



The Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives

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On-Site Program: Pre-Colonial Southern Ontario

In this lesson, students will learn about pre-colonial Indigenous history, from the end of the last Ice Age (around 13 000 years ago) to the onset of European colonization (around 1700 CE). Our presentation explores the differences between the three major archaeological periods during this time (namely the Paleoindian Period, the Archaic Period, and the Woodland Period), highlighting environmental and ecological changes between the periods and how those changes are reflected in the social structures, architecture, and material remains of each period. Emphasis will be placed on the “deep time” of human occupation of our region, and the complexity of Indigenous cultures in both pre-colonial history and the current day. Students will learn the safe handling of artifacts and will be able to handle artifacts relevant to the presentation, some of which students will be encouraged to identify from context clues. Museum staff or volunteers will lead the presentation, with opportunities for student engagement.

Target audience: Elementary school classes and home-schooled groups. The lesson will fit well with the curriculum of several grades, especially:

- Grade 2: *People and Environments: Global Communities*
- Grade 3: *Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, 1780–1850*
- Grade 4: *Heritage and Identity: Early Societies to 1500 CE*
- Grade 5: *Heritage and Identity: Interactions of Indigenous Peoples and Europeans prior to 1713, in What Would Eventually Become Canada*

Format: This program is intended for on-site presentation at the Aylmer-Malahide Museum & Archives. Edu-Kits with similar programming are available for off-site education.

Outcome and Objectives of Program: The purpose of this lesson is to provide participants with a summary of subsistence methods and overarching cultural practices of Indigenous nations before colonization. Successful participants will have a basic understanding of pre-colonial archaeological periods, material found in the archaeological record from these periods, and of local Indigenous nations.

Availability: Year-round, by request

Duration: One hour

Maximum Class Size: 30 students

Cost: \$2 per student

