

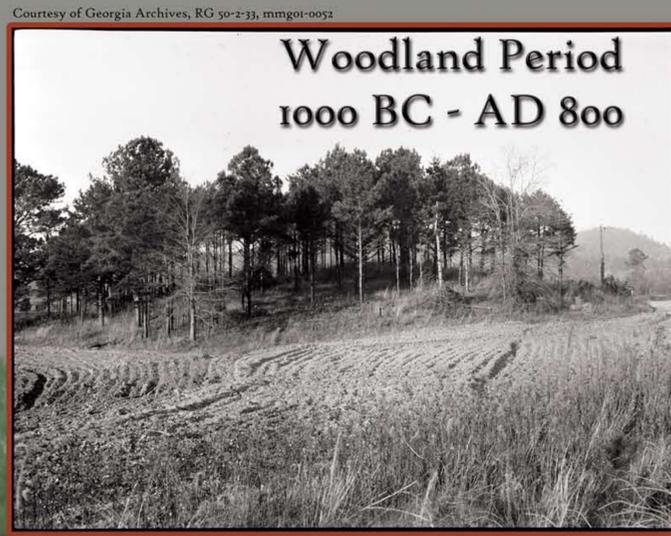
**NOT As Seen on TV**

MOVIES and TV might lead us to believe that all American Indians are the same, but they're not.

Did you know that today there are over 565 federally-recognized American Indian tribes throughout the country? Among these tribes you'll find a wide variety of histories, customs, and languages.

American Indian history goes back thousands of years and archaeologists divide it into periods or stages of cultural development. Each period has certain characteristics which have been identified for it and that separate one from another.

History is very fluid and most developments, like pottery and agriculture, have roots in previous periods that may go back hundreds or thousands of years. This panel begins with the Woodland Period which built on developments that occurred in the previous Paleoindian and Archaic Periods.



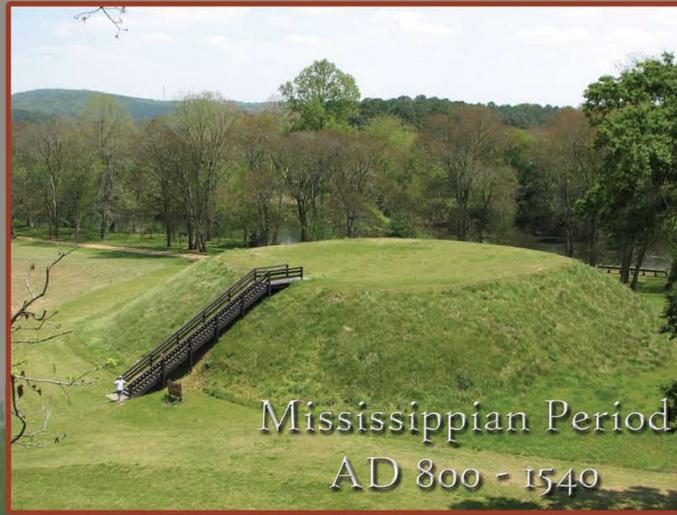
**Woodland Period**  
1000 BC - AD 800

Mound B - Leake Site, Cartersville, Georgia

It's called "Woodland" because... in the 1930s that was the term archaeologists used for sites in the Eastern Woodlands that fell between the Archaic and Mississippian periods.

Key Traits:

- horticulture (gardening)
- new and improved ways of making and decorating pottery
- widespread construction of stone and earthen mounds
- widespread interaction of people
- increased importance of rituals and ceremonies



**Mississippian Period**  
AD 800 - 1540

Mound B - Etowah Indian Mounds, Cartersville, Georgia

It's called "Mississippian" because... it was believed to have developed in the Mississippi River Valley.

Key Traits:

- increased reliance on agriculture
- establishment of larger and more permanent villages
- important people lived on and were buried in large mounds
- organization of people and villages into chiefdoms (The Etowah Indian Mounds was a center for a chiefdom)



**Contact Period**  
AD 1540 - 1840

Cherokee Council House - New Echota, Calhoun, Georgia

It's called "Contact" because... the period started when Europeans and American Indians first came into contact with each other.

Key Traits:

- social groups became smaller and more diverse (these groups would be called names we are familiar with, such as Creek and Cherokee)
- trade between American Indians and Europeans
- many American Indians died in battles with Europeans or of diseases brought by explorers and settlers
- American Indians were eventually forced from their homeland

Can you think of other problems that arose when these two different cultures met for the first time?

**Clash of the Cultures...**

GENDER ROLES

In Europe, men did most of the farming but in American Indian culture that was women's work (this made Europeans think that American Indian men were lazy because they didn't work in the fields and American Indians think that male colonists were doing women's work!)

LAND OWNERSHIP

Europeans strongly believed in owning land, while American Indians usually shared it. Problems arose when colonists thought they were buying land from American Indians and American Indians thought they were just sharing it.