

## Glossary of Archaeological Terminology

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Underlined words within definitions are defined elsewhere in the glossary.

### A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

**Abrader** – see grinding stone.<sup>1,5</sup>

**A.D.** – abbreviation of the Latin *anno Domini* meaning in the year of our Lord. When used as a prefix or suffix to a date, it indicates the number of years elapsed since the supposed date of the birth of Christ.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Adze** – an axe-like heavy shaving tool (usually for woodworking) with an asymmetric working edge (bit) hafted for use so that the long axis of the working edge is at right angles to the working direction; the more gradually sloped surface of the asymmetric working edge is the one that comes in contact with the worked material and this more gradual slope better allows the working edge to enter the worked material at a more acute angle and so to slice off a thin sliver of material.<sup>2,6</sup>

**Anvil** - a block of stone or metal upon which other materials are shaped or worked through striking.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Archaeological record** - the sum of all evidence concerning past events and peoples.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Archaeology** – the study of the human past through the material remains left behind by past human behaviour.<sup>2,6</sup>

**Archaic** - a term variously used to denote a stage of cultural development or a specific period in prehistory characterized by a particular way of life and/or the nature of the tool-kit employed. In Manitoba, the term is most commonly used in reference to a period (ca. 5000 B.C. to the time of Christ) in the prehistory of the forested portion of the province subsequent to the Palaeo-Indian and prior to the Woodland. By definition, Archaic assemblages do not include ceramics -- the latter constituting the major technological marker of the Woodland Period. By the end of the Archaic Period, the atlatl has largely replaced the spear as a hunting implement, but the bow has not yet been introduced; human groups remain mobile, but only seasonally so, operating within more restricted geographic areas; and plant foods have come to play a more important role in subsistence.<sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Artifact** – any object manufactured by a human being through the application of technology and skill to a raw material. Some archaeologists restrict the term to an actual tool or implement, and exclude waste products such as shavings and scraps that were produced while the object was

being made. Others would consider these residues as artifacts as well, because they were produced by a human being while working according to a particular plan. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Arris** – the ridge formed on the dorsal surface of lithic material due to the intersection of two or more flake scars, or sometimes the intersection between a flake scar(s) and the original dorsal cortex; often specifically used to designate the one or two main ridges that go from the proximal to the distal end of a flake or blade approximately along the flake/blade midline. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Atlatl** – a throwing board for dart weapons. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Avonlea** – a term applied to a projectile point style and the phase with which it is associated in early Late Prehistoric plains prehistory. As defined by Kehoe (1973), the Avonlea point is small and well-made with V- or U-shaped side-notches above a generally concave base and small ears. In some cases, Avonlea points may be easily confused with some of the other small side-notched points of this period. Other Avonlea Phase artifacts include lithic scrapers, bifaces, choppers and ceramic vessels. Avonlea is represented at a number of sites in southwestern Manitoba where these people pursued a way of life focusing on communal hunting of bison. The occupation of the province by Avonlea people is estimated to have occurred between approximately A.D. 400 and 700. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Awl** – a pointed hand tool, frequently of bone, used for punching holes in leather. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Axe** – a heavy chopping implement with a symmetric working edge (bit) that is hafted in a handle so that the long axis of the working edge is parallel to the working direction (see also adze); used primarily to chop through large wooden objects, such as trees. <sup>2,6</sup>

**B.P.** - abbreviation for Before Present. When used as a suffix to a date, it indicates the number of years prior to A.D. 1950 that an event occurred. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Basal notching** - in projectile points, a deep often shallow indentation into the base; narrower and often more pronounced than a basal concavity. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Basalt** – a fine-grained, black, brown, grey or green rock consisting of feldspar, olivine, hornblende and augite. Often used for the manufacture of ground stone tools and ornaments. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Bead** – a small disc-shaped, spherical, or tubular artifact of bone, shell or glass which has been perforated such that it may be strung on a necklace. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Beamer** - a tool fashioned of wood or the long bone of a large animal. It consists of a sharpened edge which runs nearly along the full length of the tool. The ends serve as handles by means of which it is drawn towards the user. It is used in the treatment of hides. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Besant** - a valley in southern Saskatchewan which has given its name to a projectile point style and the Late Prehistoric Period phase, horizon or culture within which it occurs. The side-notched points generally have convex edges, sharp shoulders and straight bases. The latter are often thinned and ground and maximum width tends to occur at the shoulder or base. Length ranges from approximately 15 to 80 mm. The remainder of the artifact complex consists of drills, perforators, gravers, scrapers, spokeshaves, mauls and abraders. Besant peoples pursued a

way of life focusing the communal hunting of bison by means of (bison) jumps and (bison) pounds throughout most of the northern plains. Their diet was supplemented by fishing, fowling and the collection of shellfish. Many other aspects of the Besant Phase are controversial. Chief among these are whether or not Besant peoples made pottery and the nature of the relationship between Besant and the burial mounds of the Sonota Complex along the Missouri River in northern South Dakota. Although Besant is here classed as Late Prehistoric, the bow (one of the defining traits of this period) was not in use in the earlier portions of this phase. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Biface** – a flat stone artifact that shows evidence of having been worked on both surfaces (bi=two; face=surface) to give it a desired form and sharpness. Projectile points and knives are the most common forms of biface tools found in Manitoba. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Bison corral** – see bison pound.

