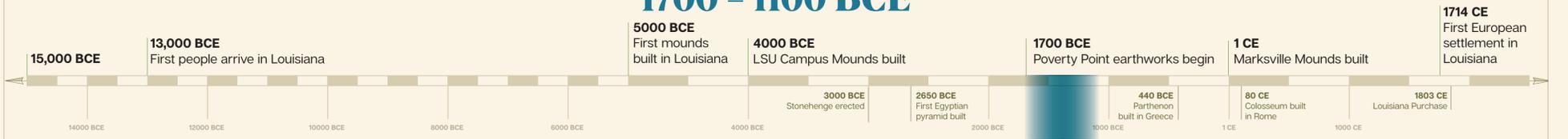
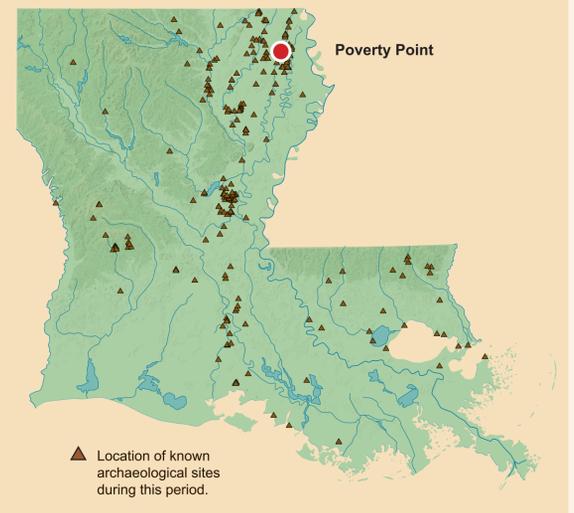


Louisiana Archaeology

1700 – 1100 BCE



Native peoples in eastern Louisiana built earthen mounds during this period. The Poverty Point site, built and occupied over 600 years, has the largest group of mounds and ridges for its age. People from nearby communities gathered at the site for special occasions.



ARTIFACTS



The people at Poverty Point added water to local soil to form objects of different shapes and sizes. With no local stone available for heating or cooking their food, they made cooking balls (called Poverty Point Objects) of many different shapes and baked them in fires. They also made ceramic human figurines.



Hunters attached stone projectile points to wooden or cane shafts and threw them with atlatls, or spear throwers. Weights attached to atlatls provided balance while throwing. Native people also produced thousands of small stone blades (called microliths) for cutting and shaping stone, bone, and wood. Other stone tools included knives, scrapers, drills, and hoes.

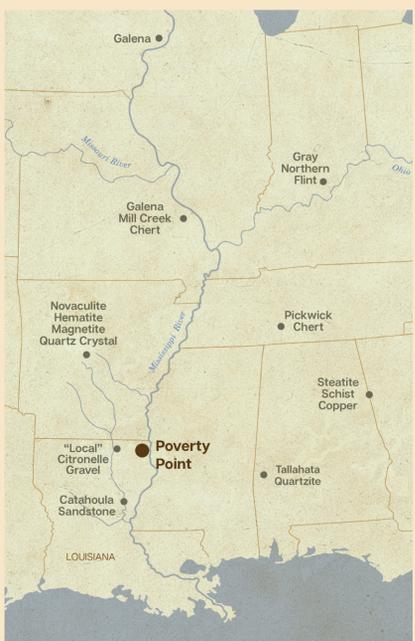


Stoneworkers chiseled steatite, also known as soapstone, into bowls. Artisans created beads, buttons, and pendants from a variety of materials. Native people shaped minerals like iron ore into plummets, which they may have used as weights on weaving looms and fishing nets.



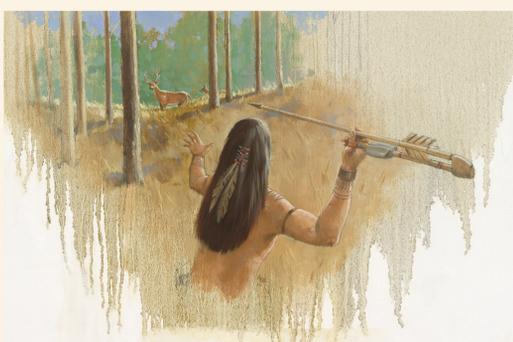
TRADE

Stone and minerals came from as far away as the Midwest and the Appalachian Mountains. Native people used these materials to make tools, beads, and other objects. Poverty Point's trade brought in about seventy tons of stone from other regions.



FOODS

Residents worked, cooked, and built small houses on the ridges at Poverty Point. They ate a wide range of animals and plants such as hickory nuts, persimmons, fish, deer, and turtles. To cook, they put heated cooking balls and food into pits dug in the ground, making earth ovens.



Artifact photographs courtesy of Diana Greenlee and Jenny Ellerbe.

