

Factual Statements About the Woodland Period in Pennsylvania

Animals hunted were deer, bear, wild turkey and many small mammals such as squirrels, raccoon and groundhog.

Meat was boiled or roasted.

Meat was dried to preserve it for lean times.

Wild plants were collected and eaten.

The people moved frequently, setting up temporary camps where they lived while they hunted and gathered in the surrounding land.

During this period crop cultivation and farming began.

Crudely made ceramic vessels with thick walls were used for storing and cooking food. These vessels were heavy and easily broken.

These people moved around less than the people in the archaeological period preceding them- the Archaic Period.

The dead were buried in large mounds of earth built specifically for that purpose.

The people archaeologists call Adena lived during this time.

Archaeologists believe that the Adena practiced a religion based on ancestor worship.

People during this period were mostly hunters and gatherers too.

Ceramic vessels became better made with harder, thinner walls.

Burial mounds continued to be built, and were even larger than the Adena mounds.

The successors of the Adena are called Hopewell by the archaeologists.

The Hopewell placed elaborate and valuable grave goods with their dead.

The Hopewell traded and traveled over long distances to acquire the materials they needed to manufacture their elaborate grave goods.

At the end of this period, the Hopewell culture declined and people returned to a simpler way of life.

Native Americans began to grow crops of corn, beans and squash. With these new crops, people were able to grow more food.

Populations began to grow and groups began to live in one place for long periods of time.

Larger villages developed along rivers, on land favorable for farming.

With the bow and arrow, the people who lived during this time became more efficient hunters than their ancestors.

Oval houses, keyhole structures, longhouses and stockades were built.

After the Europeans came, Native American culture began to decline.