Teacher's Packet

Contact Information

Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site
PO Box 155
94 Green Street
Wickliffe KY 42087
270-335-3681
wickliffemounds@ky.gov

Located on highway 51-60-62 in Ballard County, Kentucky

Website: www.parks.ky.gov click on Wickliffe Mounds

Date of visit:_____
Time of program:_____
Type of program: _____
_____

Fees:	Students	$_____
	Teachers	$_____
	Other Adults	$_____

Payable to Wickliffe Mounds in one lump sum, please

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Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site

94 Green Street, PO Box 155, Hwy 51-60-62 West
Wickliffe, Ballard County, Kentucky 42087
270-335-3681

Dear Teachers:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site. Wickliffe Mounds provides the experience of seeing first-hand an archaeological site of a Native American village of the Mississippian culture, the excavated mounds, features and artifacts. Students can gain an appreciation for preserving the past while learning about the science of archaeology, the fascinating history of the site and the culture of Native Americans who once lived in this thriving village, located on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi river.

A tour of Wickliffe Mounds meets many of the curriculum guidelines in the Social Science and Arts and Humanities requirements.

Before your visit to Wickliffe Mounds, we'd like to provide you with some information about our site. We believe it will help you and your students prepare for the tour. The enclosed information sheets cover additional details of your visit, and a definition list of vocabulary words your students may hear or read about while on tour. Please share this information with other educators.

The Wickliffe Mounds site was occupied between A.D. 1100 - 1350 by people of the Mississippian Culture. These Native Americans, or *Indians,* occupied nearly the entire Mississippi River Valley from Wisconsin to the Gulf of Mexico. In many cases, Mississippians were the last prehistoric people to live in these areas.

Mississippian people were primarily farmers, which is one reason most sites are found along the fertile flood plains of rivers and creeks. Major crops included corn, sunflowers and squash. The Wickliffe Mounds site is relatively small compared to other Mississippian sites. Its peak population was about 300 people. Larger sites, such as the Cahokia Mounds, may have had populations ranging as high as 35,000. Platform, flat-topped mounds were built to elevate important buildings, elite families and were used for ceremonial functions. They made shell-tempered pottery in a variety of shapes and functions and stone tools were distinctive as well. They lived in permanent style houses made of wattle and daub with thatch roofs. Exhibits in the museum showcase hundreds of artifacts found from the site since it was first excavated in the 1930s.

Today, Wickliffe Mounds is operated by the Kentucky Department of Parks. The exhibits and presentations focus on the interpretation of the prehistoric Mississippian culture, the scientific discipline of archaeology, the study of Native Americans and the history of this unique archaeological site and its collections. Wickliffe Mounds is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated as a Kentucky Archaeological Landmark.

If you have any additional questions or if we can help you in any way, please feel free to call us. Thank you for choosing Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site and we look forward to your visit.

Sincerely,

Carla Hildebrand
Park Manager

Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site

94 Green Street, PO Box 155, Hwy 51-60-62 West
Wickliffe, Ballard County, Kentucky 42087
270-335-3681 – wickliffemounds@ky.gov -- www.parks.ky.gov

Dear Teachers: We invite you to bring your students to Wickliffe Mounds!

Wickliffe Mounds offers educational opportunities and fun learning experiences for students of all ages. Wickliffe Mounds is an archaeological site and museum of a Native American village of the Mississippian culture. The Mississippian Native Americans occupied the site from 1100-1350 C.E. (A.D.) They built platform style mounds used for ceremonies and high ranking officials, other mounds were used as burial sites, they lived in permanent villages with houses made of mud and thatch, mounds and houses were built around a central plaza, they relied heavily upon corn as the staple of their diet, they utilized riverine resources for fishing, fertile soil, hunting and travel, they participated in a vast trade network, and had a complex society. The site was first excavated in the 1930's. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Kentucky Archaeological Landmark, the museum displays the excavations, artifacts and interprets the Mississippian culture, the science of archaeology and the history of the site.

What we have:

- Tours can be taken March to November and Teachers are provided with information about the site, museum and important points of interest. A visit incorporates many states' curriculum standards.
- A Hands-On Touch Table Exhibit is available and includes Native American tools and technology, items from their environment, samples of pottery and stone, and mortar and pestle for grinding corn.
- Activity Sheets in a Teachers' Packet can be emailed to you. Call or Email the park.
- Visit to the museum buildings and mounds usually take about 40 minutes, plus extra time for the gift shop, trail and lunch at the picnic area. Use the Scavenger Hunt for Knowledge activity sheet for students.
- A Woods Walk Trail along with a Forest Resources activity sheet enhances environmental education.
- Recreational Shelter and Picnic area can be used for lunch, free-play and activities.
- Prehistoric technology equipment can be used here at the park during your visit (atlatls & spears), chunkey game, and / or an archaeology laboratory kit.
- We encourage you to use Wickliffe Mounds as a teaching tool for your classroom needs.
- Education Program for small classes is 2 hours and focuses on Mississippian culture and the science of archaeology. Students create a craft to take home, have a primitive technology demonstration and play a Native American game. *Sorry, but limited to 10 to 25 students and staff availability.*

Admission Fees $ (Teachers and Bus Drivers are Free):

Teacher-Led - Self-Guided Tours – General Site Visit - Students are $2 each

Teacher-Led - Self-Guided Tours - Use of atlatl equipment, chunkey and /or archaeology lab kits are $3 each.

Extra adults are $3 each. Guided Tours/Education Programs for small groups are $5 per person.

GROUP RATES REQUIRE ADVANCE APPOINTMENT.
GIVE US A CALL AND SET UP YOUR TOUR!

Details for your visit to Wickliffe Mounds

Previsit Activities - Prepare your students for a visit to Wickliffe Mounds by using the activity sheets and reading the background information. Please share the enclosed materials with other teachers who are coming to the site as part of your group so they can prepare their students also.

