**D.R.A.W. – Paleo-Indian**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Period**

**Part I – Reading Article: *Paleo Indian Period: Overview***

***The New Georgia Encyclopedia***

**http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/paleoindian-period-overview**

**Historical Background**

The initial human settlement of Georgia took place during one of the most dramatic periods of climate change in recent earth history, toward the end of the Ice Age. Exactly when human beings first arrived is currently unknown, although people had to have been present 13,250 years ago: distinctive artifacts of the Clovis culture (so named from the New Mexico town of Clovis, where the characteristic stone projectile points with a central groove were first unearthed) have been found at a number of locations across the state. The late glacial southeastern environment these first peoples encountered was markedly different from today's environment. Sea levels were more than 200 feet lower than present levels, and the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico shorelines were 100 or more miles seaward of their present locations. Global temperature was rising rapidly during the interval from 15,000 to 11,000 years ago, albeit with occasional sharp reverses, and the great continental ice sheets were retreating, causing the coastline to move rapidly inland.

During this interval massive extinctions of such animals as elephants, horses, camels, and other megafauna took place, and vegetational communities shifted location and composition in dramatic fashion.

**Chronology**

Paleo Indian occupations in Georgia occurred approximately 10000-8000 B.C. People may have been present before the Paleo-Indian period, but identifiable remains have not been found in the state. Archaeologists recognize sites primarily by the presence of distinctive projectile points found. The Paleo-Indian is characterized by Clovis and related projectile point forms, relatively large lanceolate (lance-shaped) points with nearly parallel sides, slightly concave bases, and single or multiple basal flake scars, or flutes, that rarely extend more than a third of the way up the body.

**Way of Life**

Most likely, Paleo-Indian moved over large areas, on foot or by water, in small bands of twenty-five to fifty people. Their group ranges centered on stone quarries, shoals, or other particularly desirable environmental features. Although it is known they were hunter-gatherers, it is not known whether their diet primarily consisted of large game animals or a wide array of plant and animal species.

Paleo-Indian groups are thought to have lived in central base camps for varying lengths of time. Once local resources were exhausted or depressed, they relocated to a new area, possibly quite some distance away. Several such moves may have occurred over the course of a year. Paleo-Indian toolkits have superbly made artifacts of chipped stone and carved bone—projectile points, scraping and engraving tools and cutting tools.

Over the course of the Paleo-Indian era, comparatively fixed base camps gave way to a more nomadic way of life, with people readily and repeatedly moving their camps as they exhausted the food supply in their immediate area.

**Part II – Analysis Questions: Respond to each of the following questions in complete sentences.**

**Historical Background**

1. How do we know that humans first settled in Georgia 13,250 years ago?

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2. Explain two ways that the environment (land and climate) of the southeastern region was different compared to today’s environment.

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**Chronology**

3. When did the Paleo-Indian period occur?

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4. What is a clovis point?

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**Way of Life**

5. Why do you think that Paleo-Indians lived/moved in large groups?

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6. Why were Paleo-Indians nomadic (moved frequently)?

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**Part III – Written Response: Respond to the following prompt in a minimum of 3-5 complete sentences.**

Based on your knowledge of the Paleo-Indian period, how would your life be different if you had lived during the Paleo-Indian period? Provide three examples of differences, stating text evidence from the article.

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