

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park



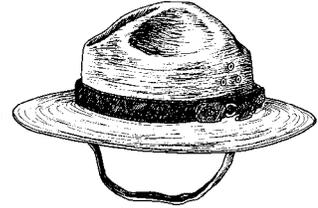
Expeditions into Ohio's Past

Teacher's Guide



An Integrated Curriculum for Grades 3-5

Glossary



A

absolute location: the location of a point on the Earth's surface which can be expressed by a grid reference (e.g., latitude and longitude)

AD: represents years in the Christian Era Anno Domini

Adena: a prehistoric mound building culture found in southern Ohio and other parts of the eastern United States which flourished between 3,000 – 2,000 years ago

anthropology: the study of human beings in relation to distribution, origin, classification, and relationship of races, physical character, environmental and social relations, and culture

anthropologist: one who studies the subject of anthropology

Archaic Period: a time frame in North American prehistory spanning 7,000 years between 10,000 B.P. to 3000 B.P. after Paleo-Indian and before Woodland times. The 7,000 years is further defined as Early, Middle and Late Archaic

archeologist: (archaeologist) one who studies the subject archeology

archeology: scientific study of life and culture of past peoples through excavation and examination of the remains and the materials left behind

artifact: any object made by human hands

atlatl: a device used for throwing a spear

that consists of rod or board with a projection (as a hook) at the back end

Atwater, Caleb: Atwater moved to Circleville, Ohio in 1815 and began documenting many of the earthworks in Ohio. He wrote *Description of the Antiquities Discovered in the State of Ohio and Other Western States* in 1820 that included the earliest known map of the Hopewell Mound Group

B

blade or bladelet: a long slender prismatic flake manufactured by indirect percussion or pressure from a prepared core. At least twice as long as it is wide

burial: a place for a deceased body in the earth or a tomb, usually in a ceremonial manner

C

ceremony: an established system of rites connected with an occasion as in religion or ritual

chronology: an arrangement of events in order of occurrence

constant: something that is unchanging

copper: soft, easily shaped reddish-brown metal. The Hopewell obtained copper ore from the Lake Superior region

culture: behavior patterns, arts, beliefs, products of human work and thought typical of a group or population

cultivate: to grow or tend

curator: one who manages or oversees a museum collection or library

D

Davis, Dr. Edwin: (1811 -1888), Chillicothe physician. Co-author of *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*, detailing the first archeological study of the prehistoric earthworks of the Mississippi Valley

decompose:
to cause to rot; to decay

E

earthen wall: an enclosure made from soil or stone. Walls can vary in size according to height, width, and length. Walls are formed into shapes either as geometric ones, such as circles or squares, or as free-formed, such as the rounded-cornered square at the Mound City

earthwork: a type of archeological site that is constructed by placing or displacing soil or stone. Earthworks can be earthen mounds, earthen walls, or ditches. Many times earthworks are formed into various shapes, such as the circle at the Hopeton earthworks

effigy: an image or representation of a person or animal

ethnography: a branch of anthropology that deals with the scientific description of specific human cultures

excavate: to uncover or expose by digging
experimental archeology: the study of past behavioral processes through experimental reconstruction under

carefully controlled scientific conditions

F

fire cracked rock (FCR): a type of stone artifact that was heated in a fire. The heat of the fire makes the rock break into smaller sections which are called fire cracked rocks. These artifacts are usually associated with cooking processes

flint: hard rock that breaks with a sharp cutting edge

Fort Ancient Culture: a group of people that shared similar characteristics between AD 1000-1650. People associated with this culture lived in villages, grew corn and other plants, and used the bow and arrow. Archeological evidence also indicate that people of the Fort Ancient culture constructed the Serpent Mound

G

goosefoot: (*Chenopodium spp.*): a native plant that is now extinct, although weedy forms survive today; one of four cultivated starchy seeds used by Hopewell. The seeds mature in the fall and contain more protein and fiber and less fat than corn

H

habitation site: a habitation site is a place where people have lived. Prehistoric habitation sites may be marked by postholes, cooking pits, middens, or broken pottery or artifacts

hamlet: a small village

Hopewell: name given to a culture with people who shared common beliefs and lifestyles. They built mounds and earthworks throughout southern Ohio. Their influence reached throughout eastern continental North America between 2200-1500 years ago