Proper Dress - Have students wear appropriate comfortable clothing and shoes, dress for the weather with coats, gloves, rain gear, etc. During the tour, you will be walking between the museum buildings; and the buildings are not climate controlled (no heat or A/C). Please note that special activities and demonstrations take place outdoors. This is an archaeological park--with dirt, bugs, heat, rain, cold, etc...

Parking - You may unload bus or cars in the upper parking lot of the site. The bus will need to park in the lower lot, which will allow adequate room to maneuver when leaving.

Payment of Admission Fees - Admission fees must be paid the day of your visit and are designated when you schedule your tour. It is preferable that payment be made in one lump sum, this prevents each student from having to pay individually. Please designate one person to check-in at the office and coordinate the payment of fees at the admission desk. We need to know the exact number of students, teachers and chaperones in your group. Please make checks payable to Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site.

Restrooms - We have a small number of restrooms. If necessary to utilize the facilities before the tour, please allow additional time so that tours will not be cut short.

Lunch - Food and Drinks are prohibited in the Museum. We have picnic areas available for students to eat lunch, including a shelter. We have a soft drink vending machine available.

Photography - Photography is not allowed inside the museum, but okay outside.

Museum Gift Shop - Your class is welcome to visit the gift shop during your visit and many items are in the $2.00 to $10.00 plus TAX price range. Gift Shop is small, 5 to 10 students at a time, please.

Chaperones - Be sure your chaperones know what their responsibilities are:
Maintain order with their group; Provide learning assistance to students; Be willing to step in and help with an activity; Refrain from talking among chaperones that is disruptive to the tour.

Smoking - is not allowed in the museum or museum grounds.

Student Expectations - Your students are here for a fun ***learning*** experience.
Please WALK everywhere--no running or horseplay;
Stay together as a group, do not wander off;
Please, no gum, candy, eating or drinking in the museum buildings;
Don't litter--deposit trash in a trash cans;
Students should keep hands to themselves, no touching exhibits except on the Hands-On Activity Area.

We appreciate that you have chosen Wickliffe Mounds for your classroom field trip.
Thank you!

DIRECT QUESTIONS TO: Carla Hildebrand, Park Manager, at (270) 335-3681
Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site ▪ PO Box 155 ▪ Wickliffe, KY 42087

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Vocabulary Words and Terms you might hear on a visit to Wickliffe Mounds

Anthropology - The study of humans, encompassing all aspects of humans in the past and present, such as cultures, artifacts, languages and human remains. Archaeology is a subfield of anthropology.
Archaeology – A scientific method for the study, recovery and reconstruction of people who lived in the past by analyzing their material remains: the stuff left behind such as pottery, stone tools, trash deposits, human burials and mounds.
Artifact - Anything made, used or altered by humans.
Burial - An archaeological feature including a human grave and its contents.
Ceramics - Any object formed from clay and fired at a high temperature: **pottery**.
Chert - Brittle rock in the same class as flint that is used to make stone tools: **flintknapping**; high quality stone used because of its ability to flake rather than fracture.
Chronology - Arrangement of events in the order in which they occurred.
Context - The relationship artifacts and features have to each other and the situation in which they are found.
Culture - Learned behavior, shared habits and customs of a group of people; the way in which groups of humans live, think, act, create and manufacture tools and products; groups of people who share similar customs in a particular time and place.
Deposit - Accumulation of sediments by either physical or chemical processes such as wind, water, ice, or gravity, or from human activity such as moundbuilding. Deposits in sequence make up stratigraphy.
Effigy - Artifact made to look like the image of a person or animal.
Excavation - The careful removal of layers of soil (dirt) at an archaeological site: **digging**.
Feature - Evidence of human activity, visible in the ground, such as garbage pits, post-holes, or wall trenches. A non-portable artifact.
Gorget - An adornment of stone, shell or copper of various shapes or engravings worn on the chest or neck suspended by a cord through drilled holes.
Grid - A system of squares (usually 1 or 2 meters) used in laying out a map and reference points for recording features and artifacts when surveying and excavating a site.
In-Situ - A term referring to the original place of deposit of an artifact.
Lithic - Stone, rock, anything made out of stone such as points, hoes, knives, etc.
Midden – Refuse that builds up over time (trash, garbage).
Mississippian - The name of prehistoric Native American people and their culture who lived throughout the Mississippi River Valley. They were farmers and their main crop was corn, built platform mounds, made shell-tempered pottery, lived in permanent villages and houses, used natural resources from river environments, participated in vast trade networks and had chiefdom level societies.
Mounds - Hills of dirt made by humans and built for a variety of reasons, of different shapes and sizes. Usually built with basket loads of dirt. Mississippians built platform style mounds to elevate important public buildings and chiefs.
Posthole – A feature that represents the remains of a wooden post sunk into the ground, usually to support house walls, roof.
Prehistoric - Time in the past before writing. In North America, it's the time before Columbus.
Primitive technology - The means by which ancient peoples made and used tools, houses, weapons, clothes and gathered-hunted-prepared food.
Projectile point - Point used to tip spears, darts, and arrows. Could be made from stone, bone, or antler.
Radiocarbon dating - Method of dating organic (once-living) materials by measuring the surviving proportions of radioactive elements (carbon-14) in the object.
Reburial – the act of burying again; concealing under the ground.
Sherd - Piece of broken pottery, broken pieces of ceramics.
Site - Any place that shows evidence of past human activity.
Stratigraphy – Layers of soil; the superposition of archaeological deposits one upon another. The relationship indicated by stratigraphy provides a relative system of dating archaeological materials and is important in establishing cultural sequence in an area. Those deposits or levels that are deeper in the ground are said to be older than deposits that are closer to the surface.
Subsoil – Undisturbed soil found underneath an archaeological site; soil that is older than when people began to occupy a site; no sign of human activity.
Temper - Material mixed with clay to strengthen it. Mississippians used crushed mussel shell as temper.
Wattle & Daub – Mississippian house construction. Wattle: framework of vertical posts woven together with cane, branches, bark, or vines. Daub: clay mud mixed with grass that is smoothed onto a framework wall similar to plaster.
Wickliffe - Site of a prehistoric Native American village in western Kentucky. Name of the town in which the archaeological site is located: **Wickliffe Mounds**.

