

# A Generalized Prehistoric Sequence for South Carolina

## Historic

1670- Present

*Burnished, Painted, and Complicated Stamped Pottery  
Glass beads and English trade items, firearms*

## Exploratory Period/ Post-Mississippian

1520-1670

1450-1520

*Complicated Stamped, Incised and Burnished Pottery  
Spanish Trade Goods*

## Mississippian Period

1100-1450

*Complicated Stamped, Incised and Burnished Pottery  
Temple Mounds, Maize Agriculture*

## Woodland Period

3000BC-1700AD

### Proto-Mississippian

900-1670

*Groups living amongst Mississippian neighbors,  
but not practicing Mississippian lifeways. Diagnostics  
may include fabric impressed, shell and sand tempered pottery*

### Late Woodland

500AD-1150

*Maize agriculture, village life  
Textile marked, check and complicated stamped pottery*

### Middle Woodland

500BC-500AD

*Check Stamped, and Textile marked pottery  
Triangular points, shell middens on the coast*

### Early Woodland

3000-500BC

*Fiber tempered pottery, changing to sand tempered  
punctated and plain pottery, square stemmed points  
give way to triangular forms. First coastal shell middens and rings*

## Archaic Period

8000-3000BC

### Late Archaic

4000-3000BC

*Square stemmed Savannah River points, steatite pots  
and objects, inland shell middens*

### Middle Archaic

6000-4000BC

*Morrow Mountain, Guilford, and square stemmed points,  
atl-atl weights, increased plant use*

### Early Archaic

8000-6000BC

*Well made side and corner notched points, giving way  
to square stemmed forms. Formal scrapers and unifacial tools.  
Hardaway, Palmer, Kirk, LeCroy, Stanley points*

## Paleoindian Period

12,000-8,000BC

*Fluted Clovis, Simpson, Suwannee and Dalton points.*

## Pre-Paleoindian

17,000-12,000BC?

*No clear diagnostics. Simple bifaces have been found*



Small  
Triangular



Stemmed  
Woodland  
Pointe



Yadkin/ Larger  
Triangular



Savannah  
River



Guilford



Morrow  
Mountain



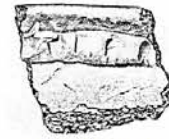
Palmer



Hardaway



Clovis



Burnished/  
Applique



Complicated  
Stamped



Cord Marked



Fabric  
Impressed



Check Stamped



Punctate



Plain

*Date ranges used in this chart are approximate*