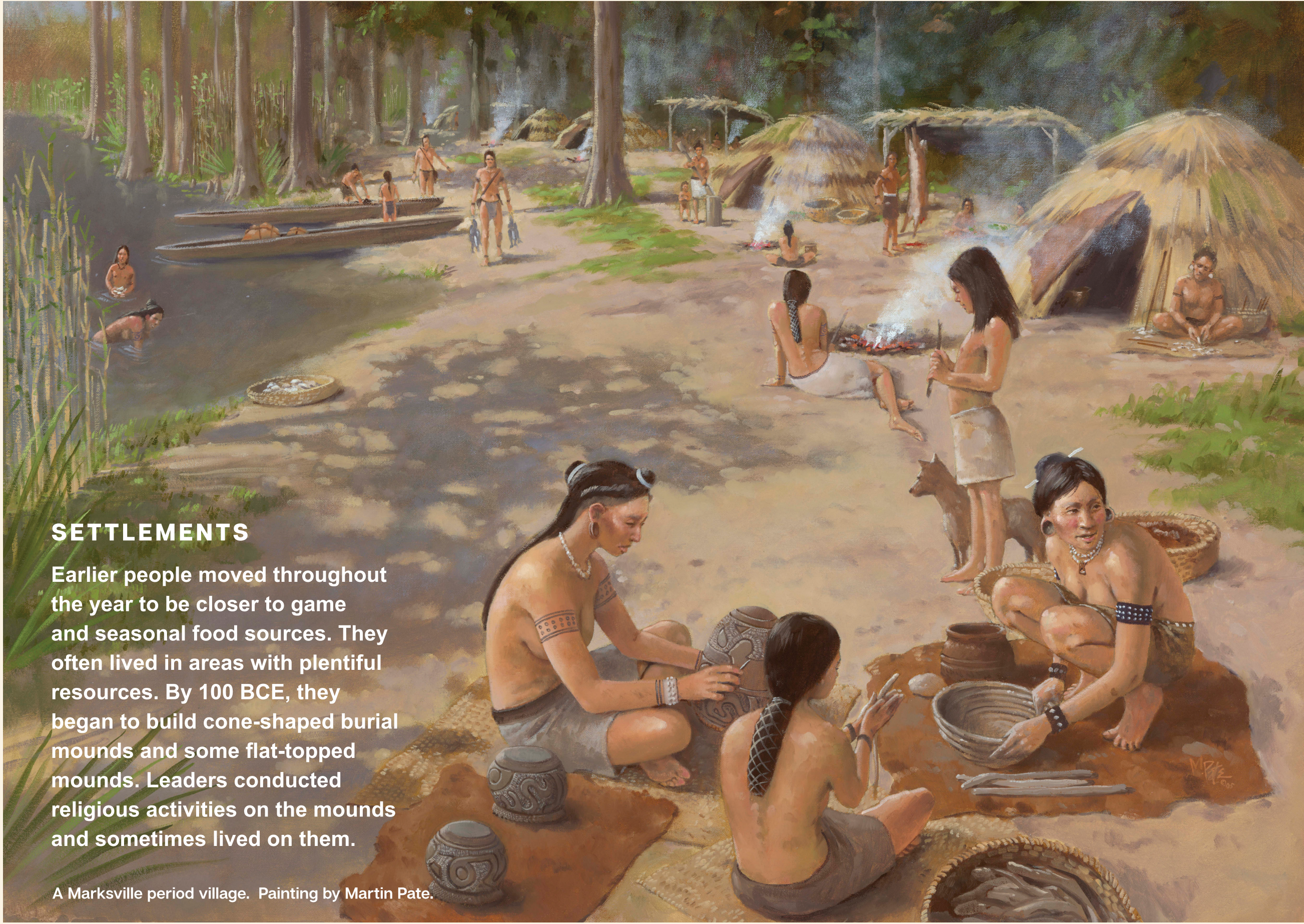
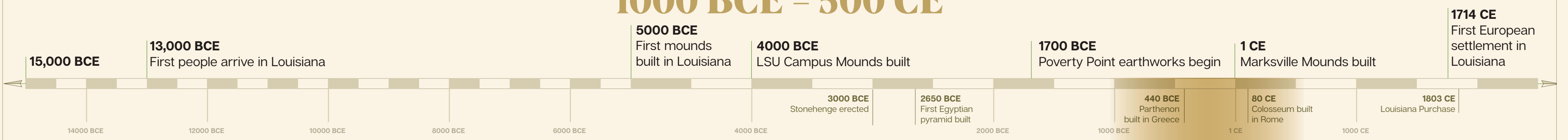