Wickliffe Mounds Word Search

Find the hidden words in the letters

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

ARCHAEOLOGY

ARTIFACT

CULTURE

EXCAVATION

GORGET

LITHIC

MISSISSIPPIAN

MOUNDS

NATURE

POTTERY

SITE

WICKLIFFE

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Taking a Tour of Wickliffe Mounds
Information for Teachers

- Thank you for choosing Wickliffe Mounds for your class field trip. We hope you find your visit an educational experience for your students and staff. Here are a few guidelines to assist you with your visit to the museum and park grounds.

- Upon arrival, Teachers should coordinate payment of admission fees with the front desk in the Welcome Center.
    - **Parking** - You may unload bus or cars in the upper parking lot of the site. The bus will need to park in the lower lot, which will allow adequate room to maneuver when leaving.
    - **Payment of Admission Fees** - Admission fees must be paid the day of your visit and are designated when you schedule your tour. It is preferable that payment be made in one lump sum, this prevents each student from having to pay individually. Please designate one person to check-in at the office and coordinate the payment of fees at the admission desk. We need to know the exact number of students, teachers and chaperones in your group. Please make checks payable to Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site. A receipt will be issued to you.

- Students can form a group at the side gate of Welcome Center where teachers (or park staff if available) will introduce the history of Wickliffe Mounds. This takes about 5 to 10 minutes.

- If you are bringing more than one classroom of students, it is suggested to break up into groups and rotate classes between the museum buildings, like a round-robin type of sequence, in 20 to 30 minute increments, depending on how much time you have. *Suggested Times for Each Area:*

    - 10 minutes introduction and dividing into groups
    - 20 minutes is needed in the Lifeways Exhibit
    - 5 minutes at the Burial Mound
    - 10 minutes at the Architecture Exhibit
    - 10 minutes at the Ceremonial Mound
    - 15 minutes for the Woods Walk Trail (200 yard trail loop)
    - 20 minutes for the Welcome Center (Gift Shop and Restrooms)
        - Picnic Area is available

- Please ask park staff if you have any questions. Thank you.

Suggested Schedule for Larger Tour Groups

ALL STUDENTS TOGETHER AT WELCOME CENTER FOR INTRODUCTION

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Lifeways Building	Burial Mound and Trail	Architecture and Ceremonial
Architecture and Ceremonial	Welcome Center Gift Shop	Burial Mound and Trail Burial
Mound and Trail	Lifeways Building	Welcome Center Gift Shop
Welcome Center Gift Shop	Architecture and Ceremonial	Lifeways Building

Tour of Wickliffe Mounds

Introduction

Wickliffe Mounds is the location of a Native American village of the Mississippian mound building culture. This archaeological site was first occupied by the Mississippian Native Americans from about 1100-1350 C.E. (A.D.) which was around 900 years ago. At that time, Mississippian people moved up to this bluff which overlooks the Mississippi River and built a village with earthen mounds and permanent style houses and buildings all surrounding a central plaza.

Mississippians were farmers and they grew corn, squash and other crops; they made pottery from clay with elaborate designs and decorations; they participated in a vast trade network up and down the rivers; they had stone tools; and they had a complex cheifdom level society. Sometime in the 1300's, they abandoned the village for reasons we are not quite sure, but researchers are working on this question.

This site was first excavated back in the 1930's when highway construction work destroyed the south end of the village. Numerous artifacts were uncovered at that time and a business man from Paducah Kentucky, Fain King, purchased the site and began excavating the mounds, opening the site as a tourist attraction. The site changed owners several times over the years, first privately owned by Fain and Blanche King, then by Western Baptist Hospital, and after that Murray State University developed the site in to an archaeological research center and provide us with the modern archaeological interpretation.

The museum exhibit buildings cover areas that were excavated in the 1930s. Each building has exhibits that explain the excavations of the 1930's, the archaeological interpretations and the Mississippian mound-building culture that once occupied this site. Over the last twenty years, scientific research has revealed important information about the archaeology and the Mississippian people here. This archaeological site is now on the National Register of Historic Places, it is a Kentucky Archaeological Landmark, and is operated by the Kentucky Department of PARKS.

Key Vocabulary Words

Archaeology – A scientific study, recovery and reconstruction of people who lived in the past by analyzing their material remains: the stuff that people left behind such as pottery, stone tools, trash deposits, burials and mounds. Archaeology is a sub-discipline of **Anthropology** – the study of humans.

Culture - Learned behavior, shared habits and customs of a group of people; the way in which groups of humans live, think, act, create and manufacture tools and products; groups of people who share similar customs in a particular time and place: **Mississippian culture.**

Excavation - The careful removal of layers of soil (dirt) at an archaeological site: **digging**.

Mounds - Hills of dirt made by people and built for a variety of reasons, of different shapes and sizes. Usually built with basket loads of dirt. Mississippians built platform style mounds to elevate important public buildings and chiefs and they had burial mounds.

Site - Any place that shows evidence of past human activity.

Mississippian Culture Characteristics

Chiefdom Level of Government --A ranked society - there were chiefs, elites, and commoners. The chief had the authority to order the building of mounds and other public works, and coordinate trade networks and farming activities.

Platform Mounds -- Flat topped, pyramid shaped mounds. The mounds were constructed in order to raise the important buildings and high-ranking officials above the rest of the village.

Agriculture -- Mississippians were farmers. They grew corn, squash, gourds, sunflowers, and other plants. Much of the farming was done in the rich soil of river bottoms.

Large Permanent Town Centers -- The Mississippians lived in permanent town centers consisting of residential sections, platform mounds, ceremonial areas, cemeteries, and a central plaza. These towns ranged in size from small villages of about 200 people to large cities with thousands of people. Houses were permanent and made of wattle and daub and thatch roof.

Shell Tempered Pottery -- Mississippians added a temper to their pottery consisting of burned, crushed mussel shells. The shell was mixed with the wet clay, which made the pottery stronger so it was less likely to break when firing. Look closely at Mississippian pottery and sherds; look for the white specks in the pottery. That's the crushed mussel shells.

