

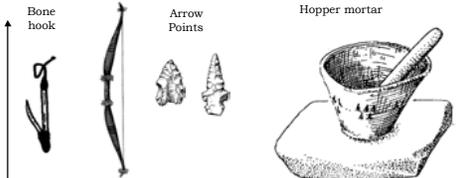
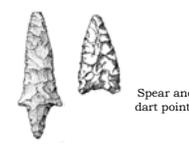
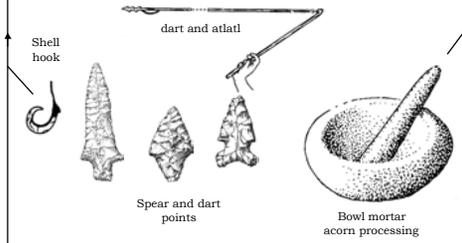
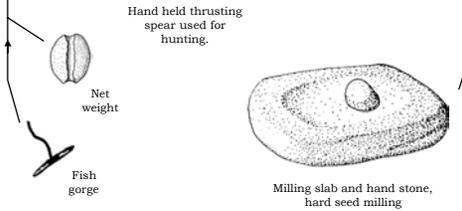
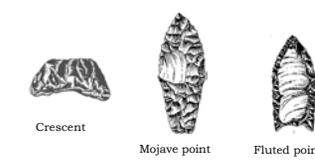
12,000 YEARS OF CULTURAL CHANGE ALONG THE CENTRAL COAST

YEARS B.P.  
(before present)

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

CULTURAL CHANGE

YEARS B.P. (before present)	TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE	ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE	CULTURAL CHANGE
<b>Historic 500 B.P.</b>		Today's climate	1850 AD California becomes state 1772 AD Spanish Missions built 1769 AD Portola' exploration travels through Central Coast 1500 AD European diseases spread wiping out 50% of Native Population
<b>Emergent Period (Late Period) 1,000 B.P.</b>	 <p>Bone hook Arrow Points Hopper mortar</p>	Climate and weather patterns are much like today's.	Population continues to grow requiring additional food resources. This was accomplished by adding the bow and arrow, bone fishhook, and hopper mortar to the tool kit. The shell bead money economy was well developed. A political system based on village/district/region divisions was in use with headmen (or women) representing each division. A prehistoric social security system, craft specialization and class structure existed where people no longer had equal access to wealth.
<b>Upper Archaic (Middle Period) 2,500 B.P.</b>	 <p>Spear and dart points</p>	The rising sea level stabilized at the start of this period. Bay and estuary siltation begins. Morro Bay begins to shrink and Halcyon Bay fills in. This has a devastating effect on the schooling fish population, which, in turn, effects the way people relate to their environment.	Population continues to increase requiring an intensification in food production. People are forced to gather less productive resources such as small land mammals, marine mammals, birds, and smaller shellfish. Due to resource limitations, many bayshore villages are abandon for inland locations within walking distance of both coastal and upland resource areas. Shell bead money economy and exchange systems expand. Burials are discovered with different amounts of wealth suggesting the existence of a class system based on wealth.
<b>Middle Archaic (Early Period) 5,500 B.P.</b>	 <p>Shell hook dart and atlatl Spear and dart points Bowl mortar acorn processing</p>	Sea level continues to rise, bays and estuaries are at their largest supporting abundant fish. Morro Bay was 4 times larger than today and a huge bay existed between Arroyo Grande and the coast south of Oceano (known as Halcyon Bay). Climate was cooler and moister than today. First evidence of habitation on the Morro Bay Sand Spit dates to 4,100 B.P.	Population grows to the point of outstripping previously collected food resources. This requires the addition of new resources and new technologies to harvest and prepare those resources. The bowl mortar and pestle (for acorn processing), shell fishhooks, and the dart and atlatl are all added to the tool kit enabling the capture of more food. Large settlements exist in resource-rich coastal areas. Shell beads first appear as do exotic materials such as obsidian from Oregon and the Sierras. These trade items indicate the existence of well established boundaries between community territories. A trade and exchange network is necessary in order to distribute special local resources throughout a large region. Everyone has equal access to food and wealth items.
<b>Lower Archaic (Milling Period) 8,500 B.P.</b>	 <p>Hand held thrusting spear used for hunting. Net weight Fish gorge Milling slab and hand stone, hard seed milling</p>	World-wide warm period (Alithermal) caused wetlands to dry up, pine forests were replaced by grassland and chaparral. Sea level still 27 feet lower than today but rising as polar ice melts. Marshy areas and small water sources dry up. Sites from this time period are found throughout the Central Coast near major water sources.	As marshy areas and small water sources dry up, small dispersed groups of people must congregate near reliable water sources, forming large communities. This would have led to the development of rules for group behavior and some form of political system. The introduction of milling tools (for hard seed grinding) indicates the need for new food resources, most likely in response to diminishing wetland-based resources. There is a shift from opportunistic "foraging" to specific resource "collecting". The addition of the fish gorge and net fishing helped to increase the amount of protein gathered. The settlement system changed from wandering between seasonal small camps to residential villages with seasonal visits to special resource areas. Everyone had equal status. No evidence of trade or craft specialization.
<b>Paleo Indian 12,000 B.P.</b>	 <p>Crescent Mojave point Fluted point Fishing and gathering shellfish was done by hand in tidepools</p>	Very wet Ice Age climate with much of Central Coast covered in pine forests. Lots of marsh, lake and river areas. Coastal area temperatures kept mild by Pacific Current. Sea level is 270 feet lower than today due to much of Earth's water trapped in polar ice caps. Evidence of 9,000 B.P.+ habitation along the Central Coast has been found in Cambria, along the coast between Morro Bay and Port San Luis, and in Edna Valley.	Small groups of people were living in productive wetland and coastal areas, foraging for easily gathered and prepared resources. These small groups would move to a new location when local resources ran out. Protein was obtained from hunting large mammals and gathering mussels and fish from tide pool areas. Everyone would have had equal status in the community and there is no evidence of trade or exchange.