**Bison jump** – a site at which bison have been killed by being stampeded over a cliff. This ancient communal hunting technique was occasionally used in conjunction with a bison pound. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Bison pound** – a physiographic feature or a specially constructed enclosure into which bison were driven to be slaughtered. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Blackduck** – the name of a lake in Minnesota which has lent its name to a distinctive Late Woodland ware as well as to the focus, phase, tradition, culture or horizon within which it occurs. The pots are round-based with constricted necks and flattened and thickened lips. Decoration occurs on the neck and rim, on the lip, and occasionally on the inner rim. The most common decorative elements are horizontal and oblique cord-wrapped stick impressions and exterior punctuates. Method of manufacture was either by the paddle-and-anvil technique, or involved formation inside of a fabric container. As a consequence the undecorated portions of the vessels are either cord-impressed or fabric-impressed. Associated artifacts and features may include small triangular and side-notched projectile points, a variety of stone and bone hide-scraping tools, ovate knives, stone drills, smoking pipes, bone awls, needles, harpoons and spatulas, bear and beaver tooth ornaments and tools, small copper tools and ornaments and mound burials. Blackduck peoples were widely distributed from the shores of Lake Superior to the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border, and from central Manitoba in the north to central Minnesota in the south. The locations of these sites and the nature of the material remains within them indicate that these people exploited a variety of forest resources, possibly including wild rice as well as the resources of the grasslands – most notably bison. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Blade** – a flake that is at least twice as long as it is wide with a length greater than 5 cm; it is often also specifically defined as having relatively parallel lateral edges and being produced from a specialized core; it is generally quite thin compared to its overall size. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Blank** – a useable but unmodified piece of lithic raw material, or a similarly unmodified flake or piece of shatter. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Bone** – the hard tissue, composed of both organic and inorganic materials, which makes up the skeletons of adult vertebrates. Because of their density, bones may survive in the archaeological record long after the decomposition of the soft tissue. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Borden Designation** – the standard archaeological site designation system in Canada. The label consists of four letters (alternating upper and lower case) followed by a number, e.g. EaKv-1. The alphabetic prefix refers to a block of 10 minutes by 10 minutes within a grid system which covers all of Canada south of 62 N latitude. The numerical suffix indicates that this is the first site within this block to be designated. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Boreal Plains** – a terrestrial ecozone made up of parkland that forms a transition zone between the prairie grasslands and the boreal forest. The ecozone's relief varies from flat to gently rolling plains. <sup>4</sup>

**Boss** – a small mound-shaped node or protuberance. When used as a decorative element on pottery, they may be produced either by the impressing of a deep punctate on the opposite surface, or by the application and smoothing of small amounts of clay. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Bow** - a weapon consisting of a staff of elastic material such as wood, which is bent by a shorter piece of twine attached to each end. The tension thus imparted to the string is utilized to propel an arrow. In Manitoba, the bow came to be used during the Woodland or Late Prehistoric Period. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Bulb of percussion** – the cone-shaped bulge on the ventral surface of a flake just distal to the striking platform, resulting from Hertzian fracture. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Burial mound** – a raised mass of earth of debris within or below which deceased individuals are placed. In Manitoba, mounds are associated with Woodland peoples. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Burin** – a fine chisel tool similar to a graver, but specifically produced by a flake detachment at right angles to the piece's long axis and then a second detachment (burin spall) at an angle to that first detachment to produce a fine, sharp chisel implement. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Ca.** – abbreviation for *circa*, Latin for “around”.

**Celt** – an ungrooved axe of metal or polished stone. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Ceramic** – of or pertaining to pottery; a hard material made by drying and baking clay or some similar substance. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Chalcedony** – as chert, but with a radiating, fibrous texture or structure. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Chert** – any sedimentary mineral composed of microcrystalline (microscopic crystals) quartz (see also flint, chalcedony). <sup>2,6</sup>

**Chopper** – a heavy, relatively thick edged, minimally worked tool presumed to have been used in various heavy chopping and cutting tasks; sometimes a distinction is made between a unifacial tool (a chopper), and a bifacial tool (a chopping tool). <sup>2,6</sup>

**Clearwater Lake** – a lake approximately 17 km north of The Pas, Manitoba which has given its name to a distinctive Late Woodland pottery type as well as to the complex and phase within which it occurs. The pots are round based with constricted necks and generally outflaring rims. Exterior surfaces are fabric-impressed and exterior decoration is usually restricted to a single row of punctates which produce interior bosses. Lips are generally flattened and decorated in a great variety of ways. Associated tools include side-notched and triangular projectile points, scrapers, bifaces, gravers, celts, netsinkers, slate grinding stones, split bone awls, long bone flakers, bone spatulas, bird bone tubes, bone beads, shaft straighteners and red ochre (Meyer 1978). Believed by many to be the handiwork of the prehistoric and protohistoric Cree, the Clearwater Lake Complex is widely distributed throughout the Boreal Forest of central Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northwestern Ontario. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Cobble** - a medium-sized stone (larger than a pebble but smaller than a fieldstone) which has been rounded and occasionally polished by erosion. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Complex** – a grouping of related and/or associated traits, features and artifacts which comprise a complete process, activity or cultural unit. Thus the Laurel Complex consists of the sum total of all evidence in the archaeological record which pertains to Laurel peoples; whereas the Laurel burial complex would only include Laurel burial mounds, grave goods, burial style, etc. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Concave** – incurvate, as the interior surface of a sphere. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Conoidal** – literally, “cone-like”. The term is most commonly used to describe the shape of ceramic vessels with pointed bases and straight profiles to the shoulder. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Convex** – bulging outwards; excurvate as in the case of the exterior surface of a sphere. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Cord-impressed** (also cord-marked, cord-roughened) - the impressing, marking or roughening of the surface of a ceramic vessel while the clay is still wet as a means of decorating or shaping the pot. The cord of either vegetal or animal fibre may be used as is or wrapped around a stick or paddle (see paddle-and-anvil technique). In Manitoba, these techniques are most common within the Late Woodland Period. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Cord-wrapped stick impression** – a decorative element found on ceramic vessels, created by pressing a stick wrapped with cord made of animal or vegetal matter into the clay before firing.

