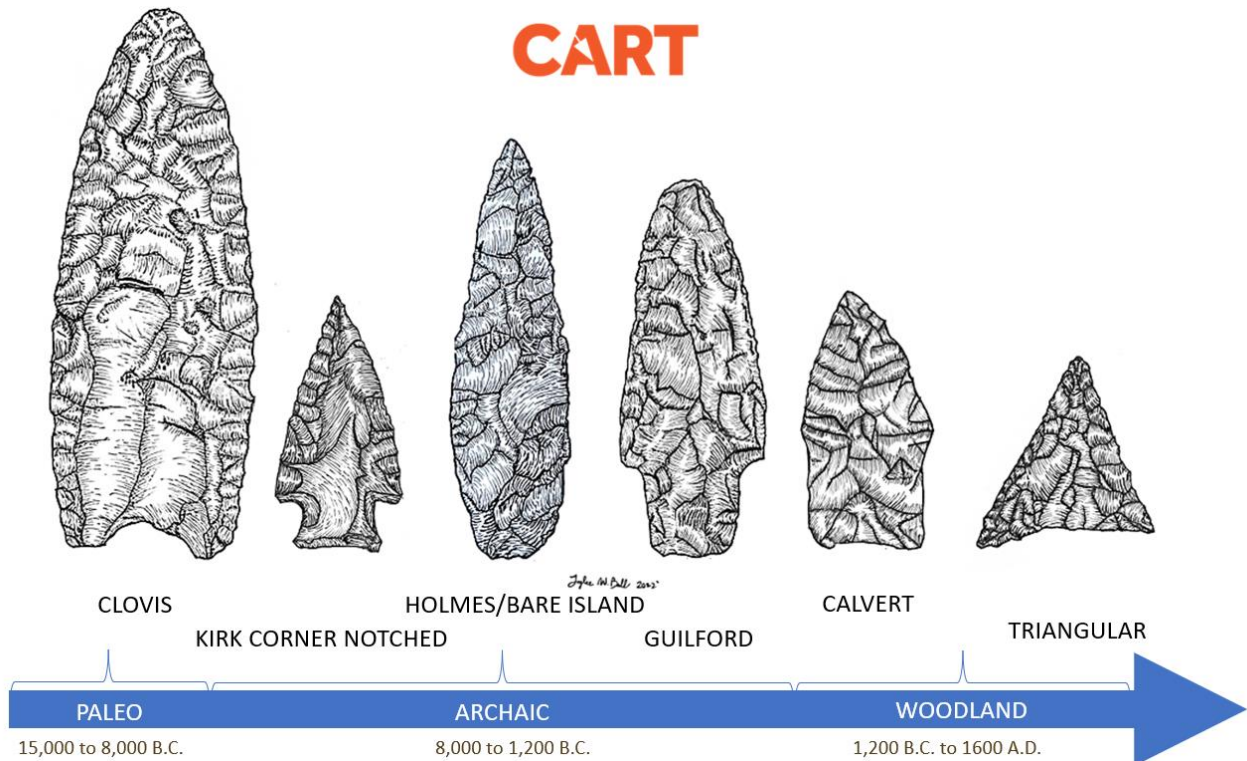


# CART



1. Clovis Point (11,150 to 10,850 BC). *The Clovis is a fluted, narrow, lanceolate point with a concave base. Some Clovis points exhibit a slight narrowing at the lower end of the blade, while others have entirely straight sides.*
2. Kirk Corner Notched (9400 to 8500 BC). *The Kirk Corner Notched point has a large triangular blade with bifacially serrated edges, corner notches, and a straight base.*
3. Bare Island (4500 to 3600 BC). *The Bare Island is a medium-to-large, symmetrical point, moderately-well to finely flaked, with a slender isosceles triangle blade and a straight base. The stem is generally straight with parallel or nearly parallel sides.*
4. Guilford (5250 to 4350 BC). *The Guilford point is characterized by a long, narrow, thick blade with a straight, rounded, or concave base.*
5. Calvert (1200 to 500 BC). *The Calvert is typically a short, thick, wide point with rudimentary shoulders, a parallel sided or slightly contracting stem, and a straight or slightly rounded base. The stem often comprises 30 to 50 percent of the total point length*
6. Triangle or Levanna (600 AD to 1200 AD). *The Levanna is a large, well-made, equilateral triangular point.*

## Using Stone Tools to Tell Time

By Tyler Ball, staff archaeologist

Projectile points have an important place in history; they are more than just a sharp stone; they are a marker in a timeline. People today commonly refer projectile points as arrowheads and spear heads, but archaeologists can distinguish between them and even use them as a tool for dating archaeological sites. Projectile points have changed shape and material over time, specifically as a result of adapting to a variety of influential factors, such as: environmental changes, size of game that were being hunted, shift in hunting techniques and material

preferences or resource availability. This timeline of projectile points from Fairfax County illustrates some examples of their evolution.

**Figure 1** is a Paleo projectile point known as a Clovis point, known commonly as one of the oldest points found in Fairfax County. This artifact is rare. Clovis points, as well as Paleo points are identified by having a "flute" or flake channel removed from the base. This channel was used for hafting, or attaching and stabilizing, the shaft to the point. The Clovis point were typically larger and were used and designed to hunt larger wild game such as Mammoths. The hunters would need a larger spear to penetrate the thick muscles and fat of the animals especially a powerful one that would need to be attacked at a safe distance.

As the time of the Ice Age ends, we see the transition to plant growth and forests. This environmental change also became home to smaller game that could be easier to hunt, resulting in smaller projectile points. **Figure 2** is a Kirk Corner Notched point, which shows the transition from large to small points as well as introducing a new method for hafting, the side notch. side notching points created a new technique for stabilizing the point to the shaft. By creating a design that included an area that could act like a slot that was able to be secured without interfering or contacting the sharp edges of the point, the side notch point began to become a popular concept for hunting during the archaic period.

**Figure 3** is a Guilford point, which shows another shift in preference of manufacturing. One explanation for this shift is quality verses quantity. Like today, we tend to notice and explain these changes as a way of simplifying a process, whether it is because of how long crafting one tool takes in comparison to multiple less complex tools. In similar shifts seen before we see the introduction of the stem base points (Figures 4-5). The Bare Island point has a prominent stem that made the hafting process less complicated than some of the prior point designs. In Figure 5, The Calvert point is identifiable by its wide stem base that is roughly half of the point's size. These points show the preference in spending time making more, smaller points with less complicated designs.

The final shift we see is into the triangular and tear drop shaped points. **Figure 6** is a Levanna point, which was also used for hunting small game. The interesting feature to notice first about the "youngest" point is that it doesn't use a stem or a side notch design to hafting, these points could simply be strapped into the split shaft and tied down and be just as effective. This point was commonly used in the Woodland and after the colonial contact period.