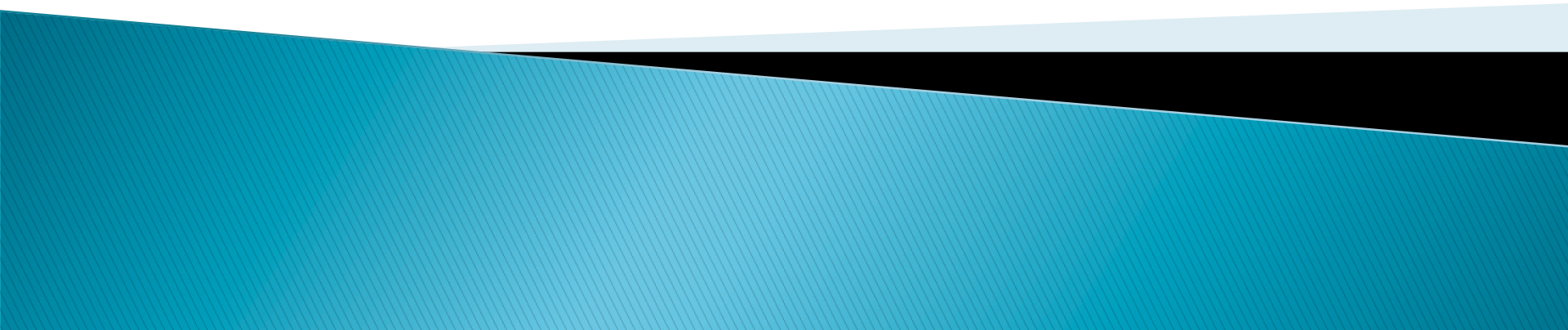


Aboriginal Peoples in the Lake Superior Basin

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Outline

- ▶ Before Human Settlement of Northern Ontario
 - Palaeo-Indian Period (11,000 to 7,000 BP)
- ▶ The Archaic Period (7,000 to 3,000 BP)
- ▶ Initial Woodland Period (3,000 to 1,000 BP)
- ▶ Terminal Woodland Period – Algonkian (approx. 1,000 years ago to European arrival)

Assigned Reading

<http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca/Resources/Publications/oa30-4-dawson.pdf>

<http://www.gedc.ca/upload/documents/the-archaeology-of-north-central-ontario--prehistoric-cultures-north-of-superior.pdf>

Suggested Reading

- ▶ Epp, Ernest and Matt Bray, eds. *A Vast and Magnificent Land: An Illustrated History of Northern Ontario*. Sudbury: Laurentian University and Lakehead University, 1984. (Reference doing the term)
- ▶ Bone, R.M. (2011). *The Regional Geography of Canada*, 5th Edition. Oxford University Press: Toronto (*Available in the LU Library and Bookstore*)
- ▶ Bone, R.M. (2003). *The Geography of the Canadian North*, 5th Edition. Oxford University Press: Toronto (especially pp. 44 to 60).

Dates of use and occupation – estimated by various methods:

- ▶ Comparison
- ▶ Stratigraphy
- ▶ Carbon 14 method of dating organic materials

Archaeologists can learn about the life of the people by the bones of animals or humans, with middens (mound or deposit containing shells, animal bones, and other refuse that indicates the site of a human settlement), pottery, tools, burial practices.

Ontario is typically divided into northern and southern regions: **Algonkian**–speaking people and their antecedents to the north and **Iroquoian**–speakers to the south

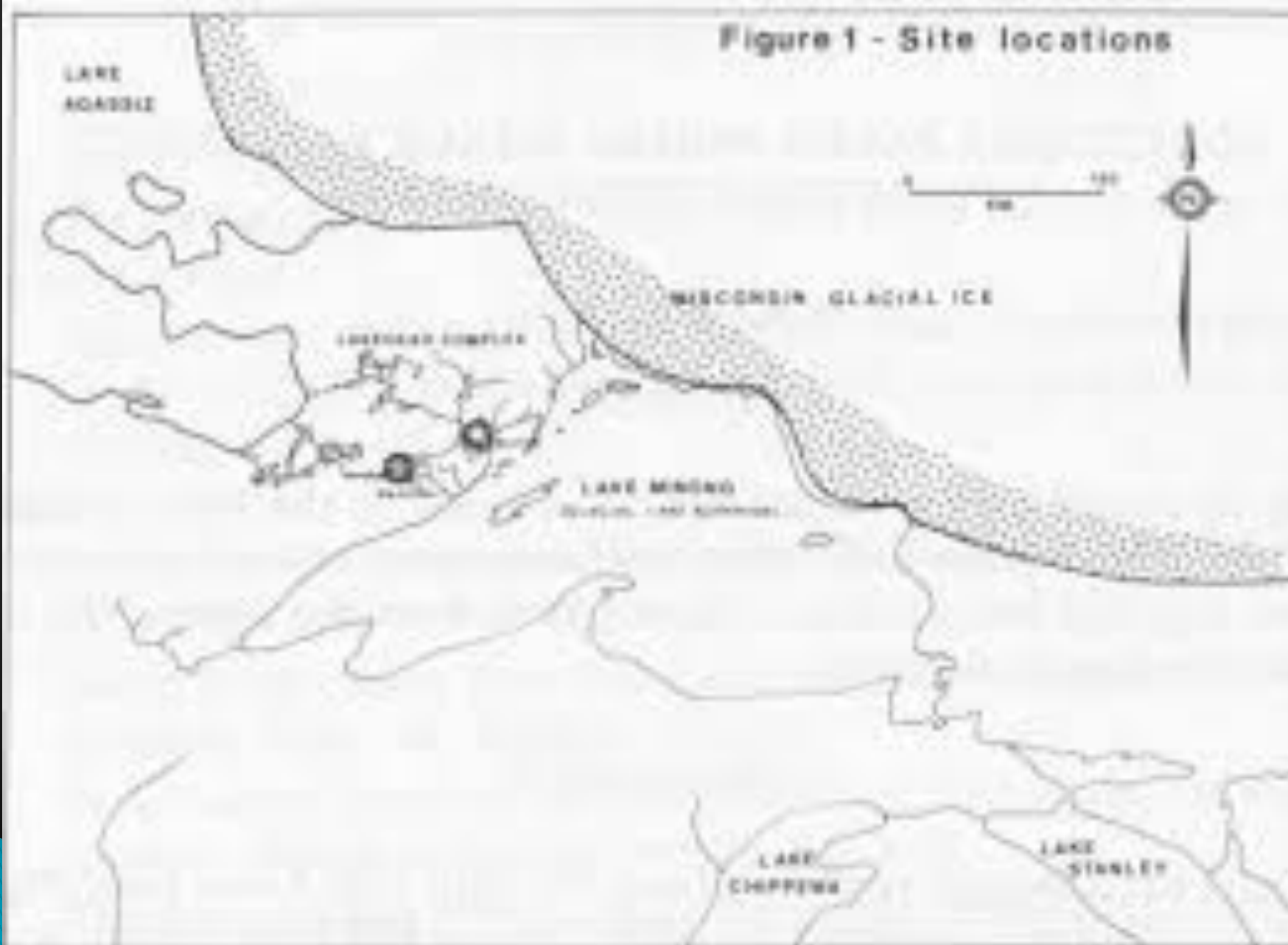
Palaeo-Indian Period (11,000 to 7,000 BP)

