworked into a variety of knives, drills, and scrapers. The first evidence of extensive trade is found in the form of highly desired stone used for making tools.

Hunters and gatherers used a variety of special tools such as axes, atlatl (spear thrower) weights, grinding stones, stone drills and a diversity of stone spear point styles. They hunted and fished, and collected plant foods in an emerging deciduous forest. Native American groups continued to migrate through a cycle of seasonal rounds but territories became smaller compared to Paleoindian times. The population gradually increased during this period.

Paleoindians were highly nomadic foragers in a late glacial/early modern environment. They hunted, fished and collected a variety of animal and plant foods. In the northern parts of the state, their annual migration route covered hundreds of miles. The most distinctive artifact is the fluted spear point. Scrapers were used for working hides and making wooden and bone tools.