**Core** – any piece of lithic material from which another piece of lithic material has been detached for the purpose of use as a tool or to manufacture into a tool. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Corner-notching** - in projectile points, an indentation at the junction of the base and blade edge. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Cortex** – the naturally altered or weathered (mechanically or chemically) outer surface of lithic material; may be more narrowly used to designate an altered outer surface that forms at the time of the formation of the lithic material (see also patina). <sup>2,6</sup>

**Cultural tradition** – a distinctive and well-established way of life, expressed by several closely related cultures sharing a common heritage, that has been in existence for a long period of time. 3,7

**Culture (1)** – the artifacts, behaviours and beliefs possessed by a particular people. 1,5

**Culture (2)** – our non-biological, non-“instinctual” means of adaptation; the shared pattern of ideas, beliefs and knowledge which form the basis for social interaction and which are learned by each generation. 1,5

**Dart** - a (usually) large, arrow-like projectile propelled by either an atlatl or a blowgun. 1,5

**Debitage** – the discarded garbage or debris resulting from the manufacture of lithic tools. 2,6

**Dentate** – a form of pottery decoration produced by impressing a toothed object of (usually) bone, wood or stone into the wet clay thus creating rows of small, square depressions. In Manitoba, dentates occur most frequently on vessels of the Laurel Ware. 1,5

**Distal (1)** – the end of a bone furthest from the mid-line of the body when the individual assumes a normal standing posture. 1,5

**Distal (2)** – the end of an artifact furthest from the user or observer. 1,5

**Distal (3)** – the end of the flake where it terminates, where the flake finally detaches from the core or tool; the end opposite the proximal end and the striking platform. 2,6

**Dorsal** – of or pertaining to the back or spinal part of the body. 1,5

**Dorsal surface** – the surface on a piece of lithic material that is created by the removal of other pieces of lithic material (usually flakes) from that surface; characterized by negative flake scars and commonly a ridge (arris) or ridges where flake scars intersect (see also ventral surface). 2,6

**Dragged stamp** – a kind of pottery decoration found on some Laurel vessels produced by dragging a toothed (dentating) instrument across the wet clay, often in a zigzag fashion. The dragged stamp method is also known as push-pull. 1,5

**Drill** – a perforating tool used in a rotary motion, generally rotated at a high speed, to create a hole in the worked material. 2,6

**Duck Bay** – a bay on the west shore of Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba, which has lent its name to a distinctive ceramic ware. Vessels are globular in shape with sharply angled necks and shoulders. Surfaces are fabric-impressed or roughened and decoration consists of rows of punctates (Duck Bay Punctate type) or varying combinations of interior notches, punctates and cord-wrapped stick impressions on and near the lip (Duck Bay Decorated Lip type). This Late Woodland ware appears most frequently in the Manitoba Lowlands (Snortlund-Coles 1979). 1,5

**Eared** – as used in the description of projectile points the ear-shaped or “tab-like” projections at the basal corners produced by the combination of a concave base and deep, wide side-notches. 1,5

**Earthenware** – a type of pottery made from common clay and fired at a temperature of less than 1000°C. The resulting vessel is soft and porous and requires a glaze to render it waterproof. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Ecofact** – an object or substance found in a site which is of natural origin but which nonetheless provides information pertinent to archaeology. Examples might include fauna, flora, pollen and soil. <sup>1,5</sup>

**End scraper** – a scraper with the working edge on the proximal or distal end of the flake it was produced on, or sometimes just that the working edge is on a short edge of the lithic piece (see also scraper and side scraper). <sup>2,6</sup>

**Fabric-impressed** – a term used to describe the surface finish of many of the Late Woodland pottery types of Manitoba. Under ideal conditions, it is possible to see the individual woven strands of the fabric which was wrapped around the paddle (see paddle-and-anvil method) or which comprised the mould within which the pot was formed. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Fauna** – the animal life of a certain place and/or time as opposed to plant life (flora). <sup>1,5</sup>

**Faunal remains** – the (usually) hard tissues of birds, fish and animals which survive in the archaeological record. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Feature** – something distinctive encountered on the ground surface or during the course of excavations which is not artifactual in the usual sense. Its significance may lie not in the object of objects which constitute the feature, but rather in the relationship of the objects to each other. Thus, while a cobble, fleck of ash or fragment of burned bone would mean little if found in isolation, a concentration of bone and ash surrounded by a circle of cobbles would suggest a cooking area, and this patterning would constitute the feature. Other examples of features could include post moulds, storage pits, a garbage dump, a cache of tools, a flint knapping (see flaking) area, a collapsed dwelling or a burial. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Feldspar** – a group of rock-forming minerals all of which consist of aluminum silicates and which may contain potassium, sodium, calcium or barium. Feldspars are the chief elements of igneous rock. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Fired** – hardened (as in ceramics) by exposure to intense heat. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Flake** – a piece of lithic material usually intentionally detached from another piece of lithic material (such as a core, a tool, etc.), with a series of features showing that it has a definable original outer surface and a newly created inner surface, as well as a place where the detaching blow was struck (e.g., bulb of percussion, ripple marks, striking platform, arris) (see also shatter). <sup>2,6</sup> As a flintknapper works a piece of stone, material is always being removed. Therefore, as the stone is reduced, the detached flakes become progressively smaller. Primary flakes are largest and detached first, whereas tertiary flakes are smallest and detached later. Secondary flakes are intermediate in size and detached after primary flakes, but before tertiary flakes.

