

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS

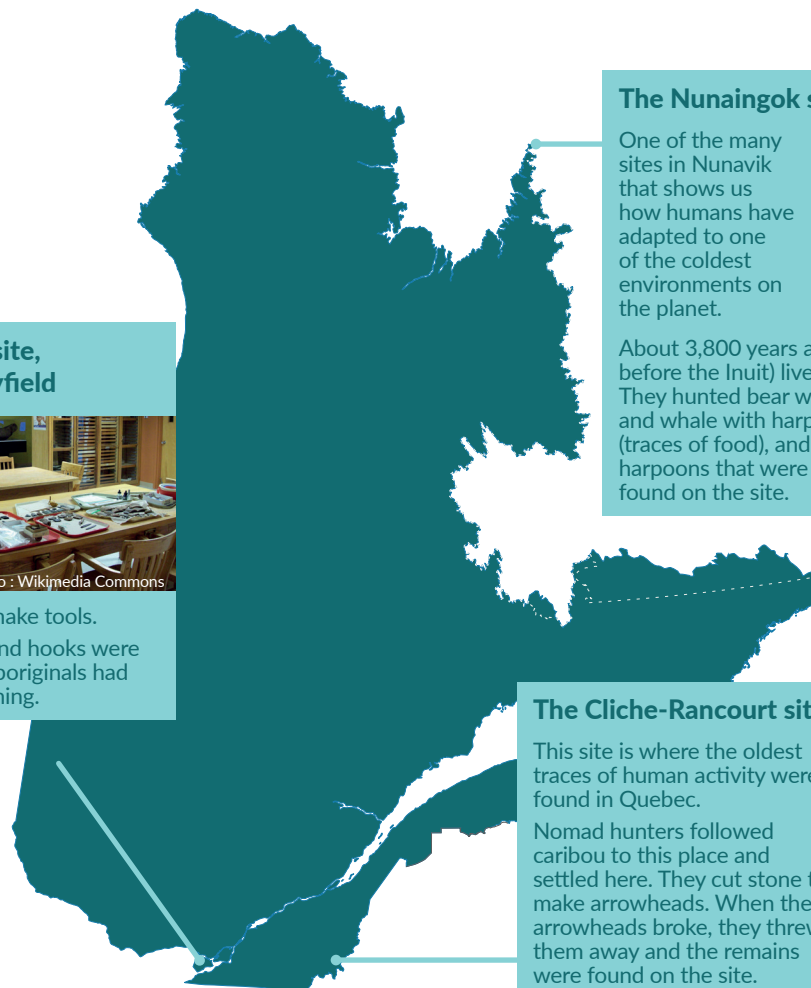
In Quebec, many archaeological sites have revealed the history of Aboriginal peoples, a history that is over 12,000 years old.

Archeology

Study of the past using objects or parts of objects found in the ground.

Why archaeology?

To learn about our ancestors who did not leave written traces (history).



The Pointe-du-Buisson site, near Salaberry-de-Valleyfield

The first inhabitants ate a lot of fish because they lived on an island. Fish was also used to make glue and the bones were used to make tools.



Photo : Wikimedia Commons

On this site, harpoon points and hooks were found, showing us how the Aboriginals had invented different ways of fishing.

The Nunaingok site, near Baie d'Ungava

One of the many sites in Nunavik that shows us how humans have adapted to one of the coldest environments on the planet.



Photo : Institut culturel Avatag

About 3,800 years ago, the first occupants (even before the Inuit) lived in semi-subterranean homes. They hunted bear with spears and bows, and seal and whale with harpoons. Gnawed animal bones (traces of food), and stone points of arrows and harpoons that were broken and left behind were found on the site.

The Cliche-Rancourt site near Lac-Mégantic

This site is where the oldest traces of human activity were found in Quebec.

Nomad hunters followed caribou to this place and settled here. They cut stone to make arrowheads. When the arrowheads broke, they threw them away and the remains were found on the site.



Photo : Claude Chapdelaine

Today, Aboriginal people have become archaeologists to get to know their ancestors and to help non-Aboriginal archaeologists understand and respect their cultures.

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