

## Early Settlers-North Carolina Indians

### Recap:

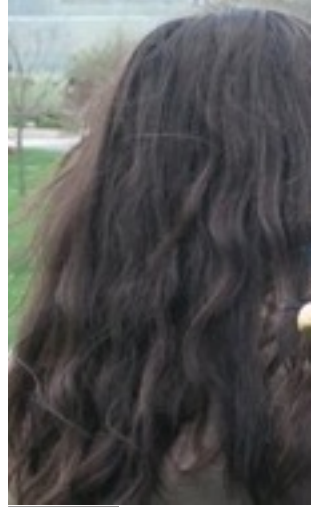
- The first known settlers of North America were believed to cross the **Bering Land Bridge**, which connected Asia and North America (12,000 years ago)
- They were originally **Paleolithic** (“old stone,” moved around a lot, hunted with spears); over time from the **Archaic** period (improved tools, weapons like the **Atlatl**, plus nuts and berries), to the **Woodland** period, when the climate allowed people to stay in one place, set up a home, and **farm**
- **Maize** started in Mexico, but made its way to present-day N.C. and other states. To Americans, this is known as “corn.”
- The **Pee Dee** culture was one of the oldest-standing settlements in N.C. (religion and celebrations) during the **Woodland (Mississippian Culture) period** (1000 B.C. to 1500 A.D.)
- These Indians’ remains can be seen today at **Town Creek Indian Mound** in Mt. Gilead, N.C. (Piedmont)
- The Pee Dee culture built palisade fences around their community for protection; they also built **ceremonial centers** as they practiced religion and celebrated harvests
- **Woodland (period)** Indians’ culture laid within **clans**, or families with a common ancestor
- More often than not, children were raised by grandparents and elders on the **mother’s** side; Tribes (nations) were governed by **consensus**

### North Carolina Indians

- There were at least **28 Indian nations** in N.C. before the Europeans came
- Only eight are officially recognized today; the **Lumbee** being the largest
- Other major Indian nations in N.C. history: **Saponi, Tuscarora, Cherokee, Catawba, Croatan, Roanoke, and the Waccamaw**



Photo courtesy of [siue.edu](http://siue.edu)



Atlatl.

Town Creek Mounds. Photo courtesy of [nchistoricsites.org](http://nchistoricsites.org)