

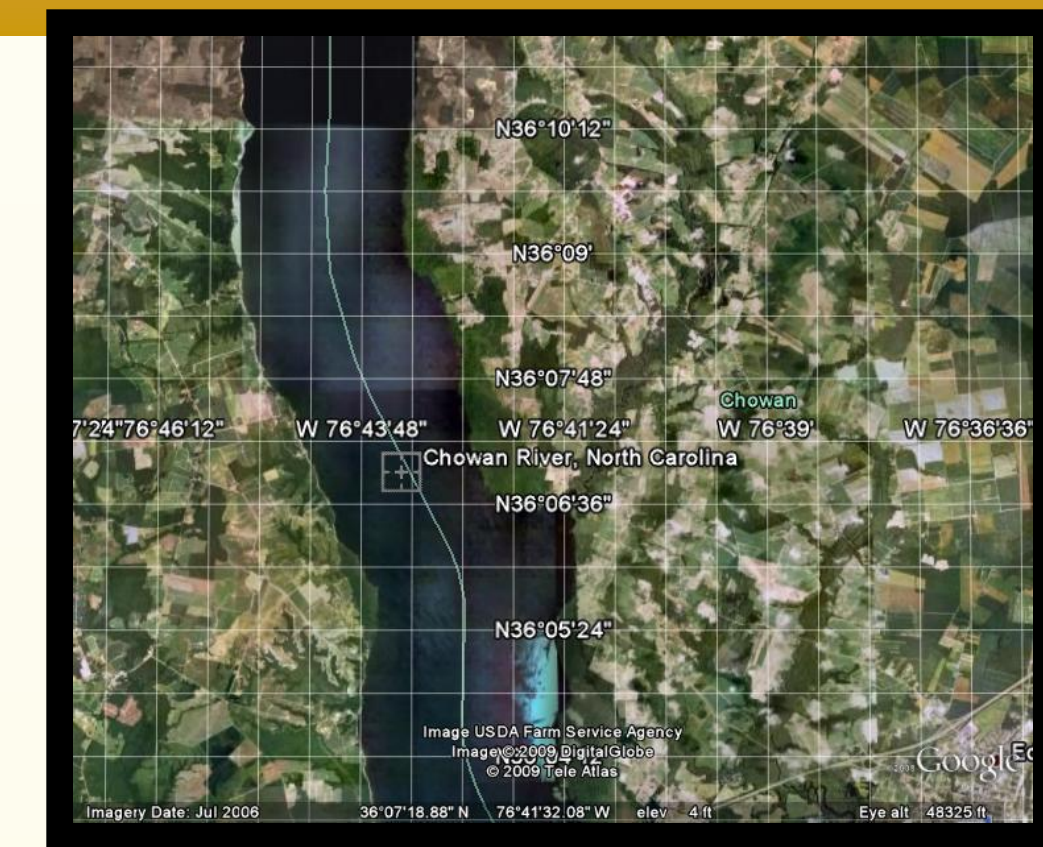


Influences of Shoreline Changes, Rock Types, Hurricanes, and Elevation on Pre-Contact Chowan Indian Culture



Watershed Watch 2009
Elizabeth City State University

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Hypothesis

Shoreline changes, rock types, hurricanes, and elevation had no significant influence on pre-contact and early post-contact demise of Chowan Indian

Objective

The objective of this study was to become familiar with how shoreline, rock types, hurricanes, and elevation influenced Chowan Indians culture immediately prior to the time of European contact. An additional objective was to provide each study team member and an opportunity to experience scientific data collection specific for a historic time period and apply it to cultural components.



Results

Shoreline changes were minimal during the time with the exception of tree damage due to hurricanes and flooding which impacted the width of the river in the study area by promoting a natural destabilization of the shoreline allowing erosion.

Obsidian and other rocks that could be cut easily into points and other important tools was critical for the survival of the tribe. Obsidian was obtained from as far away as the western United States where high quality obsidian was gathered and traded along long established cross continental trading routes. These rock tools were used until the demise of the tribe.

Hurricanes data was collected but data was inconsistent or non-existent for the time period of the study. However, based upon NOAA data from 1851 through 2009 there were eleven hurricanes.

Elevation had no significant influence on pre-contact and early post-contact the demise of Chowan Indian because elevation stayed the same. Research data shows that the elevation of the Chowan River was from twelve to fourteen inches then and still is now.



References

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Conclusion

Shoreline changes, rock types, hurricanes, and elevation had no significant influence on pre-contact and early post-contact the demise of Chowan Indian. In the process of historical document review it was discover that neither environmental factors nor European introduce diseases contributed to the tribe demise, rather attacks from the Tuscarora and their allies were the primarily factor in elimination of the Chowan.

Abstract

The Chowan Indians have inhabited the near-inland shores of the Chowan River for at least several centuries prior to long-term contact with Europeans. However, within a very short time, the Chowan Indian Tribe was no longer noted to be in the area. This study examines the effect of four components on the Chowan tribe: Geological, Environmental variables, hurricanes, shoreline changes, Elevation, and obsidian. An historical data research was conducted using electronic and hard copy sources at Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City Public Library, and informal conversations with knowledgeable historians and residents. Hurricane and tropical storm data was obtained from NOAA websites. Data reviews were conducted individually for each of the four components using via data review. Data Analysis revealed

Introduction

The Chowan Indians have inhabited the near-inland shores of the Chowan River for at least several centuries prior to long-term contact with Europeans. However, within a very short time, the Chowan Indian Tribe was no longer noted to be in the area. This study examines the effect of four components on the Chowan tribe: Geological, Environmental variables, hurricanes, shoreline changes, Elevation, and obsidian.

Methods

The following four environmental variables were selected for this study based upon personal interest. The four components reviewed were: shoreline changes, rock types, hurricanes, and elevation. An historical data search was conducted using electronic and hard copy sources at Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City Public Library, and informal conversations with knowledgeable historians and residents. Hurricane and tropical storm data was obtained from NOAA websites. Qualitative data reviews were conducted individually for each of the four components by selecting critical related information specific for the component. Hurricane pathway data was visually analyzed and tracks the ranged within 50 miles (km) were selected for study incorporation.

