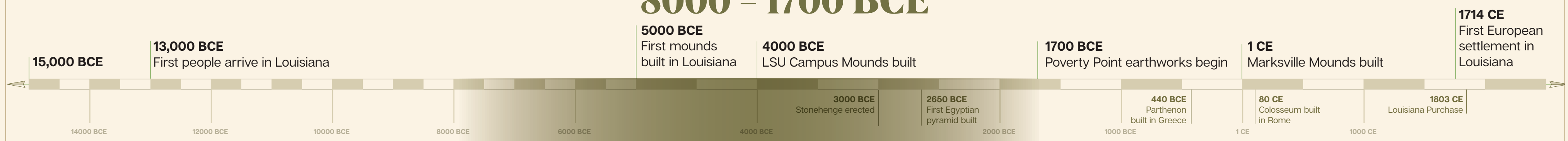


Louisiana Archaeology

8000 – 1700 BCE



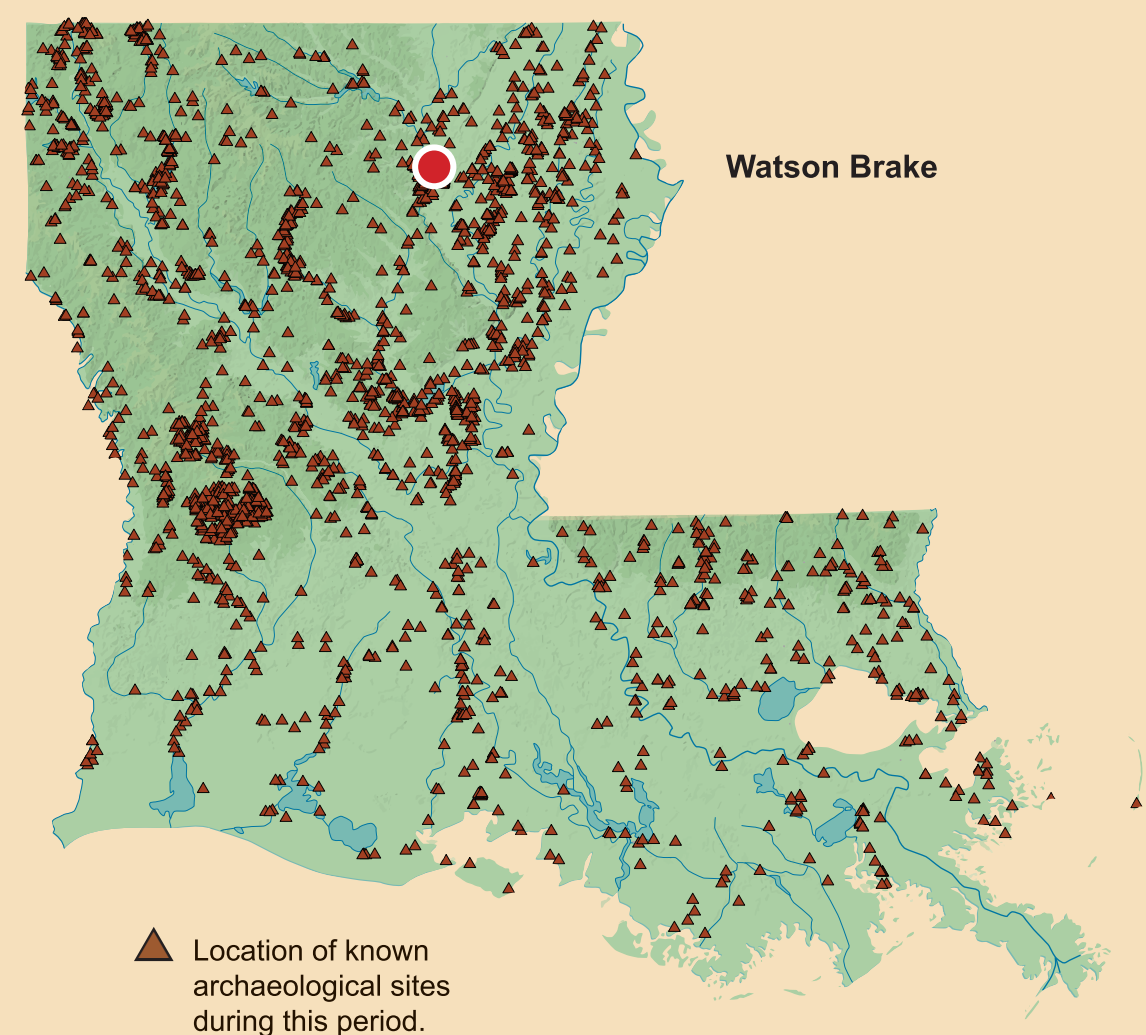
Watson Brake, 3500-2800 BCE, Ouachita Parish. Painting by Steven Patricia.

SETTLEMENTS

Several households lived together in a group. They moved from time to time, but they stayed longer in one place than people did in the past. They sometimes built structures with walls made of posts standing upright in the

ground. Branches, hides, or thatch covered the walls and roofs. They used these buildings as houses or for special ceremonies. Sometimes they built a mound in an area where a building once stood.

As early as 5000 BCE, Native people built earthen mounds throughout the eastern part of Louisiana. Usually, these mounds were in small groups and had rounded tops. In northeastern Louisiana, however, they built a group of 11 mounds connected by eight ridges, forming an oval nearly 1,000 feet across.



ARTIFACTS



CLAY BLOCKS

Native people made fired clay objects, many shaped like blocks. They used these blocks for cooking and for heating stone to make it easier to shape or carve. Artisans also carved beads from stone. Some were tube-shaped, others in the form of animals like frogs and locusts.



BEADS

Hunters made many different styles of stone points. These points fit on the ends of cane or wood darts, which they hurled with spear throwers, called atlatls.



EVANS POINTS



BULVERDE POINT

CARROLLTON POINT

ELLIS POINT

MACON POINT



GROUND STONE AXES

Native people used stones for cracking and grinding nuts and seeds. They made smooth, ground stone axes and other tools. Some tools they made from different materials, such as bone.



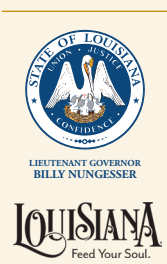
BONE TOOLS

FOODS

Families hunted and gathered a wide variety of wild foods including acorns, hickory nuts, pecans, walnuts, sunflower seeds, muscadines, persimmons, wild grass seeds, huckleberries, and elderberries. They caught drum, white perch, gar, catfish, bass, turtles, snakes, freshwater mussels, and aquatic snails for food. Hunters sought ducks, geese, squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, rodents, and deer. To cook their food, they heated stones or used fired clay blocks.



5000 BCE village and landscape. Painting by Herb Roe.



Artifact photographs courtesy of Dennis Jones, Jeff Girard, and R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates.