

## Archaeology of the American South Anthropology 550

### Week 3: Paleoindian Chronology and Settlement

Given the relative lack of well-excavated, stratified Paleoindian sites in the American South, archaeologists have often focused instead on interpreting large-scale geographical patterns in the distribution of spear points and styles. The articles below provide examples of this approach.

The conventional wisdom these days subdivides southern Paleoindian point styles into three chronological units: Early, Middle, and Late. In reading the first article, think about the basis for this classification, and whether any different arrangements are equally consistent with the evidence.

The next three articles show how data on large-scale distributions of Paleoindian points have driven models for the initial colonization of the South, and the problems with assigning archaeological meaning to such data. Don't worry if you don't fully understand the statistics in the Pasciunas and Miller articles, but focus instead on the patterns and interpretations. How do their conclusions differ, and what might account for these differences?

The last article applies cladistics, a method used in studies of biological evolution, in an attempt to clarify relationships among different Paleoindian point styles. In your view, does this attempt succeed? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this approach?

Anderson, David G., Ashley M. Smallwood, and D. Shane Miller (2015). Pleistocene Human Settlement in the Southeastern United States: Current Evidence and Future Directions. *PaleoAmerica* 1(1): 7-51. [Read pp. 7-13, 25-35.]

Anderson, David G. (1996). Models of Paleoindian and Early Archaic Settlement in the Lower Southeast. In *The Paleoindian and Early Archaic Southeast*, edited by David G. Anderson and Kenneth E. Sassaman, pp. 29-57. University of Alabama Press. [Read pp. 29-39.]

Pasciunas, Mary M. (2011). Mapping Clovis: Projectile Points, Behavior, and Bias. *American Antiquity* 76(1): 107-126.

Miller, D. Shane (2016). Modeling Clovis Landscape Use and Recovery Bias in the Southeastern United States Using the Paleoindian Database of the Americas (PIDBA). *American Antiquity* 81(4): 697-716.

Smallwood, Ashley M., Thomas A. Jennings, Charlotte D. Pevny, and David G. Anderson (2019). Paleoindian Projectile-Point Diversity in the American Southeast: Evidence for the Mosaic Evolution of Point Design. *PaleoAmerica* 5(3): 218-230.

#### Optional Readings:

Anderson, David G. (1990). The Paleoindian Colonization of Eastern North America. *Research in Economic Anthropology* 5: 163-216.

Anderson, David G., and J. Christopher Gillam (2000). Paleoindian Colonization of the Americas: Implications from an Examination of Physiography, Demography, and Artifact Distribution. *American Antiquity* 65(1): 43-66.