- ▶ Early Palaeo-Indian Site Location Characteristics
 - Found on, or close to relic shorelines of glacial lakes
 - good visibility
 - grazing for herbivorous mammals
 - often insect free
 - Fishing and wildfowling
 - Palaeo-Indian people likely used the lake for travel.

LAKEHEAD COMPLEX

- ▶ Abundance of easily accessible deposits for a variety of tools
- ▶ “Cummins Site”: cremation evidence
- ▶ Tool production consisted of the reduction of blocks.
- ▶ Many sites in and near Thunder Bay
- ▶ Thought unlikely these areas occupied on a year-round basis
- ▶ Little evidence of shelters or structures
- ▶ Bones returned a date of 8,530 BP.
(archaeologist Dr. J.V. Wright)

Figure 1 - Site locations



THE ARCHAIC PERIOD

(7,000 to 3,000 years ago)

- ▶ Burial practices

INITIAL WOODLAND PERIOD

(3,000 to 1,000 years ago)

- ▶ Pottery
 - ▶ Influence from the HOPEWELL culture to the south
 - ▶ Exotic burial furnishings
- 

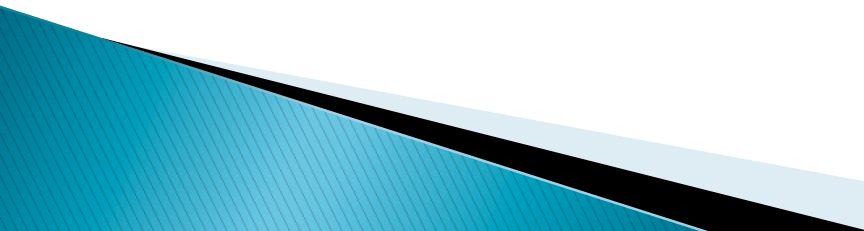
Cahokia Mounds

- ▶ 85 Native American earthworks
- ▶ East St. Louis
- ▶ The site was inhabited from around 700–1400 AD and at its peak covered more than 20 sq.km with 10–20 thousand people.



Terminal Woodland Period – Algonkian

(approximately 1,000 BP to Historic period)

- ▶ Algonkian-speaking people descendants of the Laurel culture people
 - ▶ ALGONKIN, OJIBWA and CREE
 - ▶ Related Algonkian languages: northern Saskatchewan to Labrador
 - ▶ mobility of small hunting bands
 - ▶ mobility of the women.
 - ▶ Pottery is known as Blackduck
 - ▶ Burial mounds, rock paintings have been found in all areas
 - ▶ Pukaskwa pits
- 

Pukaskwa pits





Terminology

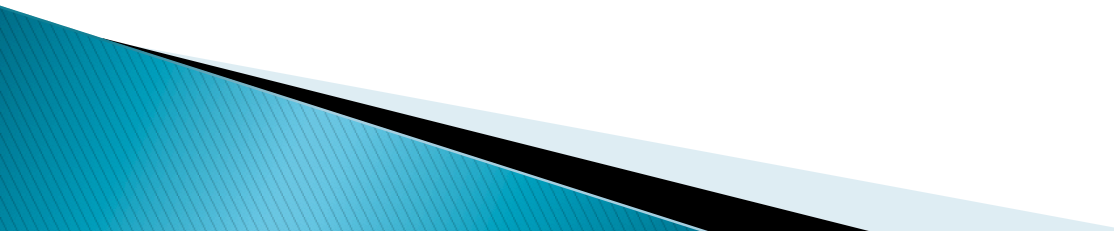
- ▶ “Aboriginal people”: Constitution Act, 1982, s. 35: Indians [First Nations, status & non-status], Inuit & Metis
- ▶ “Indigenous peoples”: internationally accepted; *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

Impacts



*“Felt most by those least
able to cope”* (Ban Ki Moon 2007)

Impacts in context

- ▶ Aboriginal people among most marginalized & impoverished—impacts magnified
 - ▶ Intimate connection with lands & resources—contribution to resilience through responsibility, knowledge & technology
 - ▶ Unique rights with constitutional protection—special effort to protect
- 

Historic treaties and modern day land claims

