

Paleo Indians and Archaic People

Paleo Indians and Archaic people had some similarities, but also many differences. They both lived on the same land. However, the Paleo Indians lived at a time when the Earth's climate was much colder. Ice and snow gave way to lush grasslands where large animals such as mammoths provided food for the Paleo natives. Paleo people used hand-held sticks and spears to hunt large animals, while the Archaic people developed the atlatl to enable them to throw spears from a longer distance.

In contrast to the Paleo Indians,, the Archaic people enjoyed a warmer climate, and the environment was much as it is today. While both groups were hunter-gatherers who followed their prey from place to place, the Archaic people returned to the same campsites each year. Both groups gathered seeds, berries, roots, and leaves, but the Archaic people also fished, ground flour, and developed hooks, nets, traps, baskets, and canoes. The later Archaic people even began simple farming, unlike the earlier Paleo Indians. It is interesting to see how two such similar groups of people could also be so different.