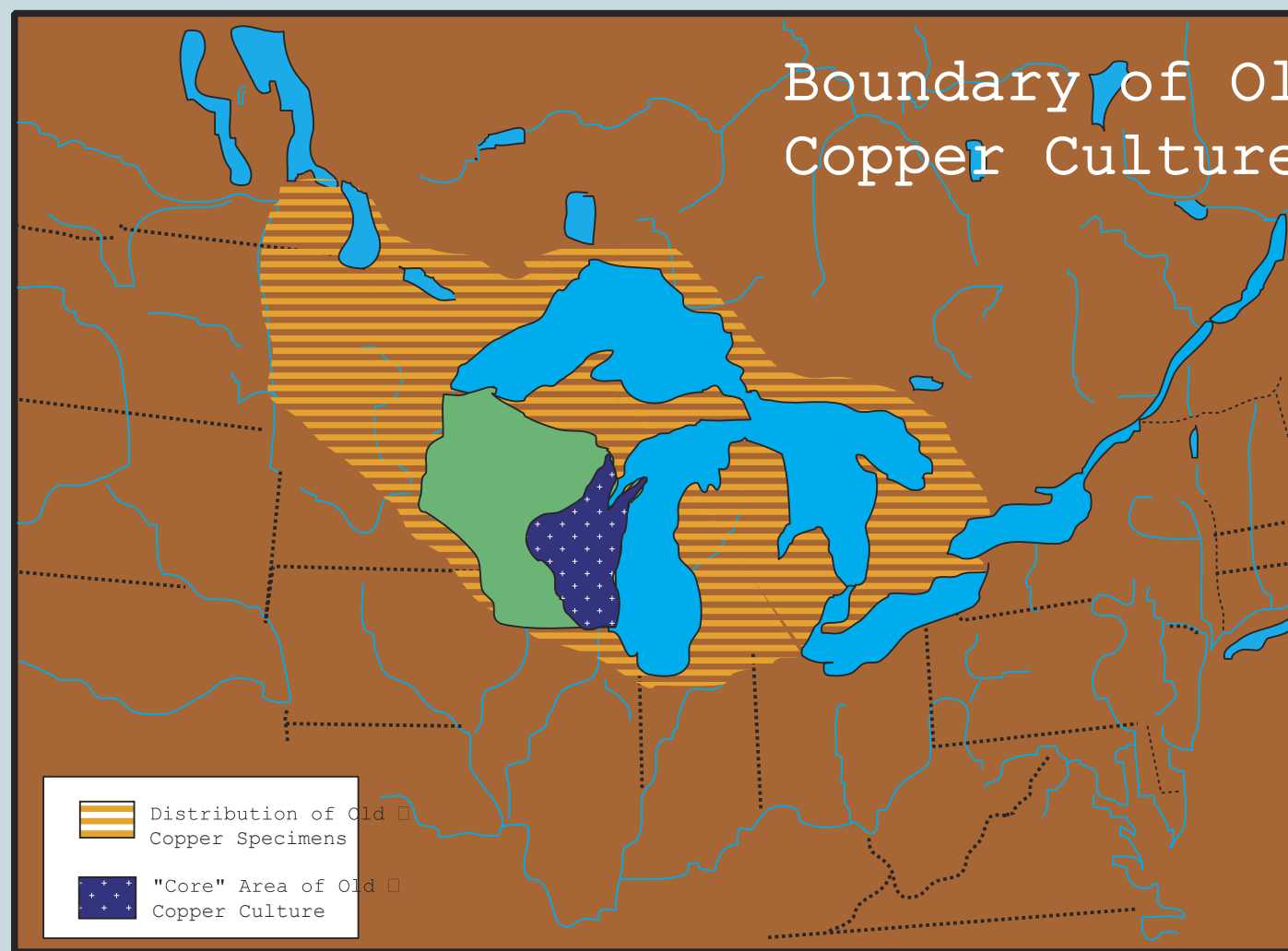
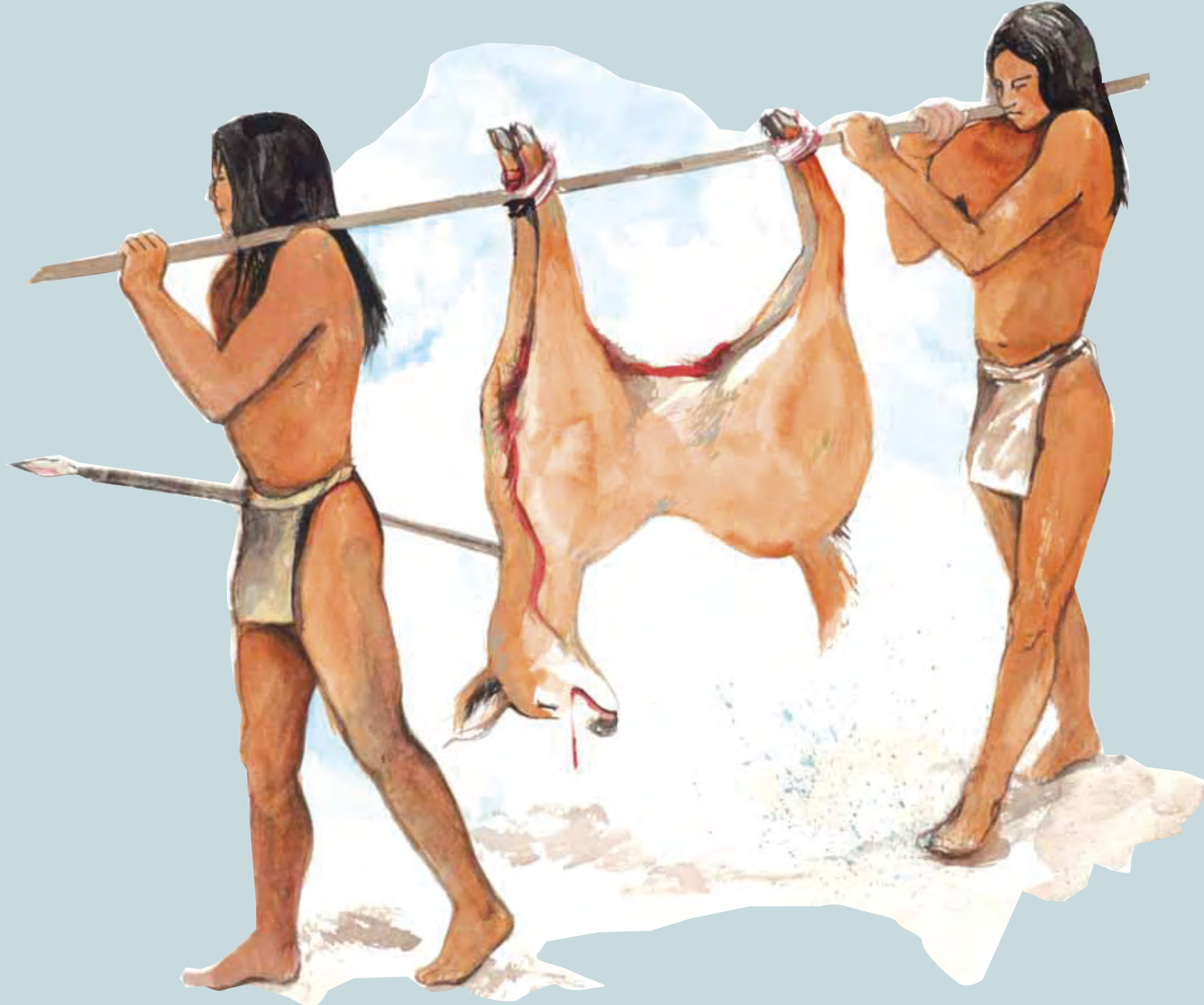


Archaic Indians - Hunting, Gathering, Fishing 6500-800 B.C.

At the beginning of the Archaic period, the climate in Wisconsin was colder than it is now. Then it became warmer and drier, more like today, and oaks, hickories, and maple trees replaced the pines that had once grown throughout the area. The warmer climate made a larger variety of foods available. Archaic Indians hunted moose, caribou, small mammals, and especially, deer. They also began to include more fish, nuts, and other plant foods in their diets.



Archaic Indians living in northern Wisconsin and other places around Lake Superior found large deposits of pure copper. They mined the copper by using fire, large stone hammers, and pry bars. Then by hammering, heating, and hammering again, they shaped the copper into tools and jewelry that they kept for themselves or traded throughout the Midwest.

Like the Paleo-Indians, Archaic Indians lived in small extended family groups and moved throughout the year. They probably did not travel as far as the Paleo-Indians. They also returned to familiar places where they stayed for longer periods of time and lived in caves and rock shelters, and built houses of wooden poles and covered these with hides, birchbark, or mats made of plant material.

