# GLOSSARY

A-horizon	Dark surface horizon or topsoil layer containing high percentages of organic material.
adaptation	Cultural and physical adjustments made by individuals and groups to new environmental settings.
aeolian	Wind-borne.
anadromous	Fish, such as salmon, shad, or sturgeon, that ascend rivers from the sea for breeding.
argillite	A metamorphosed mudstone cemented by silica and lacking slaty cleavage; found in great quantity in the Delaware Valley north of Trenton, New Jersey.
assemblage	Collection of persons or things; in this context, the collection of artifacts from a particular site, from a stratigraphic level or cultural component within the site, or of a particular artifact class, such as lithics or ceramics.
atlatl	A wood or bone throwing stick used to propel spears with more force than by the arm alone.
B-horizon	Weathered soil horizon containing accumulations of clay, iron, aluminum, humus, carbonates, silica, and other constituents that originate in overlying strata. Highly weathered B-horizons are often too ancient to contain prehistoric artifacts.
biface	A stone tool bearing flake scars on both faces.
bipolar	Lithic manufacturing technique of resting core on anvil and striking the core with a percussor. Bipolar flakes typically exhibit sheared cones of force, diffuse bulbs of percussion, closely spaced ripple marks, and crushed and splintered platforms; bipolar cores are typically tabular in shape and exhibit heavy crushing and battering, and flake scars tend to be oriented along the long axis of the core.
C-horizon	Unweathered sediments that are relatively unaffected by weathering processes.
catchment area	The area exploited for resources by the local population.

chert	A fine-grained, siliceous, sedimentary rock; comes in colors between white and black; an impure variety of chalcedony resembling flint.
chronology	Pertains to the basic temporal units of prehistory and the time span reflected in archaeological site stratigraphy.
cobble tool	Cobbles used for various tasks with little or no prior modification; battered, crushed, pitted, and/or smoothed surfaces identify these cobbles as tools.
core	A cobble or block of stone from which pieces are struck off to fashion tools.
cortex	Natural rind or weathered outer layer on flint-like materials. Observations of cortex provide information on tool manufacturing techniques and methods of raw material procurement; presence of cortex indicates early- to middle-stage tool manufacturing activity.
cracked rock	Includes all fragments of lithic debris that cannot be attributed to stone tool production; represents cobbles and/or chunks of local bedrock that may have been used in heating or cooking activities (fire-cracked rock).
cultigen	A cultivated plant for which a wild ancestor is known (for example, corn).
debitage	Residual lithic material resulting from tool manufacture. Represents intentional and unintentional breakage of artifacts through either manufacture or function; debitage flakes may represent the various stages of progress of the raw material from the original form to the finished tool.
E-horizon	Light-colored soil horizon usually underlying the A-horizon and characterized by less organic matter and/or lower amounts of iron and aluminum compounds than the underlying horizon.
edge damage	Known by a variety of terms, including "microflaking" and "use wear," this refers to the scars created along the edge of a utilized tool; visible as tiny flakes removed from the utilized surface.
expedient tool	A tool produced casually or opportunistically from readily available material, including cobbles, pebbles, or large waste flakes from formal tool manufacture; expedient tools are characterized by little, if any, modification prior to use.
faunal remains	Includes both bone and shell refuse, as well as tools and ornaments.

feature	A soil stain or disturbance caused by human activity such as a storage pit dug into the ground, or a cluster of fire-cracked rocks in a hearth.
floral remains	Include both charred and uncharred plant materials such as seeds, nuts, shells, and wood.
flotation	Process of sifting soil samples through a fine screen while running a steady stream of water over the sample; residual materials such as tiny artifacts, seeds, and bones are separated out into light and heavy fractions for analysis.
geomorphology	The study of landforms; concentrates on both the description of landforms and the chemical and physical processes that create the features present on the surface of the earth.
groundstone tools	Formal stone tools and ornaments that were manufactured by pecking, grinding, and sometimes flaking.
in situ	Latin phrase meaning "in its original place."
intrasite patterning	Horizontal and vertical site structure; focuses on the delineation of task- specific activity areas and site formation processes.
ironstone	A hard sedimentary rock, such as siderite, high in iron content.
jasper	An opaque cryptocrystalline quartz of a variety of colors, usually yellowish brown to reddish brown.
lithic	Of, related to, or made of stone.
microdebitage	Lithic flakes and shatter smaller than 6 millimeters.
palynology	A specialized form of botanical analysis which examines residual pollen and spores.
pedology	A branch of geology that focuses on the study of soils and soils development.
plowzone	That portion of the stratigraphy in which plowing has taken place; generally abbreviated as the "Ap-horizon."
post mold	An organic remnant of a decayed wooden post or stake that had been placed in the ground to support a structure.

prehistoric	Time period before the appearance of written records; in Delaware, this refers to the period before European colonization, circa AD 1600.
quarry site	A rock outcropping or cobble bed used to procure raw material for tool manufacture.
quartz	Crystalline, non-metallic mineral consisting of silicon dioxide; typically occurs in hexagonal crystals or crystalline masses.
quartzite	A compact granular rock composed of quartz and derived from sandstone by heat and pressure.
residue analysis	Chemical analysis of a variety of use-related, protein-based residues present on lithic and ceramic artifacts; includes animal remains such as blood and fish oil, or plant products such as seeds, grains, and sap.
rhyolite	Light-colored, extrusive, igneous rock with abundant quartz and a very fine- grained texture; quarries are located 80-100 kilometers west of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania and Maryland.
settlement pattern	Pertains to a group's adaptation to the environment within a regional perspective.
stratigraphy	The origin, composition, and succession of natural soil or rock, or cultural layers.
steatite	Soapstone; fine-grained, relatively soft, compact rock whose principal constituent is talc. Carved into bowls before the introduction of pottery.
stratum	(i) a mass of sedimentary deposits lying in a vertical sequence; (ii) a layer in which archaeological material (as artifacts or dwelling remains) is found within a site.
subsistence	A source or means of obtaining those materials essential to the maintenance of life such as food and shelter; in archaeology, subsistence deals primarily with dietary composition and food procurement strategies.
temper	In pottery manufacture, temper is the material added to the clay to prevent cracking when fired; can include fiber, shell, grit, sand, or fragments of fired clay.
uniface	A stone tool flaked on one surface only; used for scraping action similar to a modern wood plane.

waste flake	Discarded lithic flakes not suitable for use, usually resulting from platform preparation, trimming, quarrying or mining waste, and removal of cortex.
Wolfe Neck ware	A Woodland I (ca. 700-400 BC) ceramic type with quartz temper; its surface is decorated with impressions made by fabric or by cord-wrapped sticks.

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