Areas to See on the Park

The Lifeways Building

- Approximately 900 years ago Wickliffe Mounds was a small sized Mississippian village. The area now covered by the Lifeways building was once the site of villagers' homes. These homes were part of the early village, which was tightly clustered around a central plaza.

- When excavations began here in the 1930s, there was a low, elongated mound here. The mound here (named Mound D) was built over the places where the early houses had been. Excavations have removed almost all of Mound D. The artifacts and features you see on the floor are from the early period when this area was still village. **Artifact** - Anything made, used or altered by people. These artifacts include pottery for storage and cooking, grinding stones, posthole patterns and animal remains. The sites of infant burials are marked with small signs, although the human remains have been removed from exhibit.

THINGS TO POINT OUT:

1) MURAL – the artwork on the wall to the left of the doorway depicts the way of life of these Mississippian people. Note their houses and clothing styles, their day-to-day activities and family groups. Each panel is a different scene of daily Mississippian life.
2) INFANT BURIAL SIGNS—the signs mark locations of infant burials. No skeletal remains are on display. Please read the signs referring to the infants.
3) HOLES IN GROUND—post holes. **Posthole** – A feature that represents the remains of a wooden post sunk into the ground, usually to support house walls, roof.
4) STRING—examples of our mapping system (coordinates). We map every artifact and feature in a 1 meter by 1 meter grid square. In the 1930's, they used 5 foot by 5 foot grids. **Grid** - A system of squares (usually 1 or 2 meters) used in laying out a map and reference points for recording features and artifacts when surveying and excavating a site.
5) EXHIBIT CASES—View each of the cases—**Farming, Hunting, Recreation, Pottery, Stone Tools.**

6) HANDS-ON TOUCH TABLE—Students may try their skills with the pump drill, corn grinders, take a close look at pottery sherds, stone tools, and items from the environment that the Mississippian people would have seen or used.

Key Vocabulary Words

Pottery - Objects formed from clay and fired at a high temperature: **ceramic**.

Chert - Brittle rock in the same class as flint that is used to make stone tools: **flintknapping**; high quality stone used because of its ability to flake rather than fracture.

Context - The relationship artifacts and features have to each other and the situation in which they are found.

Effigy - Artifact made to look like the image of a person or animal.

Feature - Evidence of human activity, visible in the ground, such as garbage pits, post-holes, or wall trenches. A non-portable artifact.

Gorget - An adornment of stone, shell or copper of various shapes or engravings worn on the chest or neck suspended by a cord through drilled holes.

In-Situ - A term referring to the original place of deposit of an artifact.

Midden – Refuse that builds up over time (trash, garbage).

Sherd - Piece of broken pottery, broken pieces of ceramics. Also called a **Shard.**

The Burial Mound

- The Burial Mound was created around A.D. 1250, and may have been part of a complex of three small mounds. Through radio carbon dating, we know the burials in the cemetery date to the 1200s. **Radiocarbon dating** - Method of dating organic (once-living) materials by measuring the surviving proportions of radioactive elements (carbon-14) in the object.
- Named Mound C, it was first excavated in 1932, revealing the cemetery. A building was constructed over the excavation area of the mound and human remains were on public display for many decades.
- In 1990, Congress passed a federal law known as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) that protected Native American burial places.
- In 1991, Wickliffe Mounds removed all human remains from public view and created a display of plastic burials inside the original building to help visitors understand that valuable information is gained by studying burials; to improve people's attitudes toward protecting burials and archaeological resources; to allow researchers access to the remains before they deteriorated further; to comply with current standards of museum ethics regarding the display of human remains; and to foster a greater respect for Native Americans and their burial customs and point of view.
- To Native American Indians, burial mounds are sacred places. Their ancestors were laid to rest here with dignity and respect and they should be left alone according to their world view.
- To an archaeologist, burials are a tremendous source of information on both the cultural and the physical aspects of a people. Burials yield information such as infant mortality rates, life expectancy and the differences in mortality between men and women. Burials also provide evidence of diseases such as arthritis and tuberculosis, and of patterns of injury and diet.

- From 1991 to 1994, excavations by Murray State University archaeologists attempted to trace the edges of the cemetery. Their research revealed the full size and complexity of the deposits. The burial mound at Wickliffe was built in stages and has a very complicated stratigraphy (layers of the soil). Human remains discovered during this process were not removed; they were recorded **"in situ"** (original place of deposit) with minimal disturbance and were reburied when the test pits were refilled.
- In 2011, after twenty years of documentation, research, public presentations and consultations with Native American tribes and other officials, the cemetery exhibit was dismantled; the building demolished and the remains from Mound C were reburied. The reburial was supervised by the Chickasaw Nation. **The mound has been restored to what it looked like when the Mississippian people first built it.**

How tall were the Mississippians buried in Mound C?

The lengths of long bones – arms and legs – are related to a person's height. Measuring these bones gives an estimate on how tall the person was. At Wickliffe's Mound C, the average Mississippian man was 5'6" and the average woman was about 5'3". These heights are very similar to those found in western European people in the 1200s.

What was their average life span?

During the Mississippian period, approximately 3 out of 10 children died at birth or as infants. Of those who survived infancy, women had an average life span of 35 years and men could expect an average life span of about 42 years. The lower average for women was in part due to death in childbirth.

The Architecture Building

- The two platform mounds at Wickliffe Mounds were built in successive stages over a period of about 200 years. A cross-section of either mound would reveal a structure much like that of a layer cake. Excavations in the mound where the Architecture Building now stands (named Mound B) have shown that a family lived on top of this mound. This appears to be the only residential mound on this site, and probably was the home of a chief's family. The excavations through the center of Mound B have exposed the posthole pattern of the original building on this spot, possibly the first chief's house.
- A corner of the house has been reconstructed the show the wattle-and-daub construction technique. **Wattle & Daub –** Mississippian house construction. Wattle: framework of vertical posts woven together with cane, branches, bark, or vines. Daub: clay mud mixed with grass that is smoothed onto a framework wall similar to plaster.
- The walls have been painted to show the layers in the mound as they were recorded in the 1930s. **Stratigraphy –** Layers of soil; the superposition of archaeological deposits one upon another. The relationship indicated by stratigraphy provides a relative system of dating archaeological materials and is important in establishing cultural sequence in an area. Those deposits or levels that are deeper in the ground are said to be older than deposits that are closer to the surface.

