From Detroit to Copper Harbor and back to Drummond Island, and from Ironwood to islands and waterways, archaeological sites reveal how people have lived in Michigan for nearly 14,000 years. Archaeology is the scientific study of the human past, using places and objects to understand changing people and environments. It is the study of sand dunes and forests, seas and shores, hardship and resourcefulness, ingenuity and innovation, and above all, communities. Across time and space, archaeology helps us understand the past, present and plan for a sustainable and vibrant future.

**Michigan Archaeology**

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**Office for Equal Opportunity**
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC  20240

All artifacts pictured are in the State Archaeological Collections unless otherwise indicated. Cover: Copper spear point, Houghton County, photograph courtesy of Bobbie Dalquist.

**Timeline:**
- Copper crescent knife and copper fish hook, Iron County and Fayette Historic Townsite respectively; Woodland pottery vessel sherds, Ottawa County; Fort Michilimackinac, Mackinaw City, photo courtesy of Mackinac State Historic Parks.

**Bottom:**
- (left) Fayette Historic Townsite; (right) Grecian, Lake Huron, photo courtesy Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary; (top) Archaeological investigation on state land, Cheboygan County; (bottom) Blue transfer print plate sherds, Warner Homestead, Livingston County, photo courtesy of Tim Bennett.
ARCHAEOLOGY REVEALS:

Outdoor skills
Patience & attention to detail
Critical thinking
Principles of anthropology,
Cultural diversity
Technological & artistic
Biological variation
Environmental stability & change

ARCHAEOLOGY GUIDES:

Public involvement where diverse backgrounds
Environmental studies for federal, tribal, state,
& local development
Tourism for museums, parks, & main streets
Trade & local development
Preservation Act & other laws that protect cultural resources
Local leaders desiring to strengthen a shared sense of community

ARCHAEOLOGY ATTRACTS:

Collaborates with federal, tribal, state and local agencies
Provides environmental review for federal projects
Accepts the allocation of reputable archaeological
Never discard a site or feature that is not yours
Excavation of historical sites is illegal except by a state archaeologist
Do not intentionally disturb human remains
Always seek permission of the owner of the property

ARCHAEOLOGY TEACHES:

Cultural diversity
Principles of anthropology,
History, geography, math,
Geology, biology, chemistry,
Outdoor skills

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERIODS:

PALEO-INDIAN PERIOD
14,000–10,000 years ago
Big Game Hunting

MIDDLE ARCHAIC PERIOD
10,000–8,000 years ago
Early Archaic
8,000–5,000 years ago
Late Archaic
5,000–2,500 years ago
Early Woodland
2,500–(About) 400 years ago (1620)
Middle Woodland
(About) 400 years ago (1620)–Present
Late Woodland

HISTORICAL PERIOD
1837–Present
Columbus sails
1492
Europeans arrive in Michigan
1620
Ford Motor Company
1903
Mackinac Bridge
1957

ARCHAEOLOGY HOW CAN YOU HELP:

Once removed from their original locations,
artifacts lose their first-look research value.
Artifacts on federal or state land belong to the public
It is illegal to intentionally disturb human remains
Do not metal detect on state and federal land

Learn more about archaeology by visiting a
museum or nature center and participating in
tours of archaeology sites.