**Flaker** – an implement of bone, antler, stone or other material, used to remove flakes from a core or preform.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Flaking** (also knapping, chipping) - the act of removing flakes from a core or preform.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Flesher** (also deflesher) – a chisel-shaped, often toothed implement of bone, stone or metal used to remove the fat and flesh from the inner surface of a freshly skinned hide.<sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Flint (1)** – a dark-coloured, nodular form of chert.<sup>2,6</sup>

**Flint (2)** (also gun flint) – flaked squared pieces of flint used in early muskets to give the spark that ignited the gunpowder to shoot the musket ball from the gun.<sup>2,6</sup>

**Flintknapper** – a person who manufactures lithic tools.<sup>2,6</sup>

**Flora** - the plant life of a certain place and/or time.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Fluted** – the characteristic of early types of stone spear points created by striking off large pieces from one or both surfaces. The result was a lengthwise-running groove or “flute” that made it easier to fit the point into the handle or shaft.<sup>3,7</sup>

**Focus** – in the Midwestern Taxonomic Method devised by McKern (1939) a focus was defined as a group of components with very similar traits (plural: foci).<sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Granite** – a coarse-grained, light-coloured igneous rock composed of quartz, feldspar and biotite or hornblende.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Graver** – a fine incising tool with a thick working point that can withstand considerable pressure without collapsing (see also burin).<sup>2,6</sup>

**Grinding stone** (also abrader, shaft smoother, whetstone) – any coarse-grained stone used to sharpen, dull, shape or polish other tools by abrasion.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Hafted** – fixed to a handle, either directly or by means of a foreshaft.<sup>3,7</sup>

**Hammerstone** - a rounded cobble, sometimes equipped with a groove to facilitate hafting. Signs of use may include pecking facets or battering at the working end.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Harpoon** – a spear with a (frequently) barbed, detachable head. Upon striking the prey, the main shaft falls away and the harpoon head, with a line attached, remains in the animal.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Hertzian fracture** – fracture or breakage in brittle lithic material characterized in part by the fracture front progressing through the lithic material and being deflected around an area of compressive stress just below (distal to) the striking platform, resulting in a bulb of percussion; named for Heinrich Hertz, a German physicist who studied fracture formation in the late 1800s (Cotterell and Kamminga 1990:140).<sup>2,6</sup>

**Historic (1)** – pertaining to that period of time after European contact.

**Historic (2)** – used to describe cultures and events which occurred in any given region after the time for which written records are available.

**Horizon (1)** – in reference to a specific site, a certain cultural level; for example, the Agate Basin horizon of the Hell Gap site. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Horizon (2)** – an artifact class or style, an art style or other distinguishing cultural trait(s) which occurs over a broad area in a relatively brief period of time. The presence of such objects or styles (horizon “markers”) are thus useful as a means of dating a site. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Horticulture** – the custom of cultivating domesticated plants by means of a hoe, without the use of draft animals. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Igneous** – formed from molten lava which has hardened on or below the surface of the earth. <sup>1,5</sup>

**In situ** - a Latin phrase meaning literally "in place". In archaeology, it refers to an artifact or other object found in its original position. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Incising** – producing lines of patterns by cutting into or engraving a surface. As a means of pottery decoration, incising refers to the freehand etching of narrow deep lines on the vessel surface with a sharp instrument prior to firing. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Kame Hills Complex** – Woodland/protohistoric complex centered in the Southern Indian Lake region in northern Manitoba. Included in the artifact inventory are side- and corner-notched projectile points, triangular points, a variety of scraper and biface forms, whetstones, adzes, gravers and grooved hammerstones. The bone industry consisted of points, awls, and beads and a harpoon head made of antler. It is the ceramics, however, which are the most distinctive and which provided the impetus to define the complex. Large and small pots and plates were fashioned from clay as were bowls, cups and smoking pipes. Although the majority of the pots were of the Clearwater Lake Punctate Type, variation in vessel shape and in the combination of decorative elements used, served to distinguish the Southern Indian Lake pots from those from neighbouring areas. Dickson (1980) estimates the complex to date from A.D. 850 to 1750. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Kaolin (1)** – a fine white clay consisting of decayed feldspar used to make porcelain; also known as china clay. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Kaolin (2)** – used loosely as a term for pipes dating to the fur trade era, regardless of composition.

**Knife** – an acute edged cutting implement; often used specifically to refer to a well-worked thin biface with acute edges. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Knife River Flint** – a very high-grade, opaque, almost glass-like type of brown-coloured stone that occurs naturally on the Knife River in North Dakota. From earliest times, the Knife River quarries served as a source of raw material for stone tool-making throughout the high plains and adjoining regions of North America. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Laminated** – composed of or built up by layers. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Lanceolate** – long and slender; in archaeology, used to refer to un-notched and unshouldered projectile points.<sup>3,7</sup>

