

Fieldnotes of an Archaeologist

Today **you** are an **archaeologist**. Examine the artifacts at the museum, especially those relating to animals, as clues to learn about Native American Indian cultures that have lived in the Illinois River Valley. Each question section relates to an exhibit area with the same title.

3rd FLOOR

OBSERVATION DECK (weather permitting)

1. A natural resource is anything from the environment that can contribute toward human survival. Animals were an important natural resource for food, tools, clothing, etc. List three animal resources that Indians in the Illinois River Valley would have used. (Hint: the labels mention animals that may not be in view)

2nd FLOOR

HUNTING AND GATHERING

2. The Paleo Indians of the Hunting and Gathering period pursued large Ice Age animals not found in our environments today. Name two of these animals.

3. Go to the back of the Hunting and Gathering case. What kinds of clues tell archaeologists that ancient people hunted these Ice Age animals?

4. As early as 10,000 years ago Indians domesticated and lived with one animal. What was that animal? (Hint: find the special animal burial)

5. How do you think the Paleo Indians used this domesticated animal?

GARDENING

6. Find the assortment of carved stone pipes on the side of the Gardening case. Many pipes are made to represent animals that were important in religious beliefs. Who would have used these pipes and why?

7. For the Woodland Indians of the Gardening period, animals were more than a source of food. Draw lines from the animal parts to the pictures of how they were used.

•bear teeth

•marine shell

•turtle shell

•deer antlers

•deer leg bones



•ceremonial
cup



•ceremonial
headdress



•burial
mat pin



•jewelry
ornament



•bowl

FARMING

8. In the Farming picture, the Mississippian Indians are watching a special ceremony in which dancing warriors are dressed in falcon costumes. Falcons are a type of hawk, a "bird of prey." Why do you think the warriors admired this bird?

CONFLICT AND CHANGE

9. Find the jewelry on the side of the Conflict and Change case. Traditionally Illinois Indian jewelry was made of animal bones and shells. After trading with the French, what new materials did the Indians begin to use for making jewelry?

LIFEWAYS (look for the village with the canoe in the next room)

10. In the Mississippian hut there are a variety of objects made from animal resources. List three animal resources and how they might have been used.

ANIMAL EFFIGIES CASE

11. The Mississippian Indians believed in a life after death. People were buried with supplies to use in the "afterlife." These supplies included bowls in the shapes of animals that were viewed as spirit guides. What animals are these bowls meant to look like?

SOCIETY EXHIBIT

12. Go to the Shaman case at the back wall. A shaman was a spiritual leader and healer of the people. Mississippian Indians believed the shaman communicated with spirits in other worlds through animal messengers. What was the shaman's ceremonial medicine bag made of and what did it contain?

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OBSERVATION DECK (weather permitting)

1. A natural resource is anything from the environment that can contribute toward human survival. Animals were an important natural resource for food, tools, clothing, etc. List three animal resources that Indians in the Illinois River Valley would have used. (Hint: the labels mention animals that may not be in view)

Answer: white-tailed deer, fish, spiders, ducks, geese, etc.

2nd FLOOR

HUNTING AND GATHERING

2. The Paleo Indians of the Hunting and Gathering period pursued large Ice Age animals not found in our environments today. Name two of these animals.

Answer: mammoth, mastodon, pecary, giant ground sloth

3. Go to the back of the Hunting and Gathering case. What kinds of clues tell archaeologists that ancient people hunted these Ice Age animals?

Answer: Spear points are found with the skeletons of the animals that were hunted and butcher marks are found on animal bones.

4. As early as 10,000 years ago Indians domesticated and lived with one animal. What was that animal? (Hint: find the special animal burial)

Answer: the dog

5. How do you think the Paleo Indians used this domesticated animal?

Answer: Dog were used as pets, hunting companions to track animals, and to pull or carry supplies when moving.

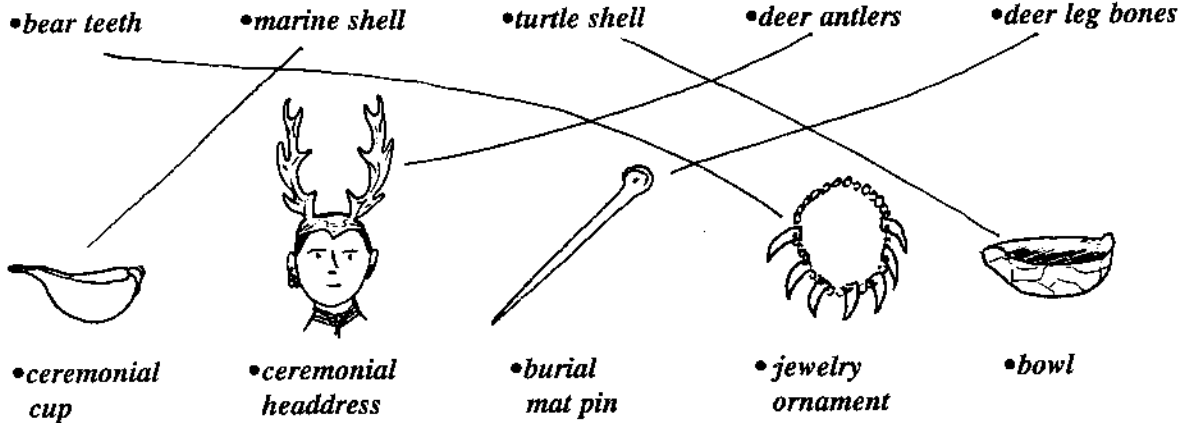
GARDENING

6. Find the assortment of carved stone pipes on the side of the Gardening case. Many pipes are made to represent animals that were important in religious beliefs. Who would have used these pipes and why?

Answer: Shamen (holy men) who were involved in rituals to communicate with the spirit world.

7. For the Woodland Indians of the Gardening period, animals were more than a source of food. Draw lines from the animal parts to the pictures of how they were used.

Answer:



FARMING

8. In the Farming picture, the Mississippian Indians are watching a special ceremony in which dancing warriors are dressed in falcon costumes. Falcons are a type of hawk, a "bird of prey." Why do you think the warriors admired this bird?

Answer: *Falcons are swift, silent, and powerful hunters.*

CONFLICT AND CHANGE

9. Find the jewelry on the side of the Conflict and Change case. Traditionally Illinois Indian jewelry was made of animal bones and shells. After trading with the French, what new materials did the Indians begin to use for making jewelry?

Answer: *glass beads and metal ornaments*

LIFEWAYS (look for the village with the canoe in the next room)

10. In the Mississippian hut there are a variety of objects made from animal resources. List three animal resources and how they might have been used.

Answer: *deer hides as blankets and bedding; deer jaw (mandible) as corn shellers and grass sickles; deer antler billet (hammer) as tool for chipping stone; bone as needles; sinew as string for bows*

ANIMAL EFFIGIES CASE

11. The Mississippian Indians believed in a life after death. People were buried with supplies to use in the "afterlife." These supplies included bowls in the shapes of animals that were viewed as spirit guides. What animals are these bowls meant to look like?

Answer: *ducks, beavers, owls, spiders, and bats*

SOCIETY EXHIBIT

12. Go to the Shaman case at the back wall. A shaman was a spiritual leader and healer of the people. Mississippian Indians believed the shaman communicated with spirits in other worlds through animal messengers. What was the shaman's ceremonial medicine bag made of and what did it contain?

Answer: *It was made from an animal pelt and might contain crystals, mica, plants, and bone tubes used for rituals.*

7. For the Woodland Indians of the Gardening period, animals were more than a source of food. Draw lines from the animal parts to the pictures of how they were used.

Answer:

- bear teeth
- marine shell
- turtle shell
- deer antlers
- deer leg bones



•ceremonial cup



•ceremonial headdress



•burial mat pin



•jewelry ornament



•bowl

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