



PREHISTORIC OHIO

This Prehistoric Map of Ohio was made in 1931 by H.R Goodwin at the Ohio Historical Society. It shows the landmarks of the pre-historic people who lived in Ohio. It shows the **Big Water** (Lake Erie) at the top and the Ohio River at the bottom. It also shows the various **Mounds** built by prehistoric people across southern Ohio. **Flint Ridge**, near the center of the map, is where the flint for the points of spears and arrows was mined. Our region is shown on the map as the **Big Swamp** and **Good Hunting**.

This drawing shows a prehistoric family scraping the hides of animals and stretching them to dry. The hides were used for making clothes and covering their wigwams.

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**CRIDERSVILLE
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*Preserving local history
for future generations*



Prehistoric People In Western Ohio

Ohio has an incredibly rich history. For more than 14,000 years humans have lived in the region between Lake Erie and the Ohio River, now known as Ohio. Early Native American groups traveled across the landscape and hunted, gathered, and farmed in the area.



Historic Native American tribes including the Shawnee, Delaware, Wyandot, Miami, Ottawa and Seneca called the region home prior to and after pioneers began to enter the region in the late 1600's. The remains of even earlier inhabitants are present in Ohio's landscape, visible to us through the preserved and reconstructed earthen mounds at various sites in Ohio. The archaeological remains of where these early people lived are scattered throughout the state.

We learn more about Ohio's prehistoric past through the work of archeologists. An archeologist's goal is to learn about how people lived in the past by examining the items that past people left behind. These items, known as artifacts, can be broken pottery, stone tools such as arrowheads, food remains such as seeds and

nuts, and decorative items like jewelry and trinkets. Artifacts also give archeologists clues to how the cultures and peoples changed over time.

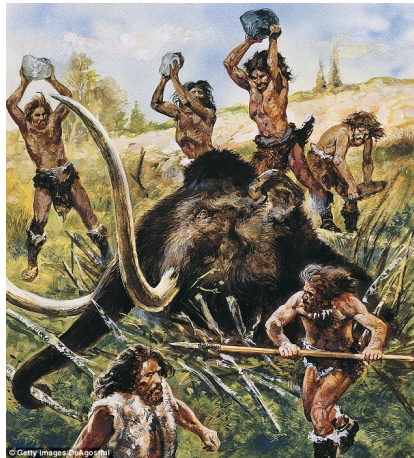
Source: National Park Service



Prehistoric spear points like this have been discovered in the Cridersville area.

THE MASTODON IN OHIO

The mastodons were sturdy, elephant-like animals that roamed Ohio during the Ice Age—13,000 years ago. They stood about nine feet tall at the shoulder and were ten to fourteen feet long—excluding their tusks. They weighed four to five tons and were covered with shaggy hair. The remains of 90 mastodons have been discovered throughout Ohio. The prehistoric people of Ohio hunted the mastodons to provide food and clothing for their families. The mastodon is thought to have become extinct about 10,000 years ago.



This is a section of mastodon tooth that was found in 1895 east of Cridersville. The remains of the mastodon were discovered while digging a drainage ditch.

When hunting mastodons, prehistoric hunters often found them watering at rivers, lakes, or ponds



MAKING TOOLS

The prehistoric people of Ohio made all of their tools from stone, wood or animal bones. It was very slow work and required experience and skill.



This single-groove stone axe head was made and used by the prehistoric people living in western Ohio thousands of years ago. It would have been tied to a wooden handle as shown on the



A re-created, modern photograph of a prehistoric boy holding his stone axe.

right. The axe head was discovered in a farm field near Cridersville. With no damage, it is an excellent example of a prehistoric stone tool. It is among a collection of prehistoric artifacts on exhibit at the Cridersville Museum.



THE QUARRY AT FLINT RIDGE

Flint Ridge is a nearly eight-mile-long vein of high-quality flint located in Ohio's Licking and Muskingum Counties. Hundreds of quarry pits and workshop sites are scattered across more than 2,000 acres of ridge top. It is known as the "Great Indian Quarry of Ohio."

The quarries provided prehistoric people with pieces of flint to make tools, weapons, and ceremonial objects. Flint Ridge was apparently well known in prehistoric times, as small amounts of it have been found at American Indian sites across the eastern United States.