Hopewell, Mordecai Cloud: a local resident of Chillicothe in the late 1800's who also owned a farm outside of town. This farm land contained a portion of a large archeological site that was excavated in the 1890's. This site is now named the Hopewell site

hypothesis: explanation for an observation, phenomenon, or scientific problem that can be tested by further investigation

I

inference: The act or process of deriving logical conclusions from previously known information that is assumed to be true

inorganic: not composed of organic, living matter

K

knotweed: (*Polygonum erectum*): A fall maturing plant, knotweed was cultivated for its starchy seed. The seeds also contain more protein than corn

M

marsh elder or sumpweed: (*Iva annua* var. *Macrocarpa*): extinct; one of two plants cultivated by the Hopewell for its oily seeds, and harvested in the fall

may grass: *Phalaris carolinana*: valued for starchy seeds and cultivated, but not

domesticated. This plant matured in the spring, and does not grow in the wild north of southern Kentucky, however was able to grow under the care of the Ohio Hopewell

mica: a group of minerals that crystallizes in thin, flexible, translucent, layers

midden: archeological term for trash pits or garbage dumps

Mills, William C.: (1860-1928) archeologist who excavated numerous prehistoric sites in Ohio including the Seip Earthworks, Adena Mound, and most notably, the Mound City Group in the early 1920's. Mills' work uncovered most of the artifacts in the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park museum

Mississippian Culture: this time period from about AD 900 to 1600 characterizes the lifestyle of people living along the Mississippi River and in the Midwest and Southeast. Oftentimes people lived in towns and built important structures atop flat-topped mounds. One example of a Mississippian town is Cahokia, a large archeological site near St. Louis

Moorehead, Warren K.: (1866-1939) early archeologist who performed excavations at Hopewell Mound Group and Seip Earthworks in the 1890's.

mound: a heap or bank of earth, usually over ceremonial structure or burial

O

observation: an act of recognizing and noting a fact or occurrence often involving measurement with instruments

obsidian: a hard, usually dark colored or black volcanic glass used to make sharp stone tools such as knives

organic: anything made from substances that once lived, such as wood, leather and bone

P

pipe: a tube with a small bowl at one end for smoking plant substances

pipestone: hard claylike stone used by prehistoric peoples to make pipes

pottery: the art or craft of using clay to make bowls or pots

prehistoric: period before recorded history

projectile point: a general term for arrow, spear or dart-points. Characteristics include a symmetrical point, thin cross-section, and some method of attachment to the projectile shaft

provenience: a source or origin of something

R

relative location: the location of a place in relation to other places (e.g., north-west, downstream)

ritual: the performance of a ceremonial act

S

Scioto River: a river that flows through Southern Ohio and into the Ohio River

shaman: a person who acts as a medium between the visible world and an invisible spirit world and who practices religion for purposes of healing, divination, and control over

natural events

shard: a piece of broken pottery

shells: hard coverings of some aquatic animals used by Native Americans for beads, tools, and in burials

silver: a white metallic element that is ductile, very malleable, and capable of a high degree of polish

stratigraphy: the arrangement of rocks or materials in layers. As layers are deposited, the oldest is usually on the bottom and the youngest on top

Squier, Ephraim: editor of the local Chillicothe newspaper, *Scioto Gazette*, and surveyor of many earthworks in Ohio. Squier also excavated some mounds including a few at Mound City Group. Co-author of *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* published in 1848

T

temper: to harden, strengthen, or toughen by blending, kneading, admixing or applying heat

textile: fabric that is woven or knitted

trowel: a flat-bladed hand tool used for leveling, spreading, or shaping substances such as sand or dirt

V

variable: something that varies or is prone to variation

W

Woodland Period: archeologists have

designated the period of time between 1000 BC - AD 1000 in the Midwest as the Woodland Period. Characteristics of this time period are the widespread use of pottery, the cultivation of plants, and the building of earthworks. The middle part of this time period (200 BC - AD 500) includes the Hopewell culture