**Late Prehistoric Period** - the last and most recent of the three "stages" in central North American prehistory. This term is most commonly used for the plains, but is roughly equivalent in terms of its dating to the Woodland Period of the eastern forests (ca. 200 B.C. to the Historic Period). In many ways, the basic lifestyles remained largely unchanged from those of the earlier Middle Prehistoric (or Archaic) Period. Nonetheless, a number of technological and behavioural innovations are present in the archaeological record which allow archaeologists to identify sites of this period with relative ease. These include the manufacturing of pottery, the use of the bow and arrow, the construction of burial mounds and an intensification of the use of bison corrals and (bison) "jumps" as a communal hunting technique.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Laurel** - a (now-abandoned) town in northern Minnesota near the Ontario border which has given its name to a distinctive Middle Woodland ceramic ware as well as the complex with which it is associated. Laurel vessels are grit-tempered and manufactured by means of coiling. Vessel shape is conoidal with slightly constricting necks terminating in unthickened lips. Surface finish is smooth except where decorated. Decorative elements include bosses, dentates, punctates and incisions and these are applied and/or combined in various ways so as to produce pseudo-scallop shell, dragged stamp and various other patterns. The Laurel lithic industry consists of a variety of scrapers, and bifaces, pièces esquillées, netsinkers, hammerstones, anvils, smoking pipes, tools for decorating pottery, mortars, pestles, manos, abraders and pendants. The bone, antler, tooth, claw and shell industries are extremely well represented, and served as media for the production of numerous classes of tools and a variety of personal adornments. Native copper was also utilized for beads, pendants, chisels, fishhooks and knives. Subsistence was based on a wide range of resources including large and small mammals, wildfowl, shellfish, turtles and fish. Plants were also heavily utilized and it is possibly at this time that wild rice first entered the diets of prehistoric Manitobans. One of the most spectacular aspects of the Laurel culture was the construction of burial mounds. The largest of these was originally 36 m in maximum diameter and 14 m high. Within these mounds were placed the deceased together with meagre grave goods. The condition of some of the skeletons was suggestive of (ritual?) cannibalism. Laurel sites are distributed in a broad arc from east-central Saskatchewan through central Manitoba to northern Minnesota and northwestern Ontario, and eastwards around the shores of Lake Superior to northern Michigan. Radiocarbon dating shows them to date between approximately 200 B.C. and A.D. 1000.<sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Lithic** – having to do with stone.<sup>2,6</sup>

**Mano** - a hand-held stone used as the upper stone (pestle) in milling.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Maul** – a hafted hammer, generally having a hafting mechanism, such as a groove, for the handle.<sup>2,6</sup>

**McKean** - an archaeological site in northeastern Wyoming which has given its name to a distinctive late Middle Prehistoric Period projectile point style and the complex with which it is found in association. The McKean Lanceolate point is narrow, generally leaf-shaped with a

deeply concave, occasionally notched base. Length ranges from 25 to approximately 60 mm. Duncan and Hanna projectile points are included within the complex and appear to be somewhat more recent than the more classic lanceolate variety. Other artifacts in the McKean inventory include a variety of scraper styles including those made on tabular fragments of stone, oval blanks or bifaces, crude choppers, polyhedral cores, bone scrapers and beamers and gaming pieces fashioned from coyote teeth. Radiocarbon dates on McKean materials from Wyoming may predate 3000 B.C. although those from Manitoba range from as early as 1780 B.C. to as recent as 880 B.C. Thus it would appear that the complex originates outside the province and that although there is considerable overlap, McKean is generally more recent than Oxbow, but older than Larter (Pelican Lake). Bison is the most common faunal element found in association with the complex although it is clear that these people supplemented their diet with a number of other animals, birds and fish. McKean sites are fairly common over much of the northern plains and in Manitoba, excavated sites and surface finds are distributed across most of the southern half of the province. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Metamorphic** - of or pertaining to a rock which has been modified from its original structure by exposure to heat and pressure. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Middle Prehistoric Period** - the second of the three "stages" in central North American prehistory. The term is most commonly used of the plains sequence, but is roughly equivalent in terms of its dating to the Archaic Period of the eastern forests. Included within this period in Manitoba are the Logan Creek, Oxbow, McKean and Pelican Lake (or Larter) cultures. Some would include part of the Besant Phase within the Middle Period also as the bow, the introduction of which is frequently used to mark the onset of the Late or Woodland Period, appears during the Besant times. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Midwestern Taxonomic Method** – the system devised by W.C. McKern (1939) for classifying archaeological data. It was he who first explicitly defined the focus, aspect, phase, pattern and base and how these concepts relate to one another. Not all of these terms remain in use, and those which have survived are used in different ways from that proposed by McKern. This scheme is also (incorrectly) known as the Midwestern Taxonomic System and the McKern Taxonomic System. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Mortar** - a (generally) bowl-shaped vessel of some hard material in which objects are crushed, ground and/or mixed with a pestle. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Net-impressed** – a surface finish of ceramics produced by impressing the wet clay with a net. Depending upon how this is accomplished, the vessel's surface may be the precise imprint of the mesh or a much more irregular, roughened pattern. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Netsinker** - a notched or grooved cobble attached to a net in order to sink one edge. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Notching** – a V or U-shaped indentation. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Oblique** – diagonal, slanting, lying at an angle. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Ochre** – a general term for any of the clays of earths containing ferric oxide, silica and alumina. Ranging in colour from yellow through red to brown, ochre was widely used as a pigment for decorative and ceremonial purposes throughout much of prehistory.<sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Oxbow** - a town in southeastern Saskatchewan which has lent its name to a Middle Prehistoric Period projectile point style and the complex with which it is found in association. Oxbow points tend to be short and squat with bold side-notching and a basal concavity which lends them an eared appearance. The bases and notches may be ground. Other items in the inventory include "un-notched points" or preforms, a variety of scrapers, knives and bifaces, drills, perforators, choppers, hammerstones, anvils, antler awls, bone beamers and flaking tools and drilled clam shells. Although representations of a variety of floral and faunal species may be found in Oxbow components, bison appear to have been central to the economy of these people. Oxbow sites are found across the grassland regions of the Canadian Prairie Provinces and into the forests to the north. Most radiocarbon dates cluster between 3300 and 1000 B.C. although some would argue that it persists much longer. It would seem that the oldest sites are those from the grasslands with dates becoming progressively more recent to the north. This has led some archaeologists to believe that over time, Oxbow populations became increasingly dependent upon the resources of the forests for subsistence. The origin of the Oxbow Complex is controversial and eastern as well as western origins have been suggested.<sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Paddle-and-anvil** – a pottery manufacturing method. An object or the potter's hand (the "anvil") is held inside of the roughly formed vessel while the exterior surface is paddled, thus shaping the pot. Additionally, the paddling serves to obliterate seams in instances where the pot was formed by coiling. The paddle may be wrapped with a cord or covered with a fabric to prevent it from sticking to the wet clay. This commonly produces a roughened surface.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Palaeo-Indian** - a general term referring to either the earliest inhabitants of North America, or the most ancient of the three stages or periods in North American prehistory. The Palaeo-Indian Period includes the Clovis (or Llano) Complex, the Folsom Complex and (usually) the Plano complexes. The peoples of these cultures are defined as hunters of big game animals, some of which are now extinct.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Patina** – the discoloured skin or rind of a stone resulting from exposure to air, sunlight and soil chemicals.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Pelican Lake** - a body of water lying 75 km west of Regina, Saskatchewan which has lent its name to a distinctive late Middle Prehistoric Period projectile point style, to the complex of which it is a part, and the phase within which it occurs. Pelican Lake points vary in shape somewhat throughout their distributional range but all are characterized by corner-notching. Bases may be concave, straight or convex. The lateral edges may be concave, but are more commonly convex. Associated artifacts include un-notched projectile points, a variety of scrapers and bifaces (some of the latter modified for hafting), drills, perforators and gravers. Pelican Lake sites are distributed across the grasslands of the Canadian Prairie Provinces and into the surrounding forests. Sites occur as far south as northeastern Colorado. Particularly in the northern areas, Pelican Lake peoples appear to have employed communal hunting techniques such as bison jumps and bison pounds and likely a seasonal round of movement following the

