Timeline of Indigenous Presence in Missouri

- 12,000 Years Before Present (BP)
  - Pre-Clovis: >11,250 Years BP
  - Clovis: 11,250-10,950 Years BP
  - Dalton: 10,950-9,900 Years BP

- 10,000 Years BP
  - Early Archaic: 10,000-7,000 Years BP

- 8,000 Years BP
  - Middle Archaic: 7,000-5,000 Years BP

- 6,000 Years BP
  - Late Archaic: 5,000-3,000 Years BP

- 4,000 Years BP
  - Early Woodland: 3,000-2,500 Years BP
  - Middle Woodland: 2,500-1,600 Years BP

- 2,000 Years BP
  - Late Woodland: 1,600-1,100 Years BP
  - Mississippian: 1,100-300 Years BP

- The Present (1950)*
  - Period of Colonization: 300 Years BP to Present

*Archaeologists have chosen the year 1950 as a reference point for ‘the present.’ That date was chosen because radiocarbon dating was invented in the late 1940s.