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1982 Early and Middle Woodland in the Middle Atlantic: An Overview. In *Practicing Environmental Archaeology: Methods and Interpretations*, Roger W. Moeller, editor, pp. 53-86. American Indian Archaeological Institute, Occasional Paper 3, Washington, Connecticut.

In this sweeping overview of the Early and Middle Woodland time periods, the author discusses a millennia of societal changes that span geographically from the Virginia Ridge and Valley in the West to the Delaware Coastal Plain in the East. The Middle Woodland period is here divided into Middle Woodland I (500 B.C. – A.D. 200/300) and Middle Woodland II (A.D. 200/300 – A.D. 900). Net-impressed pottery became widespread across the region during the Middle Woodland I, attributed to a growing trade and interaction network. Sedentism, which began to take root in the Early Woodland, increased during the Middle Woodland, as did population growth, which may have led to a centralization in authority and the development of ranked societies. This ranking is most clearly evidenced by the preferential burial practices of the Western Virginia Stone Mound Burial Mound Complex and the Adena-related complexes of the Delmarva Peninsula, demonstrating that only select members of the societies were interred in such a manner.

During the Middle Woodland II and the sudden expansion of shell-tempered pottery in the Coastal Plain, a more dispersed settlement system prevailed. This is possibly due to a loss of the ranked societal system, evidenced by the lack of ornate burial mounds and an increased number of shell middens with Mockley components. The author sees these changes “tied together in the ecology, the limitations of the techno-economic base, population growth, geographic over-extension, [and] the failure of the previously evolved structures to satisfy the needs of the population or effectively to keep the system operative” (p. 67). This led to a society more in line with the “loosely or non-aligned systems prevailing during the Early Woodland” (p. 81).