and inhospitable, aside from occasional waterholes, until climate shifted from drier to wetter conditions at approximately 7,000 BP, creating a stand of water in the Okefenokee Basin enhanced by rising sea levels that are identified in peat deposits (Cohen et al. 1984:510). Although nomadic Paleoindian hunters likely utilized portions of the Okefenokee Basin supporting grazing animals prior to swamp formation, archaeological evidence of Paleoindian occupations is likely now deeply submerged under the swamp (Kirkland and Cook 2007).

In Georgia, and in the Southeast generally, the Paleoindian period has been provisionally divided into Early, Middle, and Late or Transitional subperiods based on distinctive changes in material culture and most commonly recognized via projectile point morphology. These changes are considered to roughly correlate with the initial colonization and exploration of the Americas, the development of regional traditions, and a shift to Holocene environmental conditions with a transition to more Archaic period traits (Anderson 1990:165–166).

The Early Paleoindian period (ca. 12,000–11,000 B.P.) in the southeast is recognized by the presence of Clovis and Clovis related projectile points. These bifaces are sometimes quite large, lanceolate blades that feature roughly parallel ground haft margins, slightly concave bases, and channels or flutes created by the removal of a vertical flake from the center of one or both faces of the point (Anderson 1990:165). The size of the points reflects the hunting strategy of the early inhabitants, which focused on hunting large Pleistocene mammals.

During the Middle Paleoindian period (11,000–10,500 B.P.), projectile points include both fluted and unfluted lanceolate/auriculate forms, as well as varieties with broad blades and constricted haft elements. Point types associated with this time period include Cumberland, Suwannee, Simpson, and probable transitional Clovis variants. The loss of the distinctive "flute" on the Middle Paleoindian projectile points may be a morphological adaptation that relates to the extinction of mega-fauna (Anderson 1996).

Late or Transitional Paleoindian period (10,500–10,000 B.P.) projectile point forms include Dalton and Dalton related types. These varieties, which frequently exhibit evidence of extensive resharpening, are typically lanceolate forms with concave bases and grinding on the lateral and basal margins. The blades of these types are often serrated or beveled.

ARCHAIC

The three sub-periods of the Archaic period proper are believed to roughly approximate the transition from highly mobile, camp-based collector lifeways to more sedentary and opportunistic foraging lifeways. This period ranges from ca. 10,000 to 3,000 B.P.

During the Early Archaic period, it is reasonable to assume there was a trend towards a more sedentary lifeway as archaeologists such as Willey and Phillips (1958) and Caldwell (1958) viewed the Archaic stage as a dramatic shift from previous Paleoindian lifeways. However, as Walthall (1980) argues, this might have been true in northern regions where the drastic climatic shift precipitated large-scale population movements and material culture change, but in the non-glacial regions of the Southeast this change would have been much more gradual, which would lead to imperceptible cultural adaptation. Anderson (1996; see also Anderson et al. 2007) discussed evidence that indicated a different trend, which emphasized a continuation of mobile foraging adaptations in the Georgia Coastal Plain region during this time as mixed hardwood forests present throughout the region created favorable settings for hunting and gathering lifeways throughout the Southeast. Anderson et al. (2007) describe Early Archaic groups as organized