in small bands practicing hunting, gathering, and coming together from expansive foraging ranges for periodical communal activities in favorable locations. With this model of Archaic settlement patterns, over time annual ranges grew progressively smaller such that by the end of the Archaic, groups became largely restricted to portions of river systems.

Considering the cultural material typically present from this time, we find a change in biface morphology from the previous period to be the most evident modification, with Early Archaic sites recognized by successive side- and corner-notched and bifurcated-based points from high-quality materials rather than the long, fluted blades from the Paleoindian period (Anderson et al. 2007). The Early Archaic bifaces have well-documented pan-regional sequences that include the Side-Notched Tradition (10,000 to 9,500 B.P.), the Corner-Notched Tradition (9,500 to 9,000 B.P.), and the Bifurcate Tradition (9,000 to 8,000 B.P.). The Side-Notched Tradition is typically recognized by the presence of biface types such as Taylor, Big Sandy, and Bolen. Corner-Notched Tradition includes Kirk Corner-Notched and Palmer Corner-Notched. The Bifurcate Tradition includes MacCorkle, St. Albans, and LeCroy.

The Middle Archaic is denoted by the appearance of an array of stemmed bifaces (Chapman 1985). The earliest hafted biface types are the Kirk Stemmed, Kirk Serrated, and Stanley Stemmed. Morrow Mountain projectile points are one of the most common stemmed points recovered from the lower Coastal Plain region and are typically dated from 7,500 to 5,500 B.P. Later Middle Archaic points include the Guilford-related Brier Creek type (6,000 to 5,000 B.P.). In addition, Sykes, White Springs, and Benton types are usually found associated with this period.

These technological shifts in biface morphology are evidence of a continued shift in hunting strategies because of the Altithermal Optimum, a warm period during roughly the interval from 9,000 to 5,000 B.P. This warming forced a vegetation shift in which pine expanded across the landscape, at the expense of mixed hardwood forests. Some researchers have suggested these pine forests would not have been as productive for human usage and therefore abandoned. Elliott and Sassaman (1995) state that Middle Archaic groups may have consolidated their mobility ranges, preferring to inhabit the Piedmont region rather than the lower Coastal Plain region. Anderson et al. (2007) suggest that replacement of mixed hardwood forests by pine forests and cypress swamps restricted people for some time to remnant stands of hardwood forests within river valleys, and that human populations either stabilized or decreased during this time. Middle Archaic human occupations are known from shell midden and earthen sites with dense occupational debris and numerous burials along major drainages of the Midsouth and lower Midwest. These sites were likely occupied during much of an annual round of hunting and gathering lifeways, serving as locations of social aggregation and likely specialized burial areas (Anderson et al. 2007:459).

Long-distance exchange networks, as evidenced by the presence of coastal shell and Great Lakes copper, emerged by ca. 7500 B.P. Localized exchange networks, likely serving to reduce conflict and subsistence uncertainty among geographically close groups, were also operating by this time based on the distributions of items such as bone pins, bannerstones, and elaborate bifaces (Anderson et al. 2007). The emergence of communal monumental architecture is evidenced by the construction of earthen mound complexes by ca. 6000 B.P. in nearby Florida. Territorial circumscription between groups is identified by appearance of some evidence for conflict in the Midsouth and lower Midwest in the form of burials with embedded bifaces, scalping marks, and parry fractures. Variability in mortuary treatments suggests status differentiation was also emerging during this time but is thought to have been achieved rather than ascribed based on the lack of evidence for heritable ranking (Anderson et al. 2007:459).

In the Southeast, Late Archaic components (ca. 5,000 to 3,000 B.P.) are recognized primarily based on the presence of certain projectile point forms and other trends initiated during the Middle Archaic, which