

Native Americans in Northwest Alabama

Educator's Resource Packet



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Oakville Indian Platform Mound, Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center

Introduction

This educator packet offers a brief glimpse into the rich history of Native Americans in Northwest Alabama.¹ Within are detailed overviews of Native American history that help to acknowledge some of the contributions Native Americans have made to the region. In addition, we utilize local history to meet standards relative to the Alabama Course of Study. The packet also includes activities that enhance student learning and retention of the material.

It is our goal at the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area to create accessible materials for teachers to use as supplements to museums and locations around the Shoals that help students understand local history and recognize the historical value of the area.

The Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area was designated by Congress in 2009. It encompasses the six northwest counties of Alabama: Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone and Morgan. All of these places have important connections to the Tennessee River. They also have a rich musical tradition and Native American heritage. To learn more about the MSNHA and to find more educational resources, please visit our website: www.msnha.una.edu

¹ The term “Native Americans” will be utilized in this educator’s packet to refer to the original inhabitants of North America. We acknowledge that there were many different groups of Peoples who were native to these lands, and that they each have their own distinct cultures, languages, and knowledge systems. Each of these indigenous cultures has contributed to the culture, political structure, food systems, language and/or geography we now enjoy today in North America.

Objectives

1. Students will analyze the history of Native Americans in Northwest Alabama in order to trace the origin of the conflict that resulted in the Trail of Tears.
2. Students will examine aspects of Native American culture in order to understand the differences between the concepts of land ownership, religion, and culture that led to conflict with white settlers in Alabama.
3. Students will use cause and effect while analyzing the Trail of Tears to determine the impact of the Trail of Tears on Native Americans, their rights, and their territories after being removed.

Standards

3.11.1) Interpret various primary sources for reconstructing the past including documents, letters, diaries, maps and photographs - comparing maps of the past to maps of the present

3.13) Describe prehistoric and historic American Indian cultures, governments, and economics in Alabama. Prehistoric-Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian. Historic – Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and creek

4.2) Relate reasons for European exploration and settlement in Alabama to the impact of European explorers on trade, health, and land expansion in Alabama.

4.2.3) Explaining reasons for conflicts between Europeans and American Indians in Alabama from 1519 to 1840, including differing beliefs regarding land ownership, religion, and culture.

4.3) Explain the social, political, and economic impact of the War of 1812, including battles and significant leaders of the Creek War, on Alabama.

4.3.3) Explaining the impact of the Trail of Tears on Alabama American Indians' lives, rights, and territories.

5.3) Distinguish differences among major American Indian cultures in North America according to geographic region, natural resources, community organization, economy, and belief systems. Locating on a map American Indian nations.

The Paleo-Indian Period

To date, archeologists have been able to trace the history of the Native American peoples of Northwest Alabama to the **Paleo-Indian period**, 15,000 to 10,500 years ago. The oldest inhabited sites in the Southeast have been found in the Tennessee River Valley, and several occur within the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area section of the Tennessee River Valley from Decatur to Florence.² The people's Paleo-Indian period is divided into different **cultures** that help to show how Paleo-Indian peoples advanced over time. A culture is made up of the customary beliefs, social forms, and the characteristic features of everyday existence shared by people in a place or time.

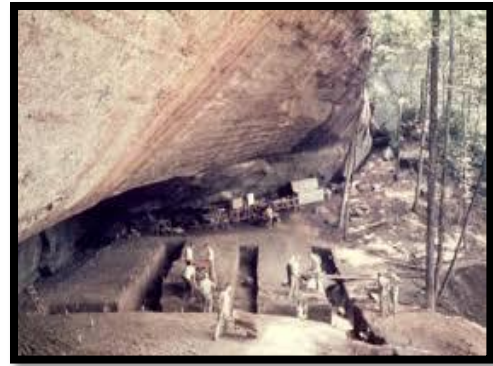


Photo 1: Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter

The Native Americans who lived in Alabama during this time lived in **bluff shelters** and caves. Bluff shelters (see right) are places where rocks naturally make a roof that keeps the area under it dry and safe from wind and rain. Native Americans would have been sheltered from the elements while setting up camp in these bluff-shelter dwellings.³ Paleo-Indian peoples were **nomadic** hunter-gatherers, meaning they did not stay in one place permanently. **Hunter-Gatherers** tracked large animals and gathered berries and other food that they found while tracking. These nomadic bands of Native Americans used stone tools and spears to kill animals for food.

Archaeologists date Native American dwelling sites by looking at the artifacts found at sites. Using artifacts, archaeologists know that people were in Alabama during the Paleo-Indian period because they found tools and weapons from the Clovis culture, one of the earliest

² David G. Anderson, Susan O'Steen, and Kenneth Sassaman, *The Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic Southeast* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1996) 31 - 36.

³ Phillip Carr, "Paleo-Indian Period", in *Encyclopedia of Alabama*, December 14, 2007
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1413>

cultures to emerge in the Paleo-Indian period, in Alabama.⁴ Clovis culture artifacts have been found at the Belle Mina and Quad sites near Decatur, Alabama.



Photo 2: Paleo-Indian Projectile Points

Another archaeological site where Paleo-Indian artifacts were found is Heaven's Half Acre in Colbert County, Alabama. The artifacts recovered at Heaven's Half Acre were from the Cumberland Culture which came toward the end of the Paleo-Indian period. Artifacts from the later Paleo-Indian period were discovered at LaGrange Rock Shelter near Leighton, Alabama.

Dust Cave, near Florence, Alabama, is another site where archaeologists have discovered Paleo-Indian period artifacts. Dust Cave is located in a **slough** which means the area around the cave can only be reached by boat. Archaeologists found artifacts in Dust Cave that prove people lived in the cave during the Paleo-Indian, early, and middle archaic periods. Arrowheads, tools, and campfire ashes were found. In some cases, imprints of these objects were left in the soil.

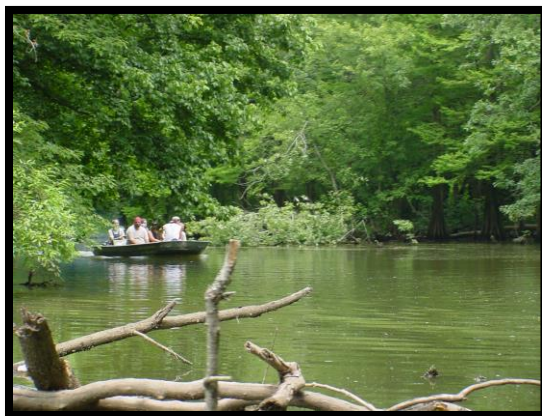
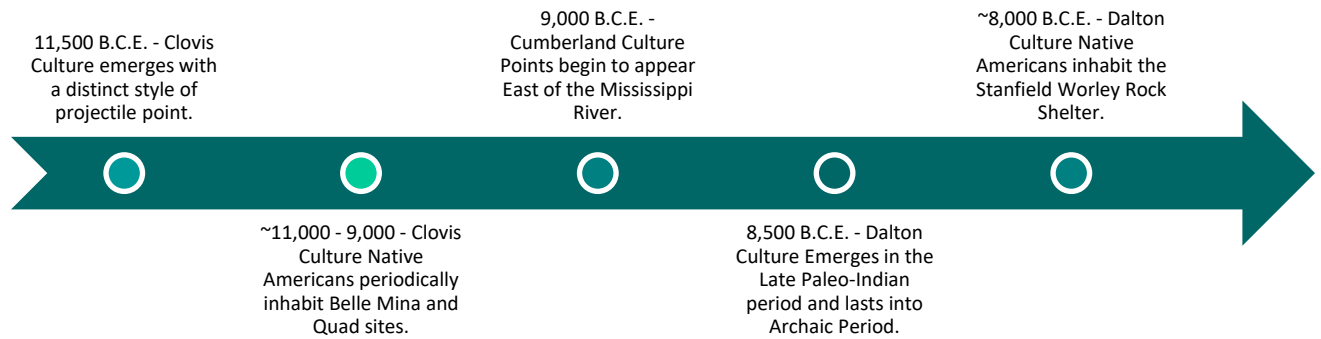


Photo 3: Dust Cave Entrance

Paleo-Indian cultures remained in the Muscle Shoals area throughout the Paleo-Indian historical period. We know this because evidence of the Dalton culture has been found at the Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter in Colbert County. The Dalton culture existed toward the end of the Paleo-Indian period. The Dalton culture artifacts from the Stanfield-Worley Rock Shelter included tools that Native Americans used for scraping animal hides, as well as knives for skinning animals and preparing nuts and berries. In addition, spear points were found.