herds. The burial pattern is slowly becoming better known. It is characterized by the painting of the deceased with red ochre and their placement, together with some grave goods beneath a cairn. Radiocarbon dates suggest a total time range of approximately 1200 B.C. to A.D. 400. The dates from Manitoba tend to fall within the earlier half of this range. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Pendant** – a personal ornament which has been perforated or grooved to allow it to hang from a chain or thong. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Percussion flaking** – a technique within the overall process of stone tool-making that involves striking a piece of workable material with a hammer-type object. This motion either breaks down and shapes the original piece of stone, or produces fragments that can themselves be fashioned into tools. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Perforator** – a sharp pointed implement used to make holes in worked material. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Pestle** - a club-shaped or cylindrical object used to crush and grind various materials in a mortar. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Phase** – an archaeological complex which is sufficiently distinctive so as to be distinguishable from adjacent contemporary complexes, and from those which precede and succeed it. A phase may be viewed as a complex which is bounded in time as well as space. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Pièces esquillées** – thin pieces of lithic material used as a wedge by hammering the piece into the material being worked (e.g., wood or bone); characterized by battering on both the hammered end and the end that entered the worked material. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Plains Triangular** – a Late Prehistoric Period/protohistoric projectile point style defined by MacNeish (1954) on the basis of his investigations in southwestern Manitoba. These range in length from 14 to 32 mm. Maximum length may be equal to or greater than the maximum breadth. The blade edges and the bases are straight or convex. This and similar styles are fairly common over much of North America in this general time period. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Plow zone** – the mixed surface layer of soil resulting from cultivation. Although no longer in situ, cultural material from a plow zone can yield some insights into the original shape and extent of an archaeological site. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Postcontact** – referring to the period of time during and following initial face-to-face contact between Indigenous and European people in an area. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Potsherd** – a fragment of broken pottery. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Pottery** – vessels, containers or other articles made of fired clay. Pottery is a particularly important object of study for the archaeologist because when it occurs on an archaeological site, it is generally the most numerous class of artifact. Additionally, because it is such a plastic medium, it may be shaped and decorated in an infinite number of ways. Consequently, pottery is a much more sensitive indicator of change over time or cultural differences between artisans than are more rigid media such as stone. Finally, pottery does not deteriorate with time. Although the pots which the archaeologist finds are almost inevitably broken, the fragments (or

sherds) will not decompose for thousands of years, even if they are under water. In Manitoba, as elsewhere, the appearance of pottery in assemblages is used as a marker of the Woodland Period. Locally, this commences in the first few centuries B.C. and continues until the Historic period when metal containers replaced more traditional forms. Within this period, three wares are recognized: Laurel Ware, which is the earliest, and the Blackduck (or Manitoba) and Selkirk (or Winnipeg River) Fabric-impressed Wares. Each are distinguished by different methods of manufacture, shape, surface finish and decoration. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Prairie Side-Notched** – one of the small side-notched projectile point styles of the northern plains during the Late Prehistoric Period. These specimens range in length from 11 to 41 mm and bear large, wide, rounded but shallow side-notches above squared or rounded bases. Bases are generally straight but may be slightly concave or convex. Generally, the basal width is less than the maximum width of the blade. Basal grinding is sometimes present (Kehoe 1973). <sup>1,5</sup>

**Precontact** – referring to all that period of time before the initial face-to-face contact between Indigenous and European people in an area. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Preform** – a blank that has been modified to some extent toward a finished tool, often to the stage where the type of tool is apparent, but that has not yet been completed. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Prehistory (1)** – the study of the cultures and events which occurred in any given region prior to the time for which written records are available. As a consequence, history begins at different times in different places. As native North Americans did not use alphabetic writing in pre-contact times, prehistory here ends with European contact. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Prehistory (2)** (also precontact) – that period of time before European contact. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Pressure flaking** – a stone tool-making technique that involves pressing the edge of a piece of workable material with a sharp or pointed instrument. This action removes small fragments of the material and, when applied repeatedly, gives the piece a desired shape and form. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Primary flake** – see flake.

