MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGY

From Detroit to Copper Harbor and Ironwood to Drummond Island, 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 cities, hardship and resourcefulness, ingenuity and innovation, and above all, communities. Across time and space, archaeology helps us know the past, understand the present and plan for a sustainable and vibrant future.

State Historic Preservation Office
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
735 East Michigan Avenue
P.O. Box 30044
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-373-1630
www.michigan.gov/archaeology

MSHDA
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MICHIGAN SHPO
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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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, photographed 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.

MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGY

PALEO-INDIAN PERIOD 14,000–10,000 years ago

- Big Game Hunting

ARCHAIC PERIOD 10,000–2,500 years ago

- Early Archaic *10,000–8,000 years ago* — Pine Forests After Glaciers
- Middle Archaic *8,000–5,000 years ago* — Living in a Changing Environment
- Late Archaic *5,000–2,500 years ago* — Copper Artifacts

WOODLAND PERIOD 2500–(About) 400 years ago (1620)

- Early Woodland *2,500–2,000 years ago* — Pottery
- Middle Woodland *2,000–1,400 years ago* — Hopewell influence from what is now Ohio
- Late Woodland *1,400 years ago–(About) 1620* — Bow and Arrow

HISTORICAL PERIOD (About) 1620–Present

- Columbus sails *1492*
- Europeans arrive in Michigan *1620*
- Fort Michilimackinac built *1715*
- Declaration of Independence *1776*
- Michigan becomes a state *1837*
- Ford Motor Company *1903*
- Mackinac Bridge *1957*
- The Internet *1990s*

ARCHAEOLOGY

TEACHES

- Cultural diversity
- Principles of anthropology, history, geography, math, geology, biology, chemistry, physics & language
- Critical thinking
- Patience & attention to detail
- Outdoor skills

Research in our state contributes to a constantly growing body of information available in a variety of sources—from popular media to textbooks—changing and expanding our shared knowledge of Great Lakes history. Investigations are conducted in Michigan every summer. Field schools teach basic scientific techniques, while others allow the public a first-hand look at archaeologists at work. The public often contributes to these investigations by sharing a broad range of local knowledge and skills. Archaeology is a collaborative practice that relies on the expertise and participation of many people from many different backgrounds.

REVEALS

- Dynamic social relationships
- Environmental stability & change
- Biological variation
- Technological & artistic transformations
- Our shared curiosity

Michigan Archaeology Day draws people of all ages to the Michigan History Center to experience special exhibits, demonstrations, hands-on activities, lectures and family fun. Learn how this unique science can make you think about the world—and maybe even yourself—a little differently. To learn more about Michigan Archaeology Day, visit michigan.gov/archaeology or michigan.gov/museum.

GUIDES

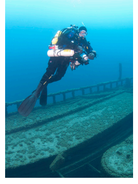
- Planning efforts
- Construction to assess possible impacts on significant sites
- Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act & other laws that protect cultural resources
- Environmental studies for federal, tribal, state, & local development

ATTRACTS

- Public involvement where diverse backgrounds are respected & valued
- Tourism for museums, parks, & main streets through the interpretation of local history
- Local leaders desiring to strengthen a shared sense of community

IS FOR EVERYONE

Archaeology is much more than just digging—it is cooperative research, analysis, reporting, curation, stewardship, education and public outreach. Support Michigan archaeology by respecting sites on public land, being good stewards of sites on your property, volunteering and learning more.



THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

- Maintains a record of archaeological sites in Michigan that includes more than 23,000 land sites and 1,500 shipwrecks
- Protects archaeological sites on state-owned lands and bottomlands and issues research permits
- Provides environmental review for federal projects
- Collaborates with federal, tribal, state and local agencies and organizations
- Curates artifact collections that are available for research and exhibition
- Accepts the donation of reputable archaeological collections
- Maintains a library of professional reports to assist researchers and planners
- Nominates significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places
- Conducts educational programming in collaboration with the Michigan History Center
- Provides volunteer opportunities for students and the public

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Once removed from their original locations, artifacts will lose their research value unless the removal is properly documented. Contact the State Archaeologist if you think you have discovered an archaeological site.
- Maintain good records for any artifacts you find, including a map of their original location and notes on how they were discovered.
- We cannot protect or learn from sites that we do not know exist; we accept site reports from everyone. Please report a potential site at michigan.gov/archaeology.
- Artifacts are the property of the landowner; you must have permission to remove artifacts from private land.
- Artifacts on federal or state land belong to all of our citizens, and it is illegal to disturb them. Leave them in place and report them to the land manager.
- Do not metal detect on state and federal land unless you know the regulations.
- Temporarily disable the automatic geotagging feature on your cell phone and other handheld photographic devices. Do not disclose the locations of otherwise unmarked archaeological and burial sites by geocaching on them or sharing geotagged photographs.
- It is illegal to intentionally disturb human remains and associated artifacts. If you accidentally discover human remains, immediately stop any activities in the area and contact the police and the State Archaeologist. Respect the dignity of burial sites by protecting and reporting them. Do not disturb them.
- Learn more about archaeology by visiting universities, local museums and nature centers and by attending Tribal cultural programs.