

# Louisiana Archaeology

500 – 1500 CE

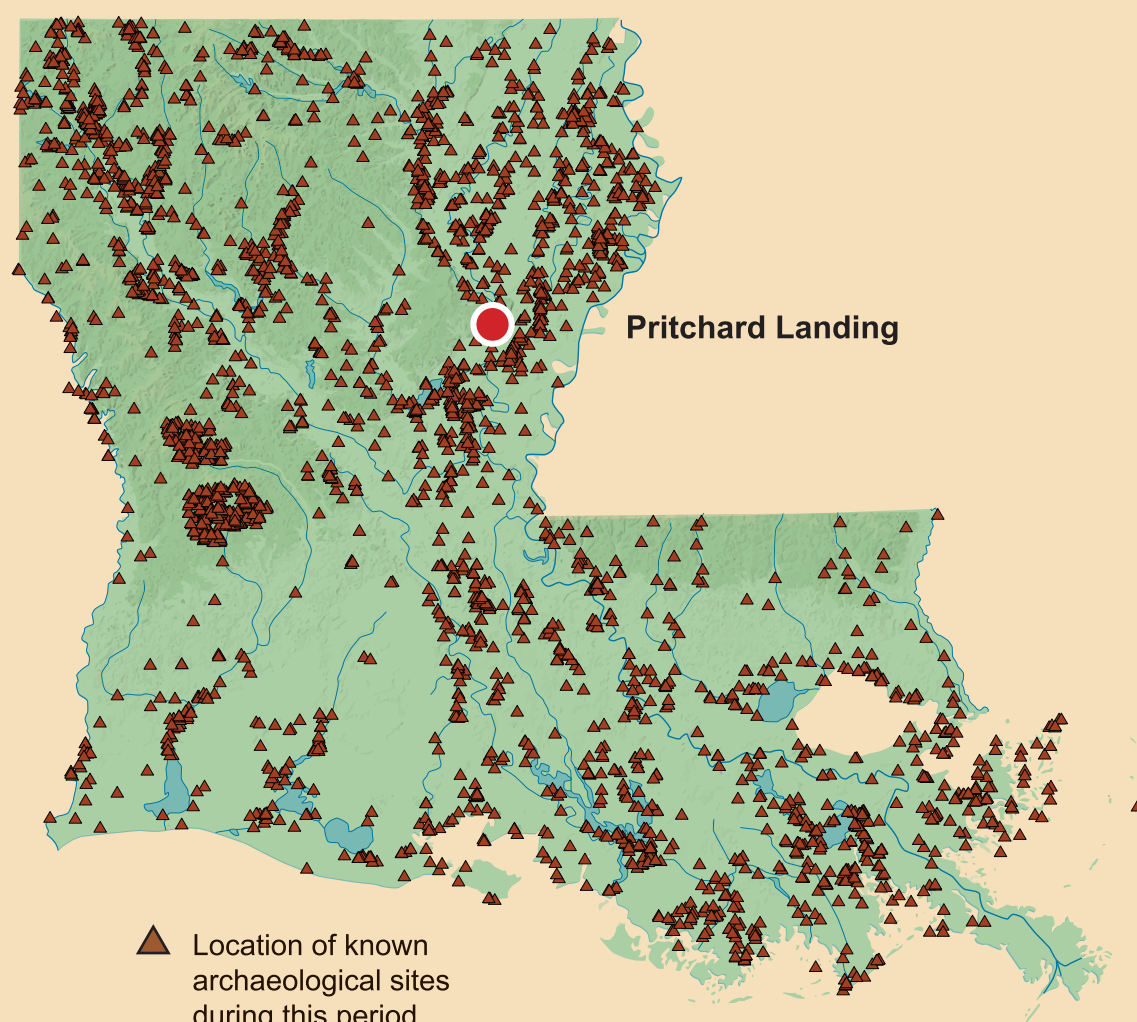


## SETTLEMENTS

Most families lived in their villages all year round. Often, a village consisted of groups of houses scattered along a river for a mile or more. Some villages had flat-topped mounds nearby where priests or rulers led ceremonies.