⁴ Anderson, *The Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic Southeast*, 310.

Archaeologists also found other tools that people would use to help build fires and accomplish other tasks.



The Archaic Period

The **Archaic Period** (~8,500 B.C.E. - ~1,000 B.C.E.) followed the Paleo-Indian period. Archaic peoples were also nomadic hunter-gatherers. They also used the rock shelters that Paleo-Indian Native Americans used. As they moved through the area, some groups lived in

Fast Fact: The first pyramid built in Egypt was built around 2,620 B.C.E. That means that people were living in Alabama long before Egyptians built the Pyramids.

small group settlements. They abandoned their settlements when the group moved to a different area.⁵ Archaic Native Americans moved through the region seasonally. The remains of deer, turkeys, raccoons, snakes, and other small animals have been found at Archaic settlement sites. Archaic peoples also ate local plants such as pokeweed, nuts from hickory, chestnut, and oak trees in area, and berries like blackberries and muscadines, which are native to the southeastern United States.⁶ A large part of the diet of Archaic Indians living along the Tennessee River were mussels. Archaeologists have found piles of mussel shells that are over fifteen feet-deep at Archaic sites.⁷

Archaic Native American cultures were focused around small hunting camps. Archaic groups would often camp in places that their Paleo-Indian ancestors had used for shelter before. We know this because many Archaic period artifacts have been found at Paleo-Indian sites. The Archaic Native Americans used a wide range of tools and weapons, and most of these can be found at these campsites. Archaic Native Americans developed the process for grinding



Photo 4: Bone and Antler Tools

⁵ Steven Meredith, "Archaic Period", in Encyclopedia of Alabama, May 4, 2007 <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1163>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

stones into tools and decorative beads. This helped them to create “weights for fishing nets, axe heads, pipes, and even large stone cooking bowls.”⁸

One of the larger and more documented sites that contain evidence of Archaic Native Americans is the Quad site. The Quad site is a group of archaeological sites within a three-mile area, across the Tennessee River from Decatur, Alabama. Over 200 projectile points were collected from the Quad site along with other artifacts from the Archaic period. Archaeologists believe that this site was a place that large bands of Native Americans would use during certain seasons to hunt in the area. There have been several archaeological digs at the Quad site. Today, it is impossible to reach most of the Quad site because it has been flooded by the series of dams constructed in the 20th century on the Tennessee River.⁹



⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Anderson, *The Paleoindian and Early Archaic Southeast*, 309.

The Woodland Period



Photo 5: Woodland Projectile Points

After the Archaic period ended, Native American cultures entered what archaeologists refer to as the **Woodland Period** (1000 B.C.E- 1,000 C.E. [3,000 years ago]). During the Woodland Period, many native people began to rely on agriculture for food, rather than hunting and gathering. The ability to cultivate sources of food for larger groups of people allowed communities to stay in one place and establish permanent settlements. During

the Woodland period, Native Americans grew crops such as corn, beans, and squash in the Tennessee River Valley. They also continued to harvest large amounts of mussels from the river.

During the middle Woodland period, a large Native American Culture called the Hopewell Culture emerged in eastern America. The Hopewell culture was made up of smaller groups who shared a pottery making technique. They were part of a larger network that existed from Northern states such as Michigan and Wisconsin, all the

way east to New York, and south to Louisiana and Florida.

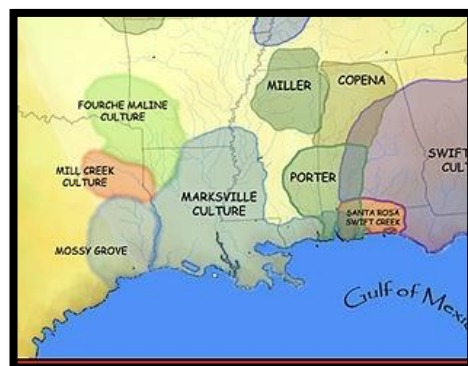


Photo 6: Map of Hopewell Culture

Trading: Pottery from the Hopewell Culture in Kentucky and Northern Tennessee has been found in Rock Shelters in Colbert County

It is our understanding that the peoples of the Woodland Culture built

mounds for tombs and other ceremonial purposes. Although today you can only see dirt, tombs were actually created from wood and stone. They were then covered with dirt by community members to protect



Photo 7: Burial Mound at Oakville Indian Mounds Museum

and honor the dead. Necklaces, earrings and other intricate artifacts have been recovered from Woodland tombs. The Woodland culture did not commonly include pottery in their tombs, but several examples of pottery remain from the Woodland culture. The pottery that archaeologists have found often has patterns etched into the sides that distinguish it from other cultures.

Archaeologists agree that the mounds at Florence and Oakville were built during the Woodland period. Florence is home to one of the largest mounds in the state. The Florence mound



Photo 8: Florence Indian Mound

is a four-sided structure and is about 43 feet-tall. It is about 145 feet by 95 feet on top and was, at one time, surrounded by a wall that was somewhere between 12 and 15 feet-high. The first time the Florence mound is mentioned in written historical records is on an 1818 map, which laid out the city of Florence. The map documents the Florence mound and two smaller mounds, which no longer exist. The other mounds were

approximately half the size of the mound you can see today. To date, no artifacts have been recovered which would help archeologists to determine the purpose of the other mounds, and native peoples with knowledge about this history have not yet been formally consulted. Some of the artifacts recovered from the Florence Mound are housed at the Florence Indian Mound and Museum, which is located at the base of the mound.¹⁰ Two additional Woodland mounds are located at the Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum, near Moulton, Alabama. The people of the Woodland culture constructed the 26-foot-high ceremonial mound and 13-foot-high burial mound. According to a 1928 federal report, there were three additional mounds at that time, all of which have now been destroyed by agricultural practices. Both museums house artifacts from several periods of pre-history.

¹⁰ Carolyn M. Barske, "Indian Mound and Museum" in Encyclopedia of Alabama, June 22, 2015 <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3686>

1,000 B.C.E.
- Woodland
Period
Begins.

1 C.E. - Middle
Woodland Period
Begins and the Hopwell
Culture Emerges.

~300 C.E. - ~1,000
C.E. - Mounds at
Oakville and
Florence are Built.



300 B.C.E. - Early
Woodland Cultures in
the Tennessee Valley
Develop Unique Pottery
Styles.

~300 C.E. -
Moundbuilding is
Introduced to the
Southeast through
the Hopwell
Trading Network.

500 C.E. -
The Bow and
Arrow
Becomes
Widely Used
for Hunting.

The Mississippian Period

The next major culture to emerge in the southeast is referred to as the **Mississippian Culture**, and it existed from 1,000 C.E. - 1,500 C.E. Mississippian Native Americans were a mound building culture who lived in very large settlements with other villages around them. Like the Woodland Native Americans, the Mississippian culture were part of a trade network that stretched over most of the Southeast United States. The villages of the Mississippian Period maintained similar customs through the entire Southeast and Midwest regions of the United States. The Mississippian culture was not a single “tribe,” but many societies sharing similar ways of life and traditions.¹¹ The Mississippian culture received its name from the Mississippi River Valley where archeologists believe the Mississippian traditions of mound building, growing food, trading, and religion began. The use of trade routes like the **Natchez Trace**, allowed for the spread of ideas and culture.¹²

The daily life of Native Americans during the Mississippian period consisted of growing food and other tasks associated with maintaining a village. People in the village had different roles and responsibilities, including hunting, farms, production of pottery and baskets, and governing their community. Archaeologists have uncovered the remains of **Wattle and Daub** huts built during the Mississippian period. The frame for these huts were constructed out of wooden logs that were placed upright and/or river cane. Then, a mud plaster (created using a combination of clay, plant fibers and sticks) was applied and allowed to harden. The roofs were constructed out of river cane. Mississippian huts were one-room huts big enough for 2-3 people to sleep in. They had a fireplace in the floor for cooking and heating. Native Americans during the Mississippian period continued to



Photo 9: Example of Wattle and Daub structure from Mississippian period.

¹¹ John Blitz, “Mississippian Period” in Encyclopedia of Alabama, June 27, 2013.
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1130>

¹² Ibid.

practice settled agriculture. They grew food such as corn, squash, beans and sunflowers, which could feed a large number of people. Native Americans during the Mississippian period also hunted wild game and fished. They would also use stones to crush or grind food into pastes for cooking and eating. Mississippians hunted and fished with tools they made from stone, wood, clay, and shell. According to the oral history of many Native Americans, the use of these natural materials was valued because they left no long term “footprints” that would disturb the environment, such as plastics and other non-biodegradable materials that are utilized today.¹³ These materials would be used to make things such as axes, hoes, knives, fishhooks, arrows, bows, scrapers, bowls, grindstones, containers, and jars.¹⁴

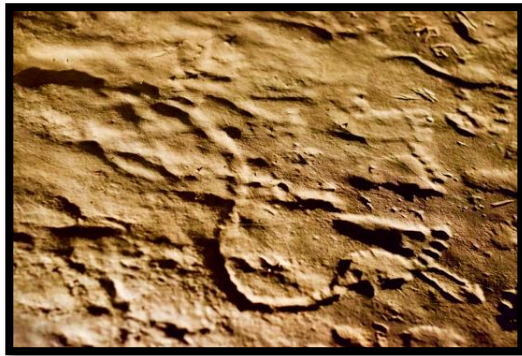


Photo 10: Petroglyphs dated to the Mississippian Period

Remains of Mississippian settlements have been found on Koger’s Island located in the Tennessee River, near the Natchez Trace Bridge. The Koger’s Island Mississippians had settlements on other islands as well. The largest settlement was on Seven-Mile Island near Florence. Since it was an island, it was easily defended from attacks. Yearly floods replenished the fields with valuable nutrients, which allowed the Mississippians to

continue to plant and harvest crops. The Seven-Mile Island settlement contained a village and earthen mound that held evidence of several burials. This burial site contained pottery and jewelry such as strings of beads and copper ear ornaments, and pipes used for ceremonial purposes.¹⁵

The end of the Mississippian period came when European explorers made contact with Native Americans. Archaeologists think that the decline of the Mississippian culture might have been



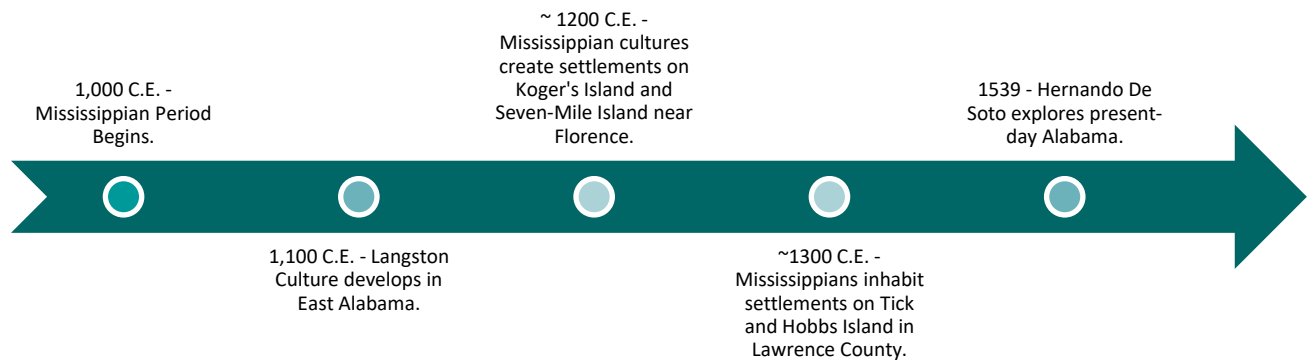
Photo 11: Nutting Hole with Larger Mortar Hole Behind

¹³ Dr. Yvette Running Horse Collin, interview at Sacred Way Sanctuary in Florence, Alabama, May 5, 2018.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Walthall, *Prehistoric Indians of the Southeast*

caused by Spanish explorers, such as Hernando De Soto, who brought diseases to North America to which Mississippian Native Americans were not immune. Sickness caused huge segments of the population to perish. Sadly, because of this much of the oral history and understanding of the traditions of the Mississippian cultures were not passed forward in their entirety.¹⁶



¹⁶ Blitz, "Mississippian Period", June 27, 2013.

Historic Period

Spanish explorers made contact with Creek and Cherokee nations during their explorations of the Southeast. Interactions between the Spanish and Native Americans varied from peaceful to violent encounters. This violence was brought on by the Spanish conquistadors' desire to conquer the Native American Peoples, lay claim to the lands they occupied, and enslave them.¹⁷ The majority of Native American cultures were communally-based, and they rejected the concept of private land ownership. The fact that white settlers believed that they could keep Native Americans from using the land their ancestors had inhabited for thousands of years was ridiculous to them. The Native Americans of the Southeast were unsure of how to respond to these strangers. The belief that no one could truly own property came from the understanding that everything belonged to the Creator, and that all people had a responsibility to preserve and cultivate the life and land around them for the generations to come. Mankind had a responsibility to be caretakers, not owners.¹⁸ This different understanding of land also led to the conflict that occurred between Native Americans and explorers attempting to settle land west of the Appalachian Mountains. Native American nations had many serious discussions and sought spiritual guidance regarding what could be done to preserve their way of life and protect their people.

In May 1776, native tribes from the South and North gathered near present-day Florence to discuss whether they would side with British or American forces in the American Revolution. This gathering is now referred to as the Muscle Shoals Grand Council. During the Council, tribal leaders decided to side with the British. Native Americans had fought against the British in the past, but they believed that white American colonists would become a greater threat to them if they won the American Revolution.¹⁹ If the colonists won, they would need room to expand their new country and would take lands that were held sacred to the tribes. This led to the beginning of the Cherokee War of 1776. In the Cherokee War of 1776, Dragging Canoe and his allies led raids on American settlements from Virginia to Georgia. The American colonies of North Carolina, South

¹⁷ Rolena Adorno, *Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca: his account, his life, and the expedition of Panfilio de Narvaez* (Lincoln, Neb. University of Nebraska Press, 1999) 81-83.

¹⁸ Dr. Yvette Running Horse Collin, interview given at Sacred Way Sanctuary in Florence, Alabama, May 5, 2018.

¹⁹ Spencer Tucker, "Muscle Shoals Grand Council," in *The Encyclopedia of American Indian Wars*, 523.

Carolina, and Georgia sent over 4,000 militia to fight the Cherokee raiding parties and the Virginia militia fought against the Cherokee living in Tennessee. Eventually a peace settlement was reached between the Cherokee and the American colonies. The Treaty of Dewitt's Corner and Treaty of Fort Henry ensured that Cherokee warriors would not attack the American colonies.²⁰

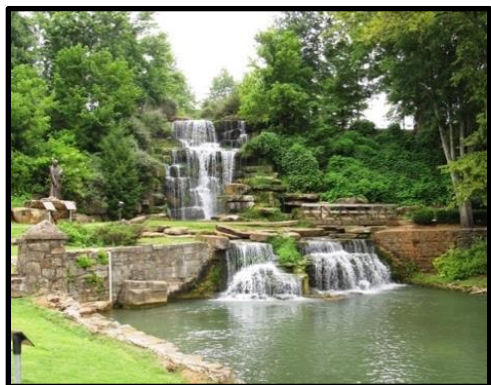


Photo 12: Spring Park

The first European settlers to move into Northwest Alabama were French explorers who settled near Tuscumbia's Spring Park.²¹ The French settlement attempted to form an alliance with **Chief Doublehead's** group of Chickamauga. A group of roughly 45 French, Creek, and Chickamauga established the community of Oka Kapassa (translated as "cold water" in English) near present day Tuscumbia in late 1769.²² The French and Chickamauga settlement was burned down in 1786.²³ After the settlement was destroyed, Chickasaw Native Americans built a settlement near the spring, and, in 1815, the Dickson family created a settlement at the site of Spring Park.²⁴

In 1802, **George Colbert** began to operate a ferry that crossed the Tennessee River where the Natchez Trace crossed into Lauderdale County.²⁵ White settlers in what would become northwest Alabama soon started to create treaties with Native American tribes that gave land to the federal government. Misunderstandings and dishonest dealings over property between white settlers and Native American

Spring Park is located in Tuscumbia, Alabama. It marks the site of the "cold water" spring that was utilized by this community. Spring Park hosts "Oka Kapassa," an annual festival that commemorates Native Heritage and acknowledges the Native American people who were removed during the Trail of Tears in the 1830s.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Reynolds, William R. *The Cherokee Struggle to Maintain Identity in the 17th and 18th Centuries* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, 2015), 246.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ "History", City of Tuscumbia, http://cityoftuscumbia.org/?page_id=16 [July 10, 2018]

²⁵ "Colbert Ferry" *Historical Markers Across Alabama*

<http://www.lat34north.com/HistoricMarkersAL/MarkerDetail.cfm?KeyID=17-47&MarkerTitle=Colbert%20Ferry>

tribes led to anger between the two groups. Chief Doublehead leased land from his reserve to white settlers. This was not permitted by any treaty and was seen by the Cherokee as dishonest and against their cultural protocols.²⁶ The unapproved use of tribal lands by white settlers caused the Cherokee to kill Doublehead. They trapped him in a house in Calhoun, Tennessee and executed him. By 1818, the federal government had taken both Cherokee and Chickasaw lands north of the Tennessee River.²⁷

Over the next decade, land treaties between tribes and the federal government took more and more land from tribes in Alabama. The United States government desired unthreatened access to the land and resources that were held by the Southeastern Native Peoples. In many cases, the Native American people who signed these treaties on behalf of their tribe did not have the consent of the tribe when they did this. Violence often broke out between settlers and native people. The Creek War (1813-1814) also led to tensions between tribes and settlers. At the Battle of Burnt Corn



Photo 13: Map of Horseshoe Bend

Creek, Upper Creek warriors were ambushed by the Mississippi militia while returning from a trip to Spanish Florida for supplies to fight. The militia were defeated by the Upper Creek warriors.²⁸ The Creeks struck back by attacking Fort Mims, killing approximately 250 settlers and taking 100 more captive.²⁹ After the attack on Fort Mims, Andrew Jackson led an attack against the Upper Creek who were camped at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa River. His militia were a combined force, which included

U.S. soldiers, as well as Cherokee and Lower Creek warriors. Jackson out-maneuvered the Upper Creek forces and killed a great number of their warriors. The women and children present at the battle were divided up as prisoners by the Lower Creek and Cherokee.³⁰ The long-term effects of

²⁶ Bill McDonald, *A Walk Through the Past*, 208.

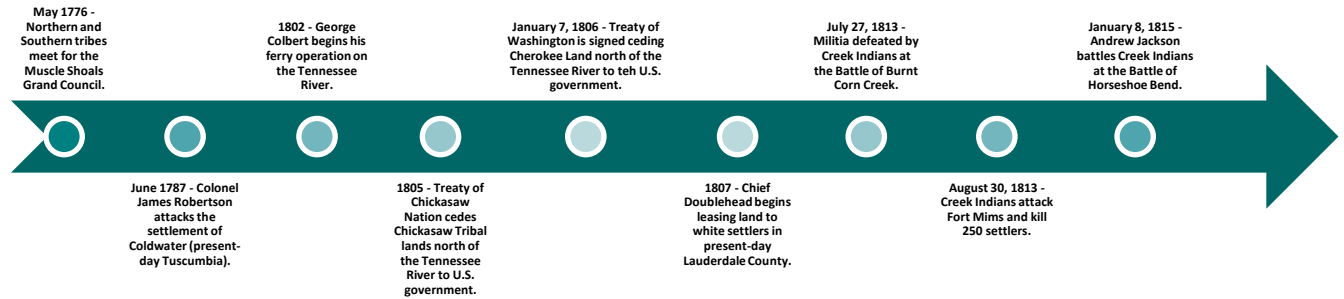
²⁷ "Treaty with the Chickasaw, 1816," *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, The Oklahoma State University Library, <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/vol2/treaties/chi0135.htm>

²⁸ James P. Kaetz, "Battle of Burnt Corn Creek", in *Encyclopedia of Alabama*, June 2, 2011 <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3081>

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ove Jensen, "Battle of Horseshoe Bend", in *Encyclopedia of Alabama*

the Creek War and other fights between the United States and the Southeastern tribes left the federal government with a dislike for the Native Americans and a desire to have them removed from areas where white settlers wanted to live.



The Trail of Tears

The passing of the **Indian Removal Act of 1830** on May 28, 1830 began the organized removal of Native American peoples from the Southeast by the U.S. Government. The name “Trail of Tears” is now used to refer to the route that Native Americans took toward Oklahoma after



Photo 14: William McIntosh

being forced to leave their lands in the southeastern United States. This name reflects their sorrow and the tragedy these people experienced along this journey. Several groups of Cherokee and Creek traveled through the Muscle Shoals region on their way to Oklahoma.

The first group to be removed were Creeks from Lower Alabama and Georgia. On February 12, 1825, the U.S. government under the **Treaty of New Indian Springs** forced Creek Native Americans to give up their land. The government gave the tribe \$200,000 and land in Oklahoma. William McIntosh, a leader of a Creek tribe, signed the treaty without the approval of other leaders.³¹ The sale of Creek lands without the approval of the rest of the Creek Nation was punishable by death, and McIntosh was executed at his plantation in Eastern Alabama on April 30, 1825.³² The Treaty of Indian Springs was overturned because McIntosh did not have the approval to sell the land. Creek lands in Alabama were given back to the tribe. However, the Creek lands in Georgia were still sold to the federal government. The Creek people who lived in Georgia were forced to leave their homes and removed to Oklahoma.³³

Several groups of Creek Indians came through the Muscle Shoals area on their way to Oklahoma. In December 1827, a group of about 700 Creek Indians that followed McIntosh, along with 86 African American slaves, arrived in Tuscumbia on their way to Oklahoma. The second group of 236 women, children, and elderly passed through Tuscumbia in October 1828. The group boarded boats that would carry them on to Memphis where they would join the rest of the group

³¹Christopher Haveman, “Creek Indian Removal” in Encyclopedia of Alabama, January 28, 2009

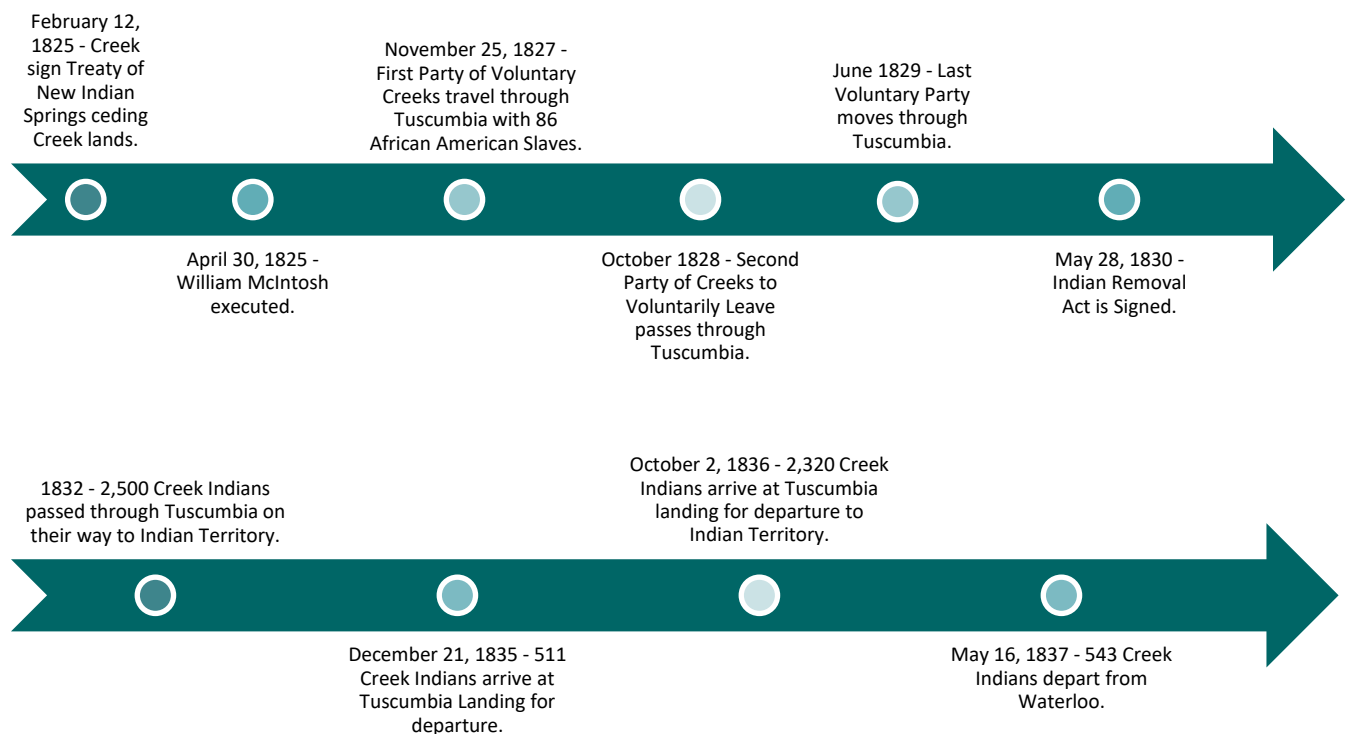
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2013>

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

on a forced walk from Memphis to Oklahoma.³⁴ The first group reached Oklahoma in February 1828. After the **Indian Removal Act of 1830**, several large groups of Creek passed through Tuscumbia with the next being approximately 1,400 in 1829, 2,500 in 1832, 511 in 1835, 2,320 in 1836, and almost 1,000 in 1837.³⁵ These groups faced diseases like cholera, pneumonia, and hyperthermia. Rainstorms left the route muddy and hard to navigate. This difficult term coupled with the cold temperatures and inadequate food, clothing and shelter, meant that many died before they reached Oklahoma.

Creek Removal Through North Alabama Timeline



³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, 3.

Cherokee Removal

The removal of the Cherokee began after the signing of the **Treaty of New Echota** in 1835. This treaty required some groups of Cherokee who were forced to leave Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina to cross through North Alabama. The forced removal of the Cherokee tribe through North Alabama happened from 1837-1838 and was one of few instances where Native Americans were moved by trains instead of boat or on foot. To travel around the Muscle Shoals, a 40-mile stretch of rapids, the Cherokee were forced onto the Tuscumbia, Courtland, and Decatur Railroad.



Photo 15: Major Ridge

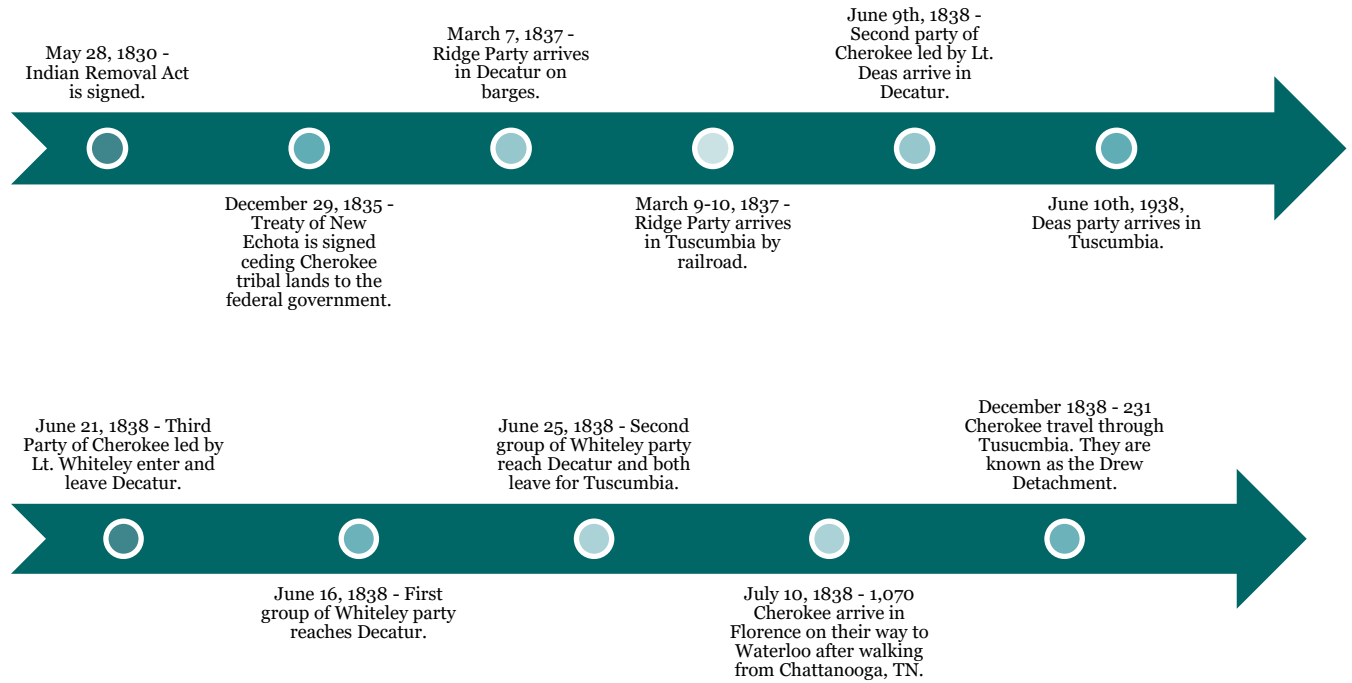
The first group of Cherokee in March of 1837 to use the Tuscumbia, Courtland & Decatur Railroad for removal was known as the Ridge Party. Major Ridge, along with others, had signed the Treaty of New Echota, which ceded all Cherokee lands east of the Mississippi River to the federal government.³⁶ Like McIntosh with the Treaty of Indian Springs, Major Ridge did not have the authority to sell Cherokee land to the United States government. Ridge angered other members of the tribe by signing the treaty. As they had signed the treaty, the Ridge Party was one of the first Cherokee groups to move to Oklahoma in March 1837. On March 7, boats from Gunter's Landing arrived in Decatur where the group of Cherokee were made to sleep in warehouses for the night before being loaded onto open train cars for the ride to Tuscumbia. After reaching Tuscumbia, the Ridge Party were loaded onto the barges that carried them to Memphis.³⁷ Four more groups of Cherokee passed through Northern Alabama on their way to Oklahoma. Two groups stayed overnight in Decatur and used the railroad to reach Tuscumbia. The third group was forced to walk along the Tennessee River from Chattanooga, through Florence and into Waterloo, Alabama before boarding barges. The fourth group passed through Tuscumbia Landing in December 1838.³⁸

³⁶ Sarah Hill, "Cherokee Indian Removal", in Encyclopedia of Alabama, January 16, 2008
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1433>

³⁷ John Elle, *Trail of Tears-The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation*, 363.

³⁸ Grant Foreman, *Indian Removal-The Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953) 236-239.; "Waterloo," *The Heritage of Lauderdale County, Alabama*, p. 5.

Cherokee Removal through North Alabama Timeline



Vocabulary List

Archaeology - the scientific study of material remains of past human life and activities.

Archaic Period - this period is divided between the Early Archaic (about 8500 to 6000 BCE), Middle Archaic (about 6000 to 4000 BCE), and Late Archaic periods (4000 to 1000 BCE). Archaic people lived in small groups and were nomadic hunter-gatherers.

Arrowhead - a wedge shaped tip carved from a type of stone, usually attached to an arrow.

Band - a group of people who have a common interest or purpose.

Breechcloth - an item of clothing worn around the waist.

Ceremonial Mound- of or relating to an earthen structure used for Native American rituals and ceremonies.

Chief Doublehead (ca. 1744-1807) - this Chickamauga Cherokee Chief is most remembered today for his dishonesty, which gained him the name of "Doublehead." This referred to his two-faced behavior. He established a town near present-day Center Star on Blue Water Creek. Doublehead's bloodthirsty nature, along with his dishonesty in Cherokee/U.S. Indian Affairs land deals, led to his violent death in 1807.

Chief George Colbert (ca. 1764-1839) - Colbert was the son of a Chickasaw mother and a Scottish/Irish father named James Logan Colbert. Colbert was raised as a Chickasaw and served as their chief for twelve years. He operated Colbert's Ferry near the Natchez Trace, and served under the command of Gen. Andrew Jackson during the Creek War (1813-1814) and the War of 1812. He was responsible for negotiating land deals that put most of the Chickasaw land into the hands of the United States government in the 1810s.

Clovis Culture - Early Paleo-Indian culture dating to the period 9500–9000 BC and represented widely over the central and southern Plains area of North America. Clovis communities are understood today to have been big game hunters who were especially fond of mammoth and bison. They also hunted smaller game, such as deer and rabbits. They also gathered plants to eat and for use as medicine. Their artifacts are recognized by a distinctive chipped stone pattern and includes those referred to as "Clovis points."

Culture - the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of an ethnic, religious, or social group. The characteristic features of everyday existence shared by people in a place or time.

Discoïdals - also known as "game stones," were round stones with which Native Americans used to play games. An example is the round stones used in the game of Chunkey.

Hunter-Gatherer - a member of a nomadic band who live chiefly by hunting, fishing, and harvesting wild food.

Indian Removal Act of 1830 - An act passed by Congress that forced Native Americans to give up their tribal lands east of the Mississippi River and relocate west to present-day Oklahoma.

Mississippian Period - this period occurred from CE 1000 to CE 1550. Mississippian people hunted, fished and farmed. They planted corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers, and they used hoes made from shell and/or stone.

Moccasins -shoes worn by Native Americans that were made from tanned animal hide.

Mound Builder - a member of a Native American culture whose man-made earthworks are found from the Great Lakes down into the Mississippi River Valley and into the Gulf of Mexico.

Native American - sometimes also referred to as “Indians” or “American Indians,” Native Americans were the original inhabitants of the continents we now refer to as “The Americas.” The Native American cultures referred to in this educator’s packet inhabited North America long before the arrival of European settlers.

Nomad (nomadic) - a nomad is a person who moves from place to place, without having a fixed location to live.

Paleo-Indian Period - this period took place approximately 15,000 to 10,500 years ago. Some archeologists consider the Paleo-Indian Period to be the era when the first people migrated to present-day America. However, many Native nations claim that their ancestors existed in North America for tens of thousands of years before the Paleo-Indian Period.

Slough - a swamp; a natural channel that is only sometimes filled with water.

Tomahawk- an ax that Native Americans used by throwing it at their target or as a hand weapon.

Trail of Tears - the trails, or routes, that Native Americans were forced to take when the United States government relocated them to reservations west of the Mississippi River. Tribes affected by the Trail of Tears included the Cherokee, Seminole, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Creek.

Treaty- an agreement or arrangement made by negotiation; a contract in writing between two or more political authorities. Treaties between the United States government and Native Americans were used to end warfare between the two groups, as well as to legally designate Native American land as property of the United States. Native Americans were often given alcohol laced with opiates by U.S. government officials in order to “encourage” the signing of these documents.

Treaty of New Echota – a treaty signed in New Echota, Georgia by Major Ridge and a small party of Cherokee who favored removal. The treaty was signed without the approval of other Cherokee chiefs. It was an unpopular treaty with Cherokee people. It became the legal basis for Native American Removal by the Trail of Tears.

Treaty of New Indian Springs - treaty between William McIntosh and the federal government that ceded all the Lower Creek land in Georgia and a large tract in Alabama to the federal government.

Tribe - a group of Native Americans who share family ties and the same cultural background, beliefs, and practices.

Wattle and Daub - the construction method of the type of house in which people of the Woodland and Mississippian periods. Such homes were made from woven rivercane and thatch, and they were covered with a mixture of clay, plant fibers, and sticks.

Woodland Period - this period occurred from about 1000 BCE to CE 1000. It saw an increase in the planting and harvesting of crops from the previous Archaic period. This allowed natives to stay in a

single place for a longer period of time. The Woodland Period is divided into three parts: Early Woodland (1000 BCE to CE 1), Middle Woodland (CE 1 to CE 500), and Late Woodland (CE 500 to CE 1000). Archaeologists have determined that the Woodland people constructed the Florence Indian Mound during the Middle Woodland period.

Vocabulary Activity

Name:

Class:

1. A _____ is a group of Native Americans with the same cultural background and beliefs.
2. _____ were shoes made from animal hide that Native Americans wore.
3. The name for the scientific practice of excavating for artifacts in order to discover information about the past is _____.
4. Native Americans made structures called _____ and _____, which were made from woven rivercane and thatch, and they were covered with a mixture of clay, plant fibers, and sticks.
5. The _____ was the name given to the systematic forced removal of Native Americans from the southeast United States by the United States Army to land in Oklahoma.
6. The Florence Mound is a _____, which was mainly used for rituals and NOT as a burial mound.
7. A _____ moves from place to place with no fixed location for living.
8. The _____ occurred when Native Americans crossed into North America and began to first populate North America.
9. When William McIntosh signed _____, he unlawfully gave away all Creek tribal lands in lower Alabama.
10. Native Americans made _____ out of flint and attached them to pieces of wood for hunting.
11. A _____ was an axe that Native Americans would have used as a hand weapon or to throw.

12. After signing _____ a small group of Cherokee unlawfully ceded tribal land to the federal government and agreed to remove themselves to Oklahoma in 1837.
13. Dust Cave is located in a _____ that sometimes floods when the Tennessee River rises.
14. The _____ culture extended across North America from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and consisted of Native Americans who built large earthen structures.

Vocabulary Activity Key

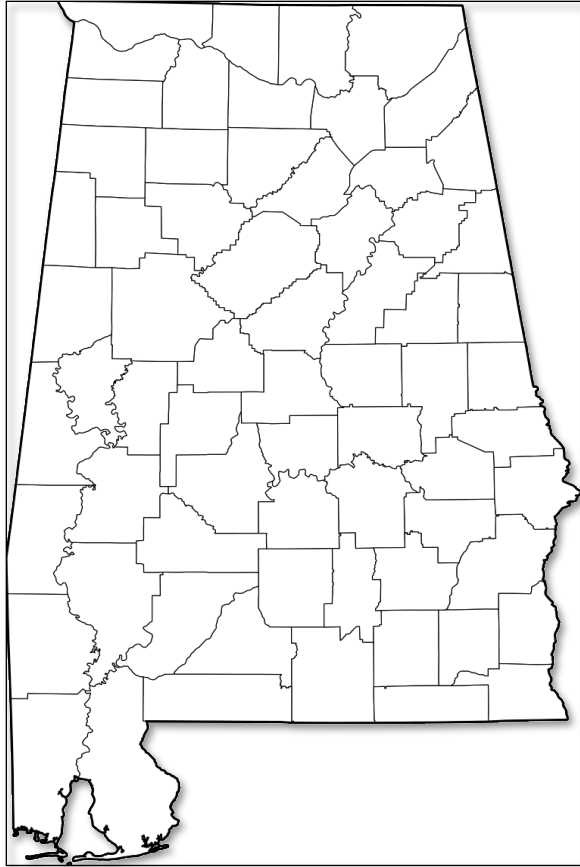
Name:

Class:

1. A Tribe is a group of Native Americans with the same cultural background and beliefs.
2. Moccasins were shoes made from animal hide that Native Americans wore.
3. The name for the scientific practice of excavating for artifacts in order to discover information about the past is Archaeology.
4. Native Americans made structures called Wattle and Daub, which were made from woven rivercane and thatch, and they were covered with a mixture of clay, plant fibers, and sticks.
5. The Trail of Tears was the name given to the systematic forced removal of Native Americans from the southeast United States by the United States Army to land in Oklahoma.
6. The Florence Mound is a Ceremonial Mound, which was mainly used for rituals and NOT as a burial mound.
7. A Nomad moves from place to place with no fixed location for living.
8. The Paleo-Indian Period occurred when Native Americans crossed into North America and began to first populate North America.
9. When William McIntosh signed The Treaty of New Indian Springs, he unlawfully gave away all Creek tribal lands in lower Alabama.
10. Native Americans made Arrowheads out of flint and attached them to pieces of wood for hunting.
11. A Tomahawk was an axe that Native Americans would have used as a hand weapon or to throw.
12. After signing Treaty of New Echota a small group of Cherokee unlawfully ceded tribal land to the federal government and agreed to remove themselves to Oklahoma in 1837.

13. Dust Cave is located in a Slough that sometimes floods when the Tennessee River rises.

14. The Mound-builder culture extended across North America from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and consisted of Native Americans who built large earthen structures.



Map Questions:

1. After looking over the Alabama Indian Land Cessions Map, use the blank Alabama map to color in the different Native American territories.

2. Circle the county that you live in. Which Native American tribe lived closest to you?

3. What roles do you think the rivers of Alabama played in the lives of Native American tribes?

4. What are the different phases of land cessation? What was happening during the two main periods of cessation that resulted in Native Americans losing their land to the US government?

Native American Word Search

N D C I A R C H A E O L O G Y R D
 D A E H E L B U O D F E I H C J B
 O M C C M O U N D B U I L D E R S
 I U P I I R R T C A F I T R A C C
 R S A K R D A E H W O R R A H F I
 E S L W G E O R G E C O L B E R T
 P E E A C N M G C L W B B Y L Y E
 D L O H O S R A E T F O L I A R T
 N S I A E H O T E F J O L S T E Y
 A P N M E M S H A V R D A I N T S
 L D D O K C O E Y B I L U J Y T P
 D H I T O Y R R L Z I T S I I O F
 O Q A W R W E E B C A L A U T P R
 O Y Z R E V I R E E S S E N N E T
 W N F R H L V S C K R U I A X W V
 J R H L C Y B U R I A L M O U N D
 V G O Y A P Z G J R F L C M Q A M

ARCHAEOLOGY

BURIAL MOUND

CREEK

HUNTER GATHERERS

MUSSELS

POTTERY

TRAIL OF TEARS

ARROWHEAD

CHEROKEE

FLINT

MOUND BUILDERS

NATIVE AMERICAN

TENNESSEE RIVER

WOODLAND PERIOD

ARTIFACT

CHIEF DOUBLEHEAD

GEORGE COLBERT

MUSCLE SHOALS

PALEO INDIAN

TOMAHAWK

Native American Word Search Key

N	D	C	I	A	R	C	H	A	E	O	L	O	G	Y	R	D
D	A	E	H	E	L	B	U	O	D	F	E	I	H	C	J	B
O	M	C	C	M	O	U	N	D	B	U	I	L	D	E	R	S
I	U	P	I	I	R	R	T	C	A	F	I	T	R	A	C	C
R	S	A	K	R	D	A	E	H	W	O	R	R	A	H	F	I
E	S	L	W	G	E	O	R	G	E	C	O	L	B	E	R	T
P	E	E	A	C	N	M	G	C	L	W	B	B	Y	L	Y	E
D	L	O	H	O	S	R	A	E	T	F	O	L	I	A	R	T
N	S	I	A	E	H	O	T	E	F	J	O	L	S	T	E	Y
A	P	N	M	E	M	S	H	A	V	R	D	A	I	N	T	S
L	D	D	O	K	C	O	E	Y	B	I	L	U	J	Y	T	P
D	H	I	T	O	Y	R	R	L	Z	I	T	S	I	I	O	F
O	Q	A	W	R	W	E	E	B	C	A	L	A	U	T	P	R
O	Y	N	R	E	V	I	R	E	E	S	S	E	N	N	E	T
W	N	F	R	H	L	V	S	C	K	R	U	I	A	X	W	V
J	R	H	L	C	Y	B	U	R	I	A	L	M	O	U	N	D
V	G	O	Y	A	P	Z	G	J	R	F	L	C	M	Q	A	M

ARCHAEOLOGY

BURIAL MOUND

CREEK

HUNTER GATHERERS

MUSSELS

POTTERY

TRAIL OF TEARS

ARROWHEAD

CHEROKEE

FLINT

MOUND BUILDERS

NATIVE AMERICAN

TENNESSEE RIVER

WOODLAND PERIOD

ARTIFACT

CHIEF DOUBLEHEAD

GEORGE COLBERT

MUSCLE SHOALS

PALEO INDIAN

TOMAHAWK

Fill in the Blank Activity

Use this document while giving the lecture and allow students to fill in blanks. This can also be used as a post assessment.

	What type of settlements did they have?	What did they eat?	What types of artifacts have been found?	How long ago did they live?
Woodland				
Paleo-Indian				
Mississippian				
Historic Tribes				
Archaic				

Fill in the Blank Activity Key

	What type of settlements did they have?	What did they eat?	What types of artifacts have been found?	How long ago did they live?
Woodland	Huts clustered in small settlements. They would sometimes build mounds	Fish, mussels, deer, raccoon, turkey, snake, corn, local plants (pokeweed), local fruits (blackberries muscadines), nuts (hickory, pecan).	Pottery, arrowheads, tools, jewelry	1,000 B.C.E. – 1,000 C.E.
Paleo-Indian	Rock Shelters that were used for short times	Large roaming animals, nuts, berries, some plants	Projectile Points, dwelling sites	~13,000 B.C.E. – ~9,000 B.C.E.
Mississippian	Wattle and Daub houses that were located in settlements	Fish, Deer, Turkey, mussels, nuts, berries, corn, beans, squash.	Jewelry, tools, dwelling sites, arrowheads, mounds, arrowheads	1,000 C.E. - ~1550 C.E.
Historic Tribes (Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Choctaw, Chickasaw)	Wattle and Daub structures, but in later years houses and log cabins	Fish, Deer, Turkey, mussels, nuts, berries, corn, beans, squash.	Clothing, jewelry, weapons, tools, dwelling sites, arrowheads	~1550 C.E. - Present
Archaic	Small dwellings or rock shelters that were used for short times.	Deer, Turkey, Raccoon, Nuts, Local Fruits, Local Plants.	Stone tools, Projectile Points	~8,500 B.C.E. - ~1,000 B.C.E.

Oakville Indian Mounds Visit Activity

1. What time period do the Oakville Indian Mounds date to and how do they know?

2. What game did they play at Oakville and how did they play it?

3. What was my favorite thing that I learned after visiting the Oakville Indian Mounds?

Florence Indian Mound Activity

Visit the Florence Indian Mound and Museum. Then answer the following questions after your tour. The last two questions are blank. Fill in a question that you would like answered and ask your tour guide.

1. During what period of Native American history was the Florence Indian Mound built?

2. What purpose did the Florence Indian Mound likely serve for the Native Americans who built it?

3. What kind of artifacts were discovered at the Florence Indian Mound site?

4. Name at least two facts about the Florence Indian Mound's history.

5. (Fill in Your Own Questions)

Answer:

6. (Fill in Your Own Question)

Answer:

Places to Visit



Photo 16 Florence Indian Mound and Museum

Florence Indian Mound Museum

The Florence Indian Mound and Museum is dedicated to preserving and accurately representing the history of the Native American culture of the Muscle Shoals area. Students can take part in an interactive tour of Native American history and see artifacts from the Native American cultures discussed in this educator's packet.

1028 S. Court St.

Florence, AL 35630

Phone: 256-760-6427

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm.

Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center

Oakville is located near Moulton, Alabama. It houses a collection of Native American artifacts that range from the Paleo-Indian to Historic Period. Students have opportunities to explore the artifact collection and experience the actual mounds built by Native Americans during the Woodland period. The park includes two mounds, a 5k walking trail and a 20 acre fishing lake.

1219 County Road 187, Danville, Alabama

www.oakvilleindianmounds.com

256-905-2499

Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday Closed

Closed on all major holidays.



Photo 17 Oakville Indian Education Center

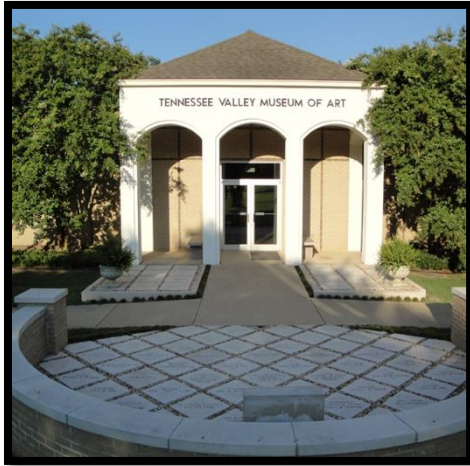


Photo 18 Tennessee Valley Museum of Art

Tennessee Valley Museum of Art

The Tennessee Valley Museum of Art is located in downtown Tuscumbia, Alabama, and has an exhibit that contains Mississippian petroglyphs that were found in the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. The exhibit also houses other artifacts from Native American cultures from the Mississippian period. The petroglyphs are in a recreated bluff shelter that allow students to imagine how Native Americans may have lived.

511 N. Water Street, Tuscumbia, Alabama

www.tvaa.net

Monday- Friday 9 am-5 pm

Sunday 1 pm – 3 pm

Closed on Saturday and all major holidays



Photo 19 Wichahpi Commemorative Stone Wall

Wichahpi Commemorative Stone Wall

“Tom’s Wall” is a memorial that Tom Hendrix built in honor of his Yuchi Indian great-great grandmother, Telahnay. Tom’s Wall is the largest memorial to a Native American woman in the world. This monument commemorates Telahnay’s removal from Alabama during the Trail of

Tears, and her journey back home from Oklahoma. Mr. Hendrix’s memorial to his ancestor is the largest un-mortared stone wall in the United States.

13890 County Road 8,

Florence, AL 35633,

near the Natchez Trace & Hwy 20/Savannah Hwy

Phone: 256-764-3617

Open Daily

Image Credits

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http://www.tvaresearch.com/images/early_photograph_of_Florence_Mound.jpg

Introduction: Oakville Indian Mounds Educational Center, Oakville Indian Mound, photo used with permission by Oakville Indian Mounds Educational Center

Photo 1: The University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Research, Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter, http://museums.ua.edu/oar/NEH/N_Ala/images/StamfieldWorley/pages/1Ct125-04.html

Photo 2: Encyclopedia of Alabama, Dalton Projectile Points,
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1413>

Photo 3: Shiloh Mounds Archaeological Project, Dust Cave Entrance,
<https://www.nps.gov/seac/research/fp/shil/2002photos/June2002/pages/June27.html>

Photo 4: The University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Research, Bone and Antler Tools,
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-8554>

Photo 5: Encyclopedia of Alabama.com, Woodland Projectile Points,
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1166>

Photo 6: Heironymous Rowe, Hopewell Exchange Network

Photo 7: Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center, Burial Mound at Oakville,
<http://oakvilleindianmounds.com/Ancient-Indian-Mounds.html>

Photo 8: Encyclopedia of Alabama, Florence Indian Mound & Museum,
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-8508>

Photo 9: Photo of waddle and daub structure
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/104779128806708766/>

Photo 10: Seth Armstrong, TVMA Martin Petroglyph Exhibit

Photo 11: Seth Armstrong, TVMA Martin Petroglyph Exhibit

Photo 12: Photo of Spring Park, Tuscumbia, Alabama
<http://shoalskids.net/day-activities/spring-park-ride-hours-for-spring-2018/>

Photo 13: Encyclopedia of Alabama, Map of Horseshoe Bend,
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1044>

Photo 14: Encyclopedia of Alabama, William McIntosh,
<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/m-2216>

Page 15: New Georgia Encyclopedia, Major Ridge,
<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/major-ridge-ca-1771-1839>

Page 16: Florence Indian Mound and Museum, Florence Indian Mound and Museum, picture used with permission of Florence Indian Mound and Museum

Photo 17: Oakville – logo and photos of Oakville Mounds used with permission of Oakville Indian Mound and Educational Center

Photo 18: Tennessee Valley Art Association.com, Tennessee Valley Museum of Art
<http://www.tvaa.net/visit-the-museum.html>

Photo 19: If The Legend Fades.com, Ishatae...A Quiet Place,
<http://www.ifthelegendsfade.com/author.html>