

**Layer 4 (second layer from top)**  
Stratigraphy Card

**Pot Section**

Native Americans living on the Plains continued to make pottery for some time after their initial contact with Europeans in the mid-sixteenth century. Ceramic traditions of each group determine the type of clay and temper used, the vessel form, and the decorative style applied. The jug-like form, smoothed plain surface, and strap handles of this pot section can be attributed to the ancestors of the Wichita Indians who lived on the Central Plains during the late ceramic period, A.D. 1550-1750.

The quality of Indian-made pottery diminished in Kansas in the mid-nineteenth century as these cultures gained easy access to metal pots and pans through the fur trade. Perhaps this reflects less skilled and/or careful potters as metal pots and pans became more widely used.

