

Archaeology of the American South Anthropology 550

Week 5: Middle Archaic Period

The question we will consider is the title of an oft-cited article from the 1980s: What happened in the Middle Archaic? This was a time of major changes in technology, settlement, and social arrangements. In doing the readings below, focus on what the major changes were, and what they tell us about the economic, social, and political arrangements at this time. We will focus our discussion on three issues: (1) Were shell middens trash heaps or monuments? (2) What do cemeteries and mortuary patterns tell us about the nature of Middle Archaic societies? (3) What was the nature of interregional alliances and exchange?

General Readings:

Anderson, David G., and Kenneth E. Sassaman (2012). *Recent Developments in Southeastern Archaeology: From Colonization to Complexity*, pp. 76-111. SAA Press, Washington, D.C.

Milner, George R., and Richard W. Jefferies (1998). The Read Archaic Shell Midden in Kentucky. *Southeastern Archaeology* 17(2): 119-132.

Claassen, Cheryl A. (1992). Shell Mounds as Burial Mounds: A Revision of the Shell Mound Archaic. In *Current Archaeological Research in Kentucky: Volume 2*, edited by David Pollack and A. Gwynn Henderson, pp. 1-11. Kentucky Heritage Council.

Marquardt, William H. (2010). Shell Mounds in the Southeast: Middens, Monuments, Temple Mounds, Rings, or Works? *American Antiquity* 75(3):551-570.

Hamlin, Christine (2001). Sharing the Load: Gender and Task Division at the Windover Site. In *Gender and the Archaeology of Death*, edited by Bettina Arnold and Nancy L. Wicker, pp. 119-136. Altamira Press.

Jefferies, Richard W. (1996). The Emergence of Long Distance Exchange Networks in the Southeastern United States. In *Archaeology of the Mid-Holocene Southeast*, edited by Kenneth E. Sassaman and David G. Anderson, pp. 222-234. University Press of Florida.

Supplemental Readings:

Johnson, Jay K., and Samuel O. Brookes (1989). Benton Points, Turkey Tails, and Cache Blades: Middle Archaic Exchange in the Midsouth. *Southeastern Archaeology* 8(2): 134-145.

Jefferies, Richard W. (1997). Middle Archaic Bone Pins: Evidence of Mid-Holocene Regional-Scale Social Groups in the Southern Midwest. *American Antiquity* 62(3): 464-487.

Sassaman, Kenneth E., and Asa R. Randall (2007). The Cultural History of Bannerstones in the Savannah River Valley. *Southeastern Archaeology* 26(2): 196-211.

Optional Readings:

Russo, Michael (1996). Southeastern Archaic Mounds. In *Archaeology of the Mid-Holocene Southeast*, edited by Kenneth E. Sassaman and David G. Anderson, pp. 259-287. University Press of Florida.

Sassaman, Kenneth E., and R. Jerald Ledbetter (1996). Middle and Late Archaic Architecture. In *Archaeology of the Mid-Holocene Southeast*, edited by Kenneth E. Sassaman and David G. Anderson, pp. 75-96. University Press of Florida.

Sassaman, Kenneth E. (1996). Technological Innovations in Economic and Social Contexts. In *Archaeology of the Mid-Holocene Southeast*, edited by Kenneth E. Sassaman and David G. Anderson, pp. 57-74. University Press of Florida. [Read pp. 57-68 and the conclusion.]

Sanger, Matthew C., and Quinn-Monique Ogden (2018). Determining the Use of Late Archaic Shell Rings Using Lithic Data: “Ceremonial Villages” and the Importance of Stone. *Southeastern Archaeology* 37(3): 232-252.