Louisiana Archaeology

1000 BCE – 500 CE

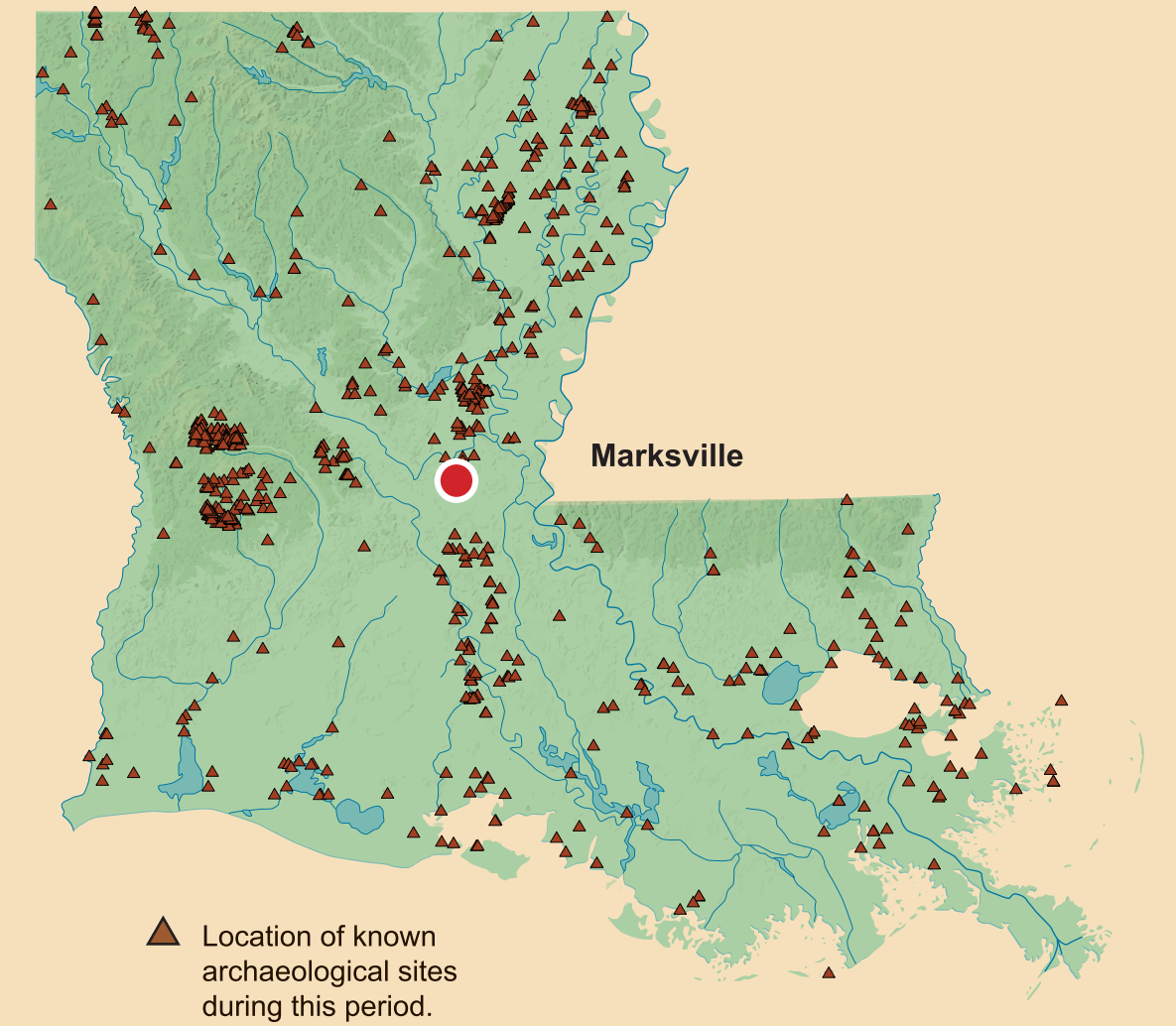


SETTLEMENTS

Earlier people moved throughout the year to be closer to game and seasonal food sources. They often lived in areas with plentiful resources. By 100 BCE, they began to build cone-shaped burial mounds and some flat-topped mounds. Leaders conducted religious activities on the mounds and sometimes lived on them.

A Marksville period village. Painting by Martin Pate.

Ceramic pottery containers became common household objects during this period. Native people also experimented with raising squash and gourds to eat and use. Mounds and pottery styles were similar to those found in the Hopewell culture, located near present-day Ohio.



▲ Location of known archaeological sites during this period.

ARTIFACTS



GARY POINT KENT POINT

BONE PROJECTILE POINTS

Stone dart points and other tools were similar to those their ancestors used. Hunters still used the atlatl to throw darts at animals. Native people crafted many tools like fishhooks and projectile points from bone.



BONE FISHHOOKS

By 500 BCE, Native people made many pottery containers for cooking, storing food, and other uses. At first, the pots were thick and broke easily. Later on, they made thinner, longer lasting pots. Some containers had detailed decorations drawn, punched, or carved with sticks. These designs were similar to those made in the Midwest.



DECORATED BOWL



DECORATED JAR



COOKING OR STORAGE JAR

People with special positions or roles often used jewelry and other items to show their high rank. From about 100 BCE to 300 CE, people in this region traded with the Hopewell culture of Ohio. The groups shared similar status symbols. In both areas, they buried these items with the dead. Some of the objects were beads, copper bracelets, animal tooth pendants, pottery pipes, and shells. They also used plant fibers to make cordage and textiles.



SMOKING PIPES



CORDAGE

MARKSVILLE SITE

The Marksville site is a National Historic Landmark in Avoyelles Parish. The C-shaped earthen ridge encloses six mounds and a 40-acre plaza. Built and used between 1 – 400 CE, it is one of the largest sites of this period in Louisiana.



Marksville Site, 1-400 CE, Avoyelles Parish. Painting by Martin Pate.

FOODS

Throughout this period, wild foods supplied the bulk of the Native people's diet. In coastal areas, they collected brackish water clams in large numbers. Fish, deer, muskrats, and turtles were important sources of meat. Families gathered and also ate wild grapes, wild plums, hickory nuts, acorns, persimmons, palmetto fruits, pigweed, and amaranth.



ATLATL HOOK



Hunting deer with an atlatl. Illustration by Paula McIver.



Artifact photographs courtesy of Earth-Search, Inc., Jenna Kuttruff, and R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates.