

The Mighty Axe

Native Americans have probably been using stone axes to cut wood since Paleoindian times (10,000 - 16,500 BP). However, pecked, polished and grooved axes do not appear until the Archaic period (4300 - 10,000 BP). Grooved axes are either full grooved, meaning the groove for securing the head to the handle encircles the entire axe or $\frac{3}{4}$ grooved where the groove does not extend to the bottom side. Full grooved axes appear during the Middle Archaic period (6850 - 10,200 BP). During the Late Archaic (4300 - 6000 BP), $\frac{3}{4}$ grooved axes appear and become common during the Transitional Period (2700 - 4300 BP). Surprisingly, grooved axes seem to disappear by the Late Woodland period (450 - 1100 BP) when farming and the need to clear fields was most extensive.



Hafting Methods

