

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Saylorville Lake is the result of impounding water in a portion of the Des Moines River valley a few miles north of the City of Des Moines, Iowa. The Des Moines River is a deeply entrenched valley located on a till plain known as the Des Moines Lobe that was left after the retreat of the southernmost extension of the Wisconsin glacial advance, approximately 13,000 - 14,000 before present (B.P.) times.

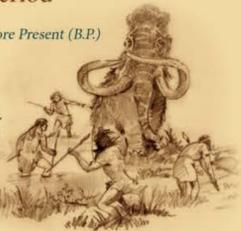
Beginning approximately 12,000 years ago people began to occupy the area around what is now Saylorville Lake. Ancient artifacts still dot the landscape; dozens have been found near Saylorville Lake. More than 700 archaeological sites were mapped at Saylorville prior to the construction of the dam and it is a priority to preserve the heritage of the historic valley.



Paleoindian Period

12,500-9,500 Years Before Present (B.P.)

This mammoth tooth was found in the river channel below the dam. Massive floods scoured the river valley as the glaciers retreated, washing away most evidence of the Paleoindian hunters who stalked these extinct creatures.



Archaic Period

9,500-2,500 Years B.P.

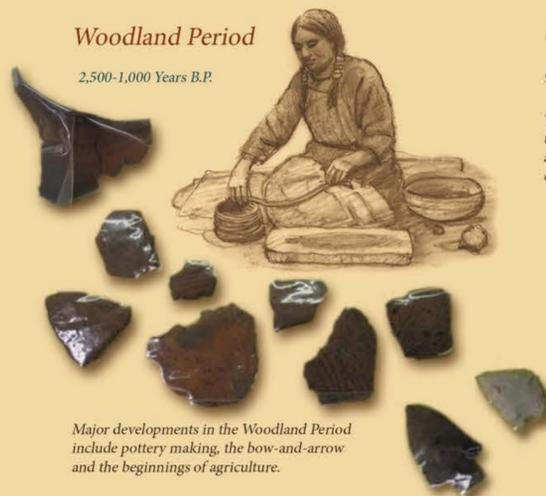
More than 70 Archaic artifacts have been found near Saylorville Lake. Tools made of stone from places as distant as North Dakota indicate the existence of far-flung trading networks.



Woodland Period

2,500-1,000 Years B.P.

Major developments in the Woodland Period include pottery making, the bow-and-arrow and the beginnings of agriculture.



Oneota Period

900-150 Years B.P.

The Oneota people, who were probably the ancestors of the modern-day Ioway and Oto tribes, were the last prehistoric culture to exist in Iowa.

