

Sa'qewe'k L'nu'k
Ancient People

Palaeo Period
13,500–10,000 years ago

Projectile Points
These finely-chipped points were made by skilled craftspersons who chipped away at a stone until the right shape and sharp edge were formed. Points were then attached with sinew or other cord to the tip of a spear, arrow or Atlatl dart (at-LAT-ul)—all weapons that were meant to be launched.



A dart thrown with an atlatl travels six to eight times farther than one thrown by hand alone.

Piercer—for punching holes and scarring bone

Spurred End Scraper—for scraping hides

Mu Awsami Kejikawe'k L'nu'k
Not So Recent People

Archaic Period
10,000–3,000 years ago



Lanceolate—10,000 to 9000 yrs ago



Stemmed—7000 to 6000 yrs ago



Stemmed—4500 to 4000 yrs ago

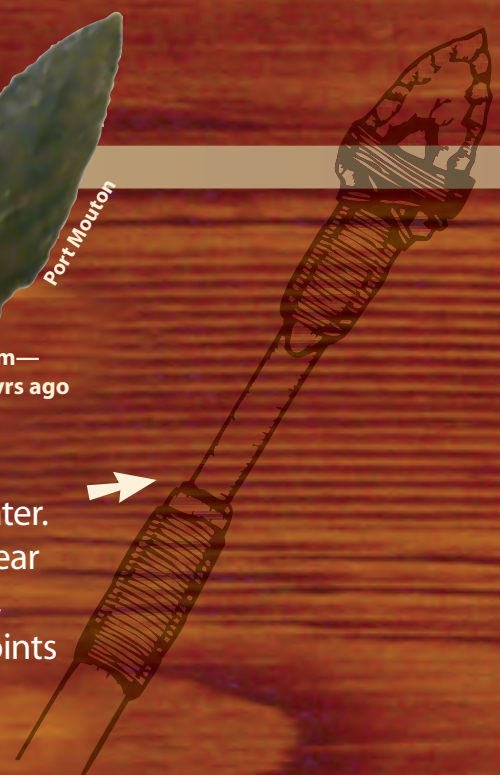


Expanded Stem—3200 to 2800 yrs ago



Spear Point

Spears were used to hunt a wide variety of animals on land and in the water. On some spears the shaft came apart near the end. This made it easier for hunters, because they could carry extra spear points rather than many full-length spears.



Rolled Copper Beads and Shell Beads were used for adornment and trade.

Full-Channel Ground Stone Gouge
Epekwitk (P.E.I.)

Stone Gouges, like the gouges we have today, were used to chisel out the inside of wooden objects—from bowls and tools to dugout canoes.



Half-Channel Ground Stone Gouge
(Grand Lake)

Plummets—often made from beach stones—were used to weigh down fishnets.



Kejikawe'k L'nu'k
Recent People

Woodland Period to Early European Contact
3,000–500 years ago



Contracted Stem—2600 yrs ago



Tapered Stem—2200 to 1900 yrs ago



Tapered Stem—1700 to 1300 yrs ago



Corner Notched—1200 to 900 yrs ago



Triangular—500 yrs ago

European Contact
500 years ago to present

“Made in Mi'kma'ki”

Many changes in artifact style and design are a result of relationships with neighbouring groups throughout the Far Northeast. More sudden changes in artifact design and raw materials are associated with trade and social exchange. The slender tapered points from the Kejikawe'k L'nu'k era represent a 1500-year stylistic tradition unique to the people of Mi'kma'ki.

MI'KMAQ
WIKEWIKI'S HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2008

Ta'n Telo'tipni'k L'nu'k Mi'kma'kik • How the Mi'kmaq Live in Mi'kma'ki



Ground Stone Axe



Ground Stone Celt (axe)



Ground Slate Ulu—a large knife
(St. Margaret's Bay)



Clay Pot (Bear River)—a pointed bottom allows this pot to rest on a rock hearth. Ceramics have been found in Mi'kma'ki that are as old as 3,000 years.



Reed Basket (reproduction)



Ash Splint Fish Creel

Bowls and Baskets

served as vessels for cooking, storing and carrying. But they also showed the art of the craftsperson. The piece of ceramic bowl shown here has a pattern on its upper edge; the reed basket has a decorative neck; and the fishing creel makes use of the contrasting colours of different materials.



Trade has always been an important part of Mi'kmaq culture. The Mi'kmaq traded with neighbouring peoples, and later with the Europeans who arrived beginning in the 1500s. In addition to trade as a business exchange, the Mi'kmaq also saw trade as important in establishing social relationships.

Trade Pipes, like this one made of argillite stone, were commonly made by early European craftspersons for trade with various tribes across North America.

The drawing of the Mi'kmaq trapper shows how the Mi'kmaq integrated items from trade into their day-to-day lives—the axe and gun, for the coat, and in this case a European-style hat.



Crooked Knife—a traditional Mi'kmaq tool used to make ash splint baskets and birchbark canoes

To honour and protect Mi'kmaq heritage

is a value held by Mi'kmaq archaeologist Roger Lewis. Shown here with his son Cameron, he shares his knowledge and enthusiasm about an artifact found in central Nova Scotia—a “rhyolite bifacial cutting tool.”

