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 Archaic period in the eastern United States is dated approximately between ca. 10,000 and ca. 3,000 B.P., and is divided into three sub-periods. 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.

During the Early Archaic period (10,000 to 8,000 B.P.), 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 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.

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