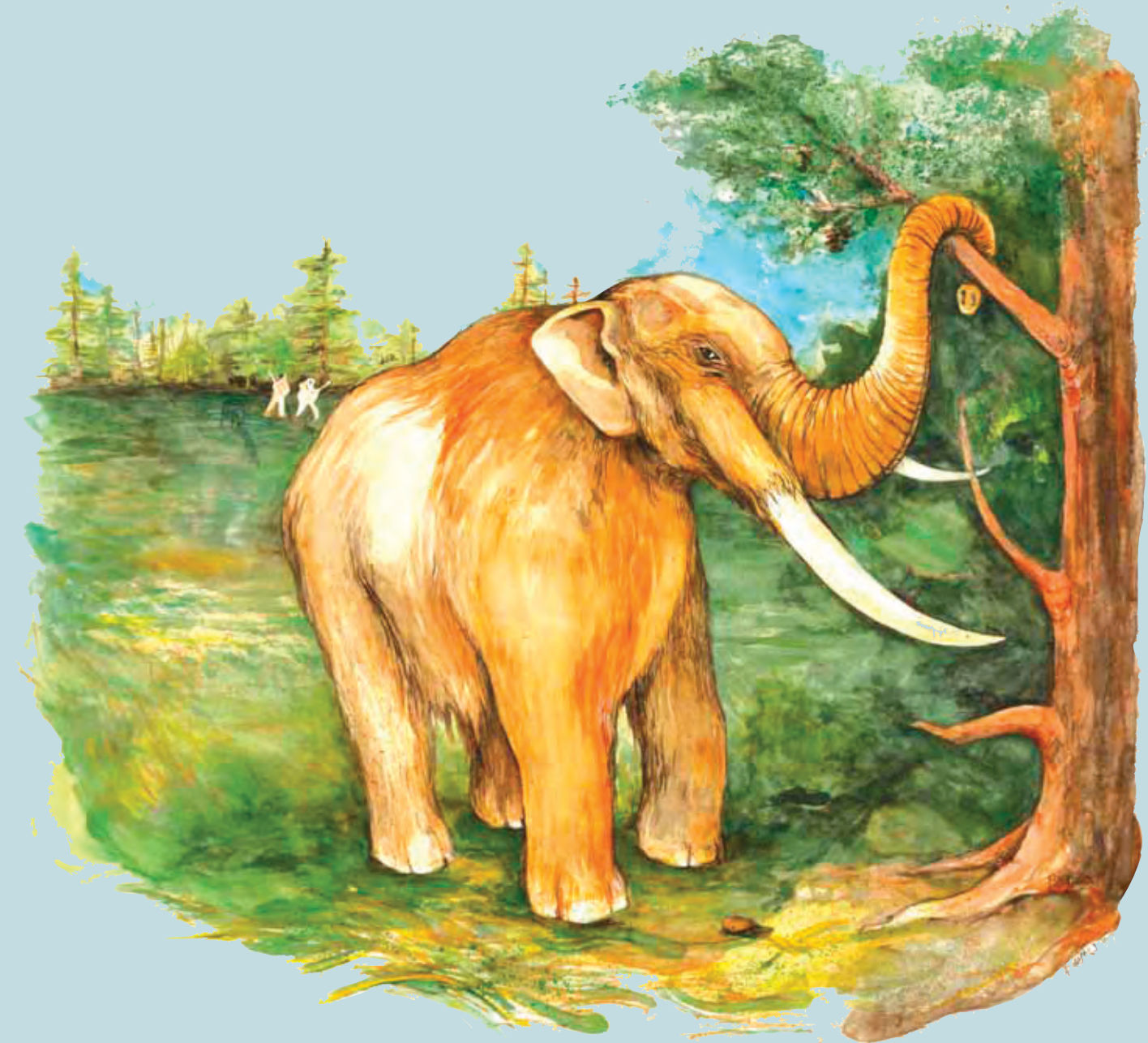


# Paleo-Indians - Wisconsin's First People 10,000 - 6500 B.C.

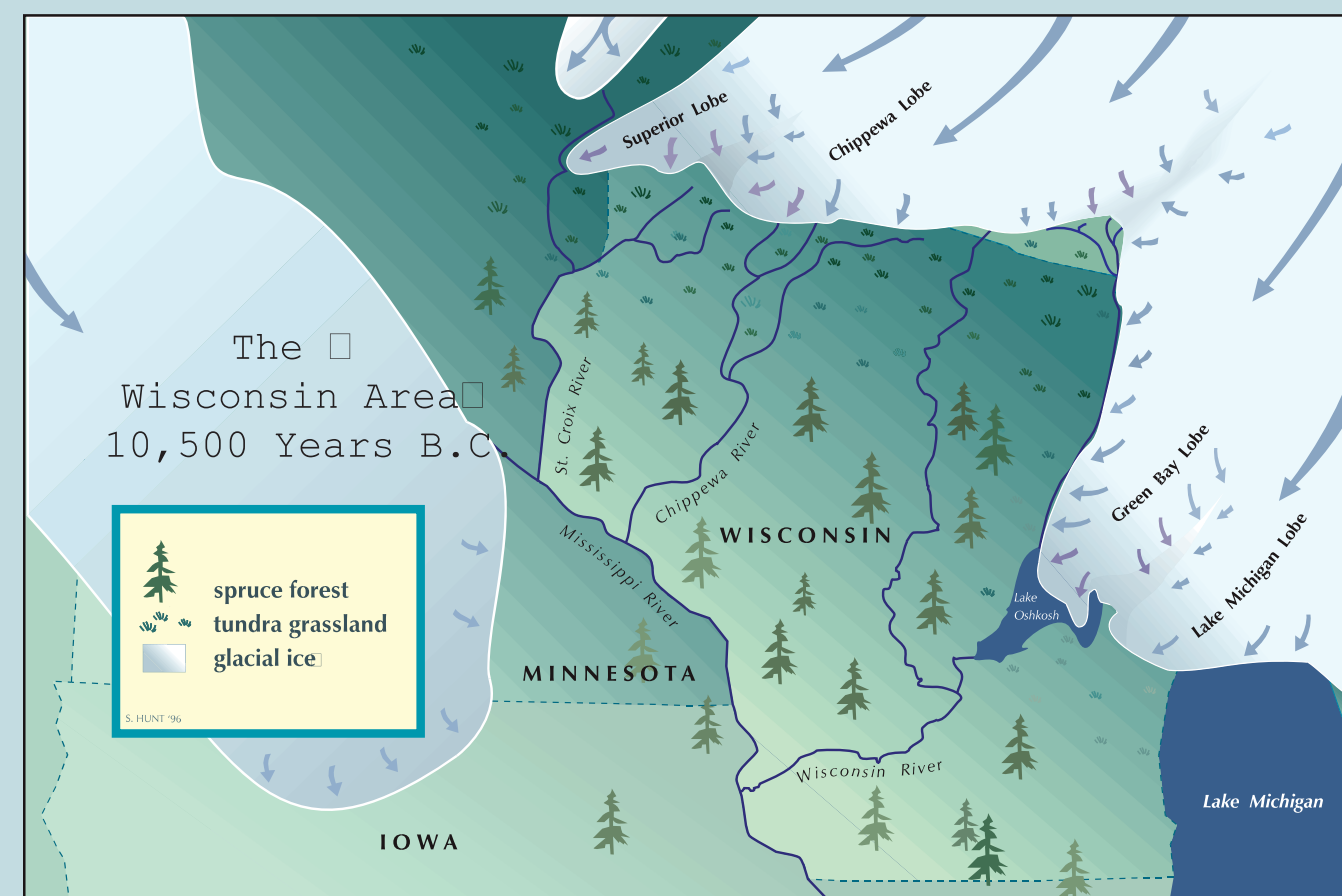
The Paleo-Indians were the first people known to have lived in the area that is now Wisconsin. Archaeologists have found very few sites because there never were many Paleo-Indians.



The Paleo-Indians lived in small, extended family groups that included grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, and children. Archaeologists have found small campsites where they stayed for short periods of time, sometimes living in natural shelters such as caves or rock overhangs. When necessary, they probably built small houses made of wood and animal hides.



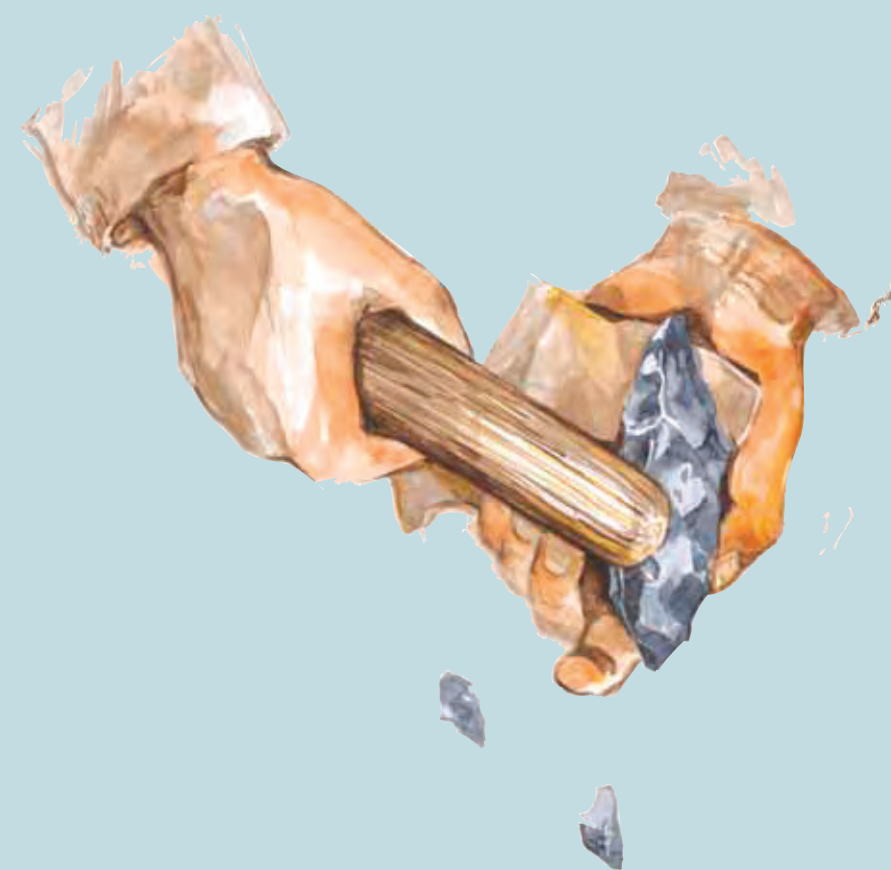
Paleo-Indians used spears to hunt mammoths, mastodons, and other large mammals that are now extinct. They also hunted smaller animals and gathered edible plants. Small family groups moved around regularly over great distances to find food at particular places and times throughout the year. At these times, they enjoyed meeting other groups of Paleo-Indians.



Susan Lawton Hunt, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey

Glaciers still covered some of the area that is now Wisconsin, so the weather was colder than it is now.

Presented by the Town of Middleton



Paleo-Indians made distinctive spear points and other tools by chipping stone. They probably made their clothes of animal skins and plant fibers.



Illustrations by Phoebe Hefko