THINGS TO POINT OUT:

1) Notice that you are walking in to an excavated mound. The top of the mound is up by the windows. The floor features show evidence of the floor of the first house built on this mound.
2) Read the text panels:
    a. House Construction
    b. Household Furnishings
    c. Mississippian Architecture
    d. Platform Mounds
3) Review the Historic Scenes of the Site photos from the 1930s.

The Ceremonial Mound

- This is the largest mound on the site (named Mound A) and was built to elevate the main ceremonial building. Excavations in the 1930s removed the center of this mound, much like in the Architecture Building, but the excavation had to be filled in to stabilize the mound. The mound was built in at least six stages. From excavations in 1932 and 1984-1985, Wickliffe Mounds archaeologists do not believe that people ever lived on this mound. The mound and the building on top of it probably served as a special ceremonial area and the center of economic, political, and religious activity.

THINGS TO POINT OUT:

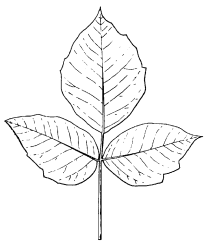
1) Look around at the village layout – try to find the central plaza (hint: where the upper parking lot and welcome center are now)
2) Note that the Mississippi river is just across the highway.
3) Ask students why this bluff would be a strategic location to build a village (hint: close to the Mississippi river to use for traveling by canoe, close to water source, close to fishing and hunting, gathering wood for fire and houses from the woods, bluff acts as protection from other people and animals climbing up to the bluff to get to your village)

The Woods Walk Trail

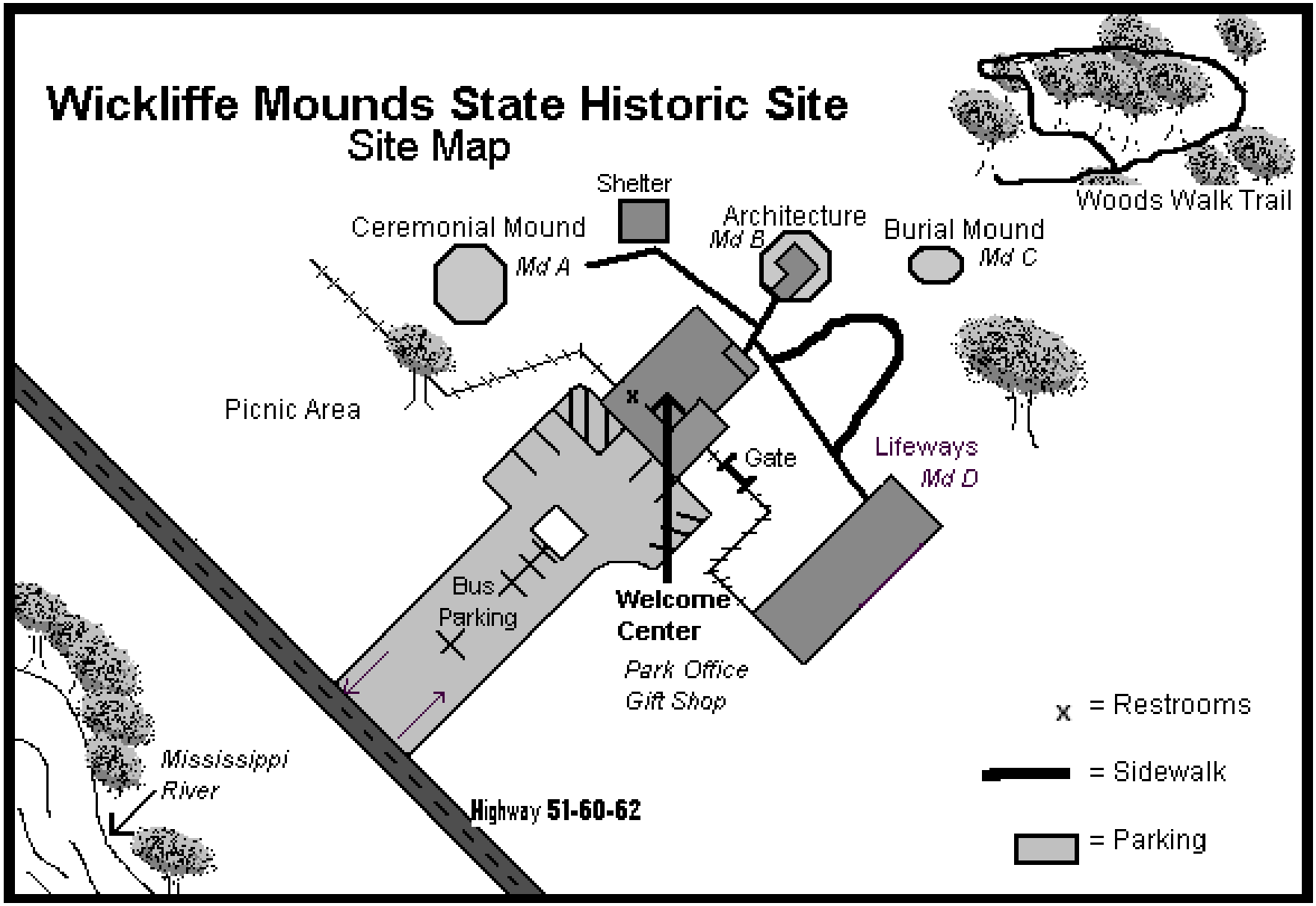
- These woods were once home to Native Americans of the Mississippian culture. Woodlands were as important and familiar to the Mississippian people as the cornfields and town. Far from being "wilderness," the forest and the things it provided were gifts from Mother Earth. There was firewood for warmth and cooking, plants for medicine, wood and plants for houses, tools, canoes, baskets, toys, and clothing. Plants were gathered and animals were hunted for food. The animals, birds, and insects that people depended on thrived in a woodland environment. Important spiritual beings also belonged here.
- These woods have not been burned or logged in decades. In the 1890s, a private landowner farmed the area around the mounds. The Wisconsin Chair Company owned the land from 1895 to 1932, and harvested the trees for lumber. In 1932, the site was developed by owner, Fain W. King, when the mounds were excavated and the museum was built. Since then, the woods have grown up around the mound site.
- Many of the plants that you observe now would have been present when the Mississippian people lived here. Visitors can pause to observe some of the plants that Native Americans used in this rich woodland and riverine environment.