**Projectile Point** – a sharp, pointed object of bone or stone that is fixed to the end of a spear, lance, atlatl dart or arrow shaft. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Protohistoric** - of or pertaining to the time immediately preceding the advent of written documents in a given region. In practice, this is the period of time from the arrival of Europeans to North America, until the time they produced written records of the area in question. Thus a protohistoric site might contain European artifacts which had been acquired through trade long before actual direct contact had been made. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Proximal (1)** - The end of a bone nearest the midline of the body when the individual assumes a normal standing posture. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Proximal (2)** - The end of an artifact nearest the user or observer. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Proximal (3)** – the end of a flake that has the striking platform; the end opposite the distal end.<sup>2,6</sup>

**Pseudo-scallop Shell** – a pottery decoration made by pressing the edge of a notched stick, bone or stone into the wet clay before the pot is fired. The impression resembles the edge of a scallop shell.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Punch** – an intermediary flaking tool one end of which is placed on the core while a sharp blow is applied to the other. This not only allows the flintknapper to apply force with pinpoint accuracy, but also permits fine control of the angle from which the force originates.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Punctate** – a small hole made in the soft, unfired surface of a pottery vessel by pushing the end of a stick-shaped object into it.<sup>3,7</sup>

**Push-pull** – see Dragged stamp.

**Quartz** – a very hard, common mineral composed of silicon dioxide in a hexagonal crystalline form. Present in most rocks (particularly granite and sandstone), this colourless, glasslike stone exhibits conchoidal fracturing properties thus lending itself to flaking.<sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Quartzite** – a metamorphic rock composed of altered sandstone; commonly used for manufacturing flaked and ground stone tools.<sup>2,6</sup>

**Radiocarbon dating** - the absolute dating technique which more than any other revolutionized archaeology. Cosmic radiation from the sun constantly bombards the earth's upper atmosphere producing a radioactive form (isotope) of carbon (C-14) from non-radioactive nitrogen (N-14). C-14 mixes with the earth's atmosphere and oceans and behaves in precisely the same manner as does the non-radioactive (stable) form C-12. Because all living organisms absorb carbon through water or by breathing, the ratio of C-14 to C-12 within them is the same as that in the atmosphere, and this ratio has remained more-or-less constant over time. When an organism dies, however, it ceases to be part of the carbon cycle and thus no new C-14 is absorbed. Like all radioactive substances, C-14 is unstable, which is to say that over time it will break down (or decay) into a more stable form -- in this case C-12. The rate of this decay is known and is also constant. Consequently, by measuring the ratio of C-14 to C-12 in a piece of wood, bone or other organic matter from an archaeological site, one can determine the length of time since the sample last absorbed new C-14.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Retouch** – a form of secondary flaking, always accomplished by pressure, which is used to sharpen or straighten an edge.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Reworking** – modification of an object so that it may be used again. The reworking of stone artifacts after breakage was particularly common in times and places where suitable lithic resources were scarce. A projectile point which had been broken at the time could easily be resharpened and some were probably reworked several times in this fashion, becoming shorter relative to their widths each time. Drills and side-notched end-scrapers with bases similar to those of the projectile points with which they are associated are often considered to be examples of reworking.<sup>1,5</sup>

**Rhyolite** – a fine-grained igneous rock of the same composition as granite (quartz, feldspar and mica), but capable of being worked by flaking into tools. Characteristically, rhyolite has a glossy appearance and small inclusions of quartz and feldspar within the finer matrix. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Rimsherd** – a fragment of pottery which originally formed part of the rim of a vessel. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Sandstone** – a general name for any of the common sedimentary rocks composed of sand grains cemented together with clay, iron oxide or calcium carbonate. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Schist** – any of a group of metamorphic rocks which may be split into plates or needle-shaped grains. Constituent elements may include mica, chlorite, talc or iron. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Scraper** – a tool designed to be used to scrape material such as wood or bone; the main feature is a steep working edge, often about 89-90°. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Secondary flake** – see flake.

**Secondary flaking** - a fine form of flaking intended to remove surface irregularities, or to sharpen or straighten an edge. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Sedimentary** – rocks formed by cementation of particles broken down by weathering from other, pre-existing rocks. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Selkirk** – a town just north of Winnipeg which has lent its name to a distinctive ceramic ware (also called Mistikwas) as well as the phase within which it occurs. This Late Woodland-protolithic culture is of particular interest to archaeologists as Selkirk, more so than any other prehistoric complex, can be equated with a specific ethnic/linguistic group – in this case the Cree. One of its most distinctive traits is the pottery, fashioned either by the paddle-and-anvil technique utilizing a fabric wrapped paddle, or formed inside a fabric or basket mould. Like Blackduck, vessel shape is globular with slightly constricted necks and outflaring rims. Rims may be undecorated, encircled by a single row of punctates or impressed with a cord-wrapped stick. Other items in the inventory include a variety of small, triangular side-notched projectile points, scrapers and bifaces, pitted hammerstones, full-grooved mauls and tubular steatite smoking pipes. The bone-tooth-antler-shell industry was well developed or at least it is well preserved in the archaeological record. Included in this category are shell paint dishes, antler end-scraper handles, beaver tooth gouges and in bone: defleshers, harpoon heads, hoes, awls, and needles. Site locations, the tools produced and the floral and faunal associations bespeak a highly diversified economy involving the hunting of various game species (deer, moose, caribou, bear), the hunting and/or trapping of smaller, often riverine mammals such as beaver, the taking of migratory fowl, a heavy reliance upon fish, the collection of shellfish, and the exploitation of plants, central among which may have been wild rice. The way of life of these people was essentially that described by the early explorers and traders in the province – one which underwent rapid change in the face of European encroachment. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Selkirk Chert** – a white to cream-coloured medium to fine-grained limestone chert which occurs naturally along the banks of the Red River. Most nodules are dense, grey, and often mottled in appearance while those of poorer quality are chalk-like. Due to its conchoidal fracturing

properties, Selkirk Chert was a popular material for the manufacture of stone tools throughout most of the province's prehistory (Leonoff 1970). <sup>1,5</sup>

