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## **PATTERNS IN LITHIC RESOURCE PROCUREMENT AND EXPLOITATION AMONG EARLY PALEO-INDIANS OF THE MIDWESTERN UNITED STATES**

For the past 30 years scholars have used the lithic raw material composition of fluted projectile point assemblages to evaluate patterns in Paleo-Indian lithic resource procurement and settlement mobility. Early investigators suggested that Paleo-Indians procured only the highest quality lithic material from sources located hundreds of kilometers from their hunting activities, thus they were viewed as highly mobile in their settlement system. More recently, a number of archaeologists have argued that although Early Paleo-Indian groups in the eastern United States may have concentrated on high quality lithic resources for the manufacture of fluted projectile points, their settlement mobility was relatively low, especially in areas displaying an unglaciated landscape. It has been suggested that the fluted point assemblages of all Early Paleo-Indian sites in the unglaciated eastern United States are composed entirely of locally available lithic raw material. Based on the petrographic analysis of more than 700 fluted points from findspots in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, this paper defends the position that Early Paleo-Indians in the Midwestern United States exhibited a pattern of high settlement mobility, regardless of the landscape. The geographic distribution of the most abundant and highest quality lithic resource in Indiana, Wyandotte chert, whose source is located in the unglaciated terrain of south central Indiana, when plotted and compared with the distribution of fluted projectile points manufactured from that resource illustrates a pattern indicative of high mobility ([see Figure 5](#)).

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