LEAVE NO TRACE:

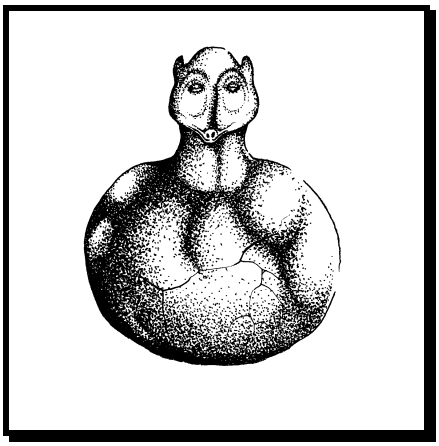
■ Dispose of waste properly
■ Pack it in / Pack it out
■ Leave what you find—Examine, but do not touch rocks, plants, artifacts
■ Respect wildlife—Observe from a distance, never feed wild animals
■ Be Considerate of Other Visitors



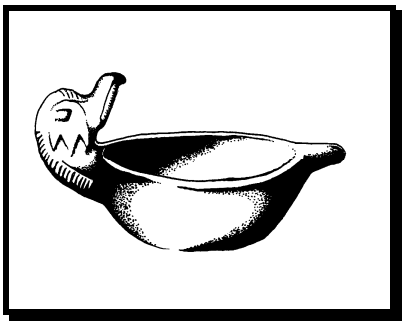
Poison Ivy: (*Rhus radicans*) Most people learn to avoid this three-leaved plant, which can appear as a hairy vine or as a shrub. Its juice usually causes a nasty rash, so try to avoid this plant found throughout the park


Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site
Site Map
Shelter
Ceremonial Mound
Md A
Architecture
Md B
Burial Mound
Md C
Woods Walk Trail
Picnic Area
Gate
Lifeways
Md D
Bus
Parking
Welcome
Center
Park Office
Gift Shop
Mississippi
River
Highway 51-60-62
x = Restrooms
= Sidewalk
= Parking

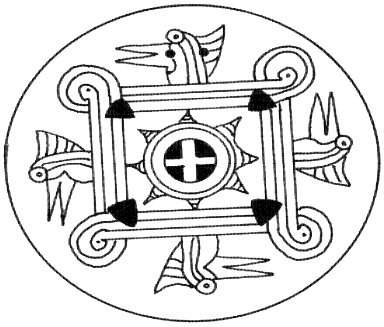
Discovery Page
Artifacts from the Wickliffe Mounds Collection



Possum Effigy Pottery Bottle

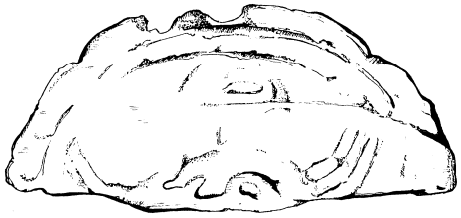


Bird Effigy Bowl

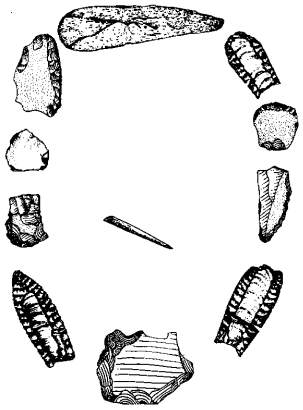


Woodpecker Shell Gorget

Owl Effigy Pottery Bottle

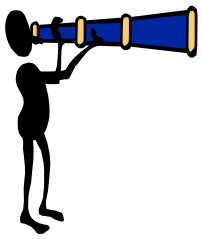


Spider Shell Gorget



Stone Tools

Name:_____



Wickliffe Mounds Adventure Hunt

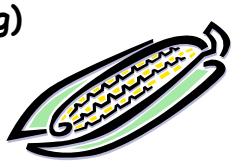
What kinds of animals are in the mural (painting of the Mississippian village)? (Hint: Lifeways Building)

What kinds of hunting tools did the Mississippians use? (Hint: Lifeways Building)

What kinds of animals are on the pottery? (Hint: Lifeways Building)

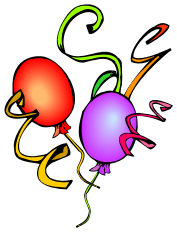
How did Mississippians get food? (Hint: Lifeways Building)

What did Mississippians eat? (Hint: Lifeways Building)



What did the Mississippians make their homes of? (Hint: Architecture Building)

What was your favorite part of Wickliffe Mounds?



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Scavenger Hunt for Knowledge at Wickliffe Mounds

Lifeways Exhibit Building

Your Name: _____

Hint: Questions 1 - 10 are found in exhibit cases along the walls; Questions 11 - 20 are found on the hanging panels over the excavation.

1. Who were the Mississippian people?

2. Who claimed the Jackson Purchase area of western Kentucky and Tennessee before 1818?

3. Name the Five Civilized tribes:
   1) 2) 3) 4) 5)
4. Name three types of wood identified at Wickliffe Mounds:
   1) 2) 3)
5. Name five seed plants identified at Wickliffe Mounds:
   1) 2) 3) 4) 5)
6. Name the favorite animals (for food) used by the Mississippian people:
   1) 2) 3)
7. What game was played with large round stones? How was it played?

8. What is an effigy?

9. Name the five stages of making pottery:
   1) 2) 3) 4) 5)
10. What States do the chert and flint stones found at Wickliffe Mounds come from?

11. Where were infants buried?

12. Who was responsible for most of the daily work of maintaining the household?

13. Name four household chores women would perform:
    1) 2) 3) 4)

14. What is the mainstay of Mississippian life?

15. Name at least three plants grown by the Mississippian farmers:
    1) 2) 3)

16. What contributions did men make to daily life?
    1) 2) 3) 4)

17. What is an artifact?

18. What is a feature?

19. What is a site?

20. What is the goal of archaeology?

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Lifeways (Answers)

1. Who were the Mississippian people?
   The Mississippian people were the ancestors of most of the historic tribes of the Southeast
2. Who claimed the Jackson Purchase area of western Kentucky and Tennessee before 1818?
   the Chickasaw
3. Name the Five Civilized tribes:
   1) *Cherokee* 2) *Chickasaw* 3) *Choctaw* 4) *Creek* 5) *Seminole*
4. Name three types of wood identified at Wickliffe Mounds:
   hickory, ash, elm, Kentucky coffee tree, oaks, willow, birch, cane, red cedar, maple
5. Name five seed plants identified at Wickliffe Mounds:
   maize (corn), knotweed, goosefoot, maygrass, pondweed, beggartick, squash, pokeberry, persimmon, catchfly, legume, gourd, spurge, grape, maypop, nightshade
6. Name the favorite animals (for food) used by the Mississippian people:
   1) *deer* 2) *turkey* 3) *raccoon*
7. What game was played with large round stones? How was it played?
   Chunkey--players would roll large round stones and then throw spears to predict where the stones would fall
8. What is an effigy?
   a Mississippian pot made in the shape of people, animals or gourds. Other effigies are small sculptures attached to the rims of bowls.
9. Name the five stages of making pottery:
   1) *digging the clay* 2) *preparing the clay* 3) *forming the pot*
   4) *drying* 5) *firing*
10. What States do the chert and flint stones found at Wickliffe Mounds come from?
    Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee
11. Where were infants buried?
    Infant children were buried close to the home
12. Who was responsible for most of the daily work of maintaining the household?
    Women
13. Name four household chores women would perform:
    1) *gathering firewood* 2) *grinding corn* 3) *curing skins* 4) *making pottery & baskets*
14. What is the mainstay of Mississippian life?
    Agriculture
15. Name at least three plants grown by the Mississippian farmers:
    corn (maize), beans, squash, pumpkins, sunflowers, gourds
16. What contributions did men make to daily life?
    1) *hunting* 2) *heavy work around village* 3) *clearing fields for planting*
    4) *built mounds & houses*
17. What is an artifact?
    Anything made or altered by humans
18. What is a feature?
    Evidence of human activity, visible in the ground, such as garbage pits, post-holes, or wall trenches
19. What is a site?
    Any place that shows signs of past human activity. For example: where people have lived
20. What is the goal of archaeology?
    To understand past cultures

Architecture Exhibit Building

Hint: Questions 1 - 7 can be found on the exhibit panel by the reconstructed Mississippian wall and roof.

1. What is wattle?

2. What is daub?

3. How were the roofs made?

4. What was used to white wash the houses?

5. How many doors in the average home?

6. How many windows in the average home?

7. How can an archaeologist tell where a wall trench was?

8. What were the three different main categories of Mississippian architecture?
   1)
   2)
   3)

9. Why do archaeologists excavate mounds?

10. Couches were made of_____.

11. Cushions were made of _____.

12. _____ and _____ were used to grind corn.

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Architecture (Answers)

1. What is wattle?
   Wattle is woven canes, vines, or split twigs between the upright posts to make a large basket like arrangement.

2. What is daub?
   Daub is a mixture of clay and straw.

3. How were the roofs made?
   The roofs were thatched. Thatch is tight bundles of reed or grass that were tied to the rafters.

4. What was used to white wash the houses?
   Decayed oyster shells, coarse-chalk, or white marley clay.

5. How many doors in the average home?
   ONE

6. How many windows in the average home?
   NONE

7. How can an archaeologist tell where a wall trench was?
   Archaeologists can trace trenches by color and texture differences in the dirt where the trench was refilled.

8. What were the three different main categories of Mississippian architecture?
   1) *mounds*
   2) *houses*
   3) *stockades*

9. Why do archaeologists excavate mounds?
   Archaeologists excavate to trace the different layers in order to understand the mounds construction.

10. Couches were made of *Reeds*.

11. Cushions were made of *Rolled Mats*.

12. *Mortars* and *Pestles* were used to grind corn.

WICKLIFFE MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE
FOREST RESOURCES DISCUSSION SHEET

AS YOU TOUR THE MUSEUM OR TRAIL, LOOK FOR EVIDENCE OF THE FOLLOWING:
Food – Clothing – Medicines – Transportation – Weapons – Shelter – Fire – Shade- Containers – Hunting

How did the Mississippian Indians use their forest environment for survival?
You need 3 things for survival in the wilderness: water, fire, and food. A thousand years ago the people who lived at Wickliffe Mounds found everything they needed for survival in their natural environment. Why do think they chose to have a village at this location? This site is located on a natural high bluff over looking the Mississippi River. The river would have given them plenty of fresh water, but what other resources for survival would have been derived from their forest environment?

Food was necessary for survival. Trees produce an abundance of nuts. Can you name some nuts that were gathered by Native Americans?

Clothing was made by several methods and sources. The inner bark of two trees, Mulberry and Cedar were processed to produce fabric. Can you find evidence of fabric on some of the pottery on exhibit?

Medicines were derived from many sources. Weeping Willow has some of the same properties as aspirin and sassafras roots when steeped in hot water provides a soothing tea. Did you find the sassafras on the touch table?

Transportation was either by overland travel or by water in dugout canoes. Bald cypress trees were favored for canoes because they grew so tall and had a large circumference. Can you find evidence of long distance travel in the exhibits?