Pritchard Landing, 900-1050 CE, Catahoula Parish. Painting by Martin Pate, courtesy of National Park Service, Southeastern Archeological Center.

During this period, villages were larger than before and often near major rivers. Many Native people now settled into villages for long periods. They continued visiting and trading with each other while keeping their own languages and customs. This period ended when European explorers and settlers arrived in the area.



## ARTIFACTS

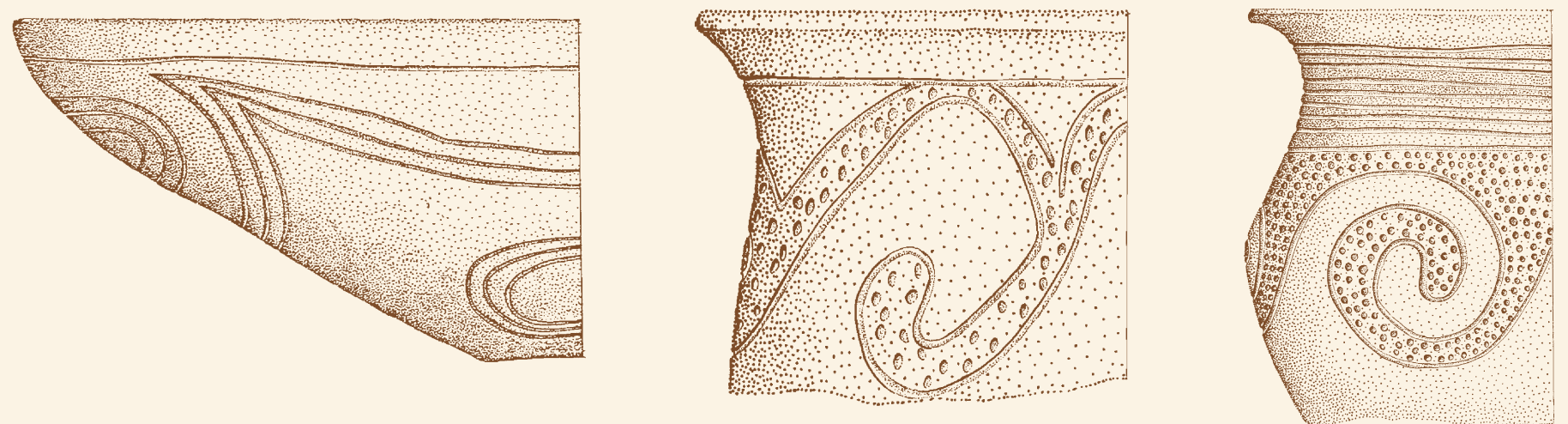


Some groups continued using the dart and atlatl, but most began using the bow and arrow. Native people made most arrow points from stone but they also used bone and garfish scales. Artisans continued making stone tools for cutting, scraping, perforating, chopping, and grinding. They also made wood, shell, and bone tools.



Hunting a deer with a bow and arrow. Painting by Margaret Humphris.

Native people continued making pottery in the shapes of jars, bowls, and bottles. These containers had designs drawn, brushed, stamped, or engraved in the clay with more detail than before. Potters living in different parts of the state made specific styles of pots. They also made tobacco pipes, ear spoons, and figurines of pottery.



Drawings of vessel decorations. Illustrations by Easty Lambert-Brown.

## FOODS

Some communities began raising garden plants such as corn, squash, and beans. Native people continued hunting, fishing, collecting shellfish, and gathering wild plant foods during this period.

Louisiana archaeologists find the first evidence for dugout canoes in this period, although Native people used canoes in earlier times. Made from a single log, usually cypress, each canoe sometimes took months to create. Canoes allowed people to travel by water to hunt, fish, trade, and visit other villages. Native people used various creeks, bayous, rivers, and other bodies of water as trails to connect lands and communities to each other.



Carving a dugout canoe. Painting by Margaret Humphris.



Artifact photographs courtesy of Jeff Girard, Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, and R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates.