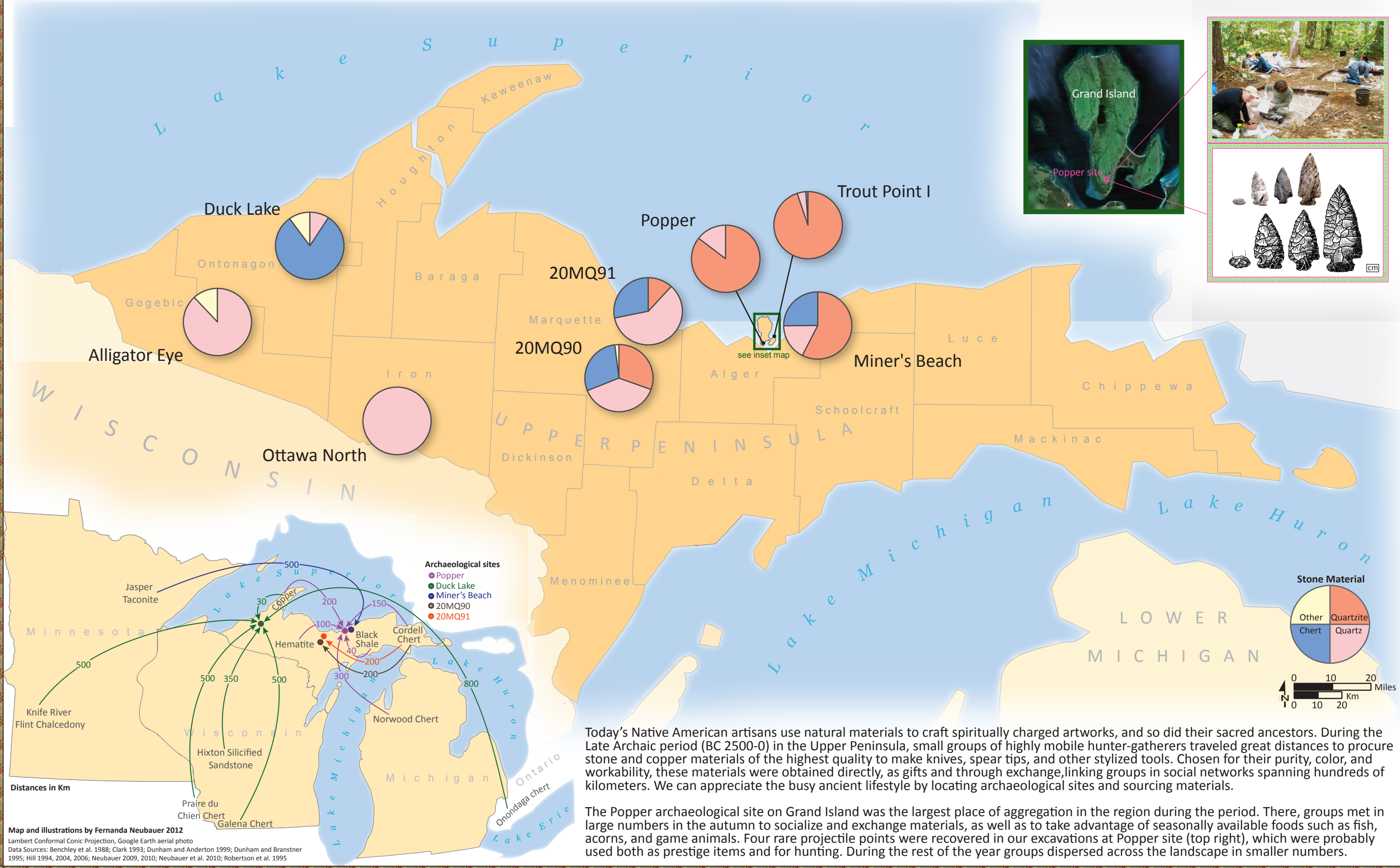


# Late Archaic Period Native American Material Selection and Exchange in Michigan's Upper Peninsula



Today's Native American artisans use natural materials to craft spiritually charged artworks, and so did their sacred ancestors. During the Late Archaic period (BC 2500-0) in the Upper Peninsula, small groups of highly mobile hunter-gatherers traveled great distances to procure stone and copper materials of the highest quality to make knives, spear tips, and other stylized tools. Chosen for their purity, color, and workability, these materials were obtained directly, as gifts and through exchange, linking groups in social networks spanning hundreds of kilometers. We can appreciate the busy ancient lifestyle by locating archaeological sites and sourcing materials.

The Popper archaeological site on Grand Island was the largest place of aggregation in the region during the period. There, groups met in large numbers in the autumn to socialize and exchange materials, as well as to take advantage of seasonally available foods such as fish, acorns, and game animals. Four rare projectile points were recovered in our excavations at Popper site (top right), which were probably used both as prestige items and for hunting. During the rest of the year groups dispersed across the landscape in smaller numbers.

Map and illustrations by Fernanda Neubauer 2012  
 Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Google Earth aerial photo  
 Data Sources: Benchley et al. 1988; Clark 1993; Dunham and Arderton 1999; Dunham and Branstner 1995; Hill 1994, 2004, 2006; Neubauer 2009, 2010; Neubauer et al. 2010; Robertson et al. 1995