Weapons were fashioned from several different types of trees. The Eastern Longbow on display is made of what type of wood?

Shelters were made for storage as well as for homes. Red Cedar and Black Locust trees were favored types of wood for buildings. The density of the wood and natural saps had long lasting properties that deterred rot and insects. How do we know that the Mississippians had houses at Wickliffe Mounds?

Firewood was burned for cooking and to provide warmth from the cold. What evidence of fire did the Mississippians leave behind?

Shade is a natural byproduct of trees during the summer months. Why do think shade would be important to the villagers at Wickliffe Mounds a thousand years ago?

Containers were used a thousand years ago like we use containers today. Some were used to store things away and some were used for carrying things. Some trees such as Ash and White Oak produce wood that is easy to split and make excellent baskets. Can you find any evidence of basket use at Wickliffe Mounds?

Hunting animals was necessary for survival a thousand years ago. The forest was a natural habitat for many animals. What animals do you think the Mississippians hunted? What evidence did they leave behind?

Archaeology Question: How do we know what kinds of trees the Mississippians used at Wickliffe Mounds? Through the archaeological excavations, scientists have discovered charred pieces of wood and nuts. Can you find the types of wood found? Hint: List from exhibit case in Lifeways building.

ANSWER SHEET

Food – Pecans, Hickory Nuts, Black Walnuts, Chestnuts, Beechnuts, Acorns, are varieties of nuts that would have been found in the forest environment at Wickliffe Mounds a thousand years ago.

Clothing – Take a closer look on some of the broken pieces of pottery scattered in the bottom of the *Studying Mississippian Pottery* exhibit case.

Medicines – There are several pieces of sassafras on the touch table. The sassafras roots have a very distinct smell. If you have ever drank a root beer soda or eaten root beer candy the flavor is derived from sassafras.

Transportation – Yes, there is evidence of long distance travel. In the *Trade in Stone* exhibit case we have mica from the Carolina's. A couple of other items on exhibit are copper from the Lake Michigan area and shells and shark's teeth from the Gulf Coast.

Weapons – There are two Eastern Longbows on display. One is made of Osage Orange and the other is made of Hickory.

Shelters – In the Architecture Building there is charred roof thatching and daub in the exhibit case. Daub is a mixture of mud and clay that was plastered on the walls of houses. Posthole patterns appear in the soil when wood decays naturally it leaves a stain. Archaeologists refer to these particular stains as *features.* When a posthole feature is removed from the surrounding soil, a pattern appears. Evidence of the first building constructed on the Architecture Building location is the posthole pattern in the dirt. There are many posthole patterns located in the Lifeways Building. Some of these patterns appear to overlap one another. Often times a building would become dilapidated or destroyed by fire and a new house built in the same location.

Firewood – Several hearth features are on display in the Lifeways Building. Hearths were used as cooking areas and for heating homes.

Shade – Trees provide shady areas that are much cooler than open areas without trees. A shady area would be a nice place to be on a hot summer day.

Containers – Some of the charred material on display in the Lifeways Building was a basket.

Hunting – The Mississippian Indians were good hunters. We know this by the many animal bones that have been excavated by archaeologists at Wickliffe Mounds. Some of those animals include deer, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, frogs, fish, and turkey.

Archaeology Question: In the Farming and Gathering case in the Lifeways building, the list includes—hickory, ash, elm, Kentucky Coffee Tree, oaks, willow, birch, cane, pecan, red cedar, maple.

Books and Resources for Native Americans and Archaeology
Elementary through High School level

Internet Resource: Kentucky Heritage Council
http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/khc/resources.htm
See also on the Kentucky Heritage Council website, links to the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission and the Kentucky Archaeological Survey

Books:
The Timucua Indians: A Native American Detective Story by Kelley Weitzel (2000) University Press of Florida. Fun and Fact-Filled account of life and culture for these Florida Indians at the time of contact. Written in classroom study format.

The Archaeology of North America by Dean Snow (1989) Chelsea House Publishers.
Introductory, Junior Level book on the science of archaeology.

Prehistoric People of North America by Diana Childress (1996) Chelsea House Publishers. Native Americans of North American Before European contact.

Archaeology: The Comic by Johannes Loubser (2003) Rowman & Littlefield.
Beginner's text, introduction to archaeology, in comic format.

Death by Theory: A Tale of Mystery and Archaeological Theory by Adrian Praetzellis (2000) Rowman & Littlefield. Fiction. Archaeology.

When Legends Die by Hal Borland (1984) Bantam. Fiction. Native American.

Cricket Sings: A Novel of Pre-Columbian Cahokia by Kathleen King (1995) Ohio University Press. Historical Fiction. Mississippian Native American. Glimpse of life in prehistoric Mississippian times.

Ikwa of the Mound-Builder Indians by Margaret Searcy (1989) Pelican Publishing Company. Historical Fiction. Mississippian Native American. Glimpse of life in prehistoric Mississippian times.

Cahokia: City of the Sun by Claudia Mink (1992) Cahokia Mounds Museum Society
Introduction to prehistoric North America, Mississippian culture and archaeology.

Kentuckians Before Boone by A. Gwynn Henderson (1992) University Press of Kentucky. Account of Native American lives in central Kentucky in the 1500's.

The Southeastern Indians by Charles Hudson (1976) University of Tennessee Press. Best resource book on southeastern Native Americans still in print.

Plays:
Pushing Up the Sky: Seven Native American Plays for Children by Joseph Bruchac.

Where the Pavement Ends: Five Native American Plays (American Indian Literature and Critical Studies Series, V. 37 by William Yellow Robe.

Introduction To A Tour- Of Wickliffe Mounds

In Spanish / En Espanole

¡Bienvenidos a Wickliffe Mounds! Un recorrido por el sitio se compone de 2 edificios de museos que cubren las excavaciones de los montículos de tierra, 2 montículos para caminar y un rastro.

Por favor, háganos saber si usted tiene alguna pregunta.

¡Gracias!

Lifewavs: El Modo de Vivir de Los Misispianos