



The Woodland People: 500 B.C - A.D 1000

The Woodland tradition is divided into Early, Middle, and Late time periods.

The Woodland tradition happened so long ago that little is known about the people themselves. Archaeologists do not know what they called themselves and identify the people by the practices and artifacts left behind.



Early Woodland (500-1000 B.C): Settlements were small and seasonal. There is evidence of interaction with other Midwest groups. Large burial mounds were constructed. Early Woodland sites are common in the Mississippi River Valley.

Middle Woodland (100 B.C-A.D. 300): These were the mound builders at Toolesboro National Historic Landmark.

Settlements were small and river-based containing gardens full squash, tobacco, and native grain crops.

The people created very technical artworks, a complex burial tradition, and traded extensively as part of the Hopewell Interaction Sphere.

Late Woodland (A.D 300 - A.D 1000): Settlements were larger and organized as populations increased.

Bow and arrow technology was introduced in the Midwest. Gardening practices continued to develop and the first traces of corn are found.

Mound construction was simpler with exceptions such as the animal shaped mounds built at Effigy Mounds in Northeast Iowa.

For more information: [*A Brief Cultural History of Iowa* by Shirley Schermer, William Green, and James Collins. 1995, University of Iowa](#)