**Selkirk Ware** – the more common term for Winnipeg Fabric-impressed Ware – the pottery associated with the Selkirk culture. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Shaft smoother** - a coarse-grained object (usually stone) with a groove for an arrow or spear shaft. The shafts are smoothed by abrasion after the fashion of sanding. Shaft smoothers may come in pairs which fit together around the shaft (see also grinding stone). <sup>1,5</sup>

**Shale** – a dark, fine-grained sedimentary rock formed of clay with cleavage planes parallel to the bedding. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Shatter** – a piece of lithic material generally detached inadvertently from another piece of lithic material (core or other piece of material such as a tool) when intentionally trying to detach another piece of lithic material (a flake); produced by the shattering of the piece from which it was struck. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Sherd** – see potsherd.

**Shouldered** – having a lateral extension or protrusion. This term may be used to describe knives, projectile points or ceramic pots. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Side-notching** – in the fashioning of spear, lance and arrow points, the custom of creating notches in the sides near the base. By inserting the points base-first into the end of a shaft and passing sinews through the notches, the point can be securely fastened to the shaft. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Side scraper** – a scraper with the working edge on a lateral edge of the flake blank used to manufacture it, or at least on a long edge of the lithic piece. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Site** – a place that contains evidence of previous human activity. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Spall** – a flake which has been produced naturally (such as by exposure to heat) or by human design. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Spear** – a weapon consisting of a long shaft and a sharp point which may be thrown (as a javelin) or thrust. <sup>1,5,8</sup>

**Spokeshave** – a tool with a concave working edge presumed to be used mainly to scrape or shave cylindrical material, particularly wood; sometimes called a "notch". <sup>2,6</sup>

**Steatite** – a soft gray-green or brown talc which was worked into smoking pipes and bowls by grinding and polishing; also known as "soapstone". <sup>1,5</sup>

**Striking platform** – the place on a piece of lithic material (usually a core or tool) that is struck with a hammer to remove a flake; part of this area remains on the detached flake and is referred to as the striking platform of the flake, at its proximal end. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Subsistence** - livelihood; the means by which an individual or group maintains life. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Tertiary flake** – see flake.

**Test pit** – a unit excavated to determine the presence or absence of an archaeological site, or the nature of the deposits. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Thinning flake** – a generally thin and elongate flake removed in middle stages of tool manufacturing to thin a tool and reduce thick areas, characterized by minimally to moderately complex scarring on the striking platform (typically 2 flake scars) and dorsal surface; sometimes called a thinning/reduction flake. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Thumbnail scraper** - a small, often domed scraper shaped like a thumbnail. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Tinkling cone** (also tinkler) – the (usually) metallic cones or cylinders which were used as ornaments on clothing. Brass sewing thimbles were sometimes used for this purpose. The artifact received its name from the sound produced by the many cones striking one another with each movement of the wearer or dancer. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Tool-kit** - as used by archaeologists, the full range of artifacts of a single complex. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Tradition** – a style, technology or lifeway which persists for a long period of time within a given region. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Uniface** – a tool manufactured by flaking only on one of the two main faces on the tool (see also biface). <sup>2,6</sup>

**Usewear** – the damage or wear on the edge of a tool as a result of its being used; such damage commonly includes small flakes being detached from the edge, formation of polish, and abrasion of the edge that rounds the edge and leaves striations. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Utilized flake** – a flake used without any modification, with the only flaking being usewear damage. <sup>2,6</sup>

**Ventral** – of or pertaining to the front of the body; towards the belly. <sup>1,5</sup>

**Ventral surface** – the surface newly created on a fragment of lithic material (usually a flake) when that fragment is detached (from a core, tool, etc.); commonly has various features, such as a bulb of percussion, ripple marks, hackle marks or fissures (see also dorsal surface). <sup>2,6</sup>

**Whetstone** - a sharpening stone (see also grinding stone). <sup>1,5</sup>

**Woodland** – a cultural tradition characterized by the presence of pottery and, in some areas, horticulture and the construction of burial mounds. <sup>3,7</sup>

**Woodland Period** - the most recent of the three "stages" in the prehistory of the eastern forests of North America. In accordance with the trend which began with the earlier Archaic Period, the Woodland witnesses increased regionalism and the proliferation of local cultures. As this period is often defined by the appearance of pottery in local assemblages, and because these cultures adopted pottery at different times, no single date marks the beginning of the Woodland Period. In the American Southeast, pottery has been found which dates as early as 2400 B.C., while

some northern peoples never adopted it. In southern Manitoba, a date of 200 B.C. or thereabouts is often applied to the Archaic/Woodland boundary. A number of other innovations are often associated with the Woodland: the use of the bow and arrow (as opposed to the atlatl), the construction of effigy and burial mounds, possibly the birch bark canoe (as opposed to dugouts) and in some areas, horticulture. The Woodland Period has been subdivided in a number of different ways. In the technical literature, the terms Early, Middle and Late Woodland are frequently used. In Canada, the Initial Woodland equates with the Early and Middle periods, while "Terminal" is used instead of "Late". By definition, a Terminal Woodland Culture (e.g. Blackduck, Selkirk, Mistikwas, Mississippian) is one that can be traced to the Historic period and identified with a known culture. Presumably, this is not possible with the Initial Woodland (e.g. Laurel, Hopewell) cultures.<sup>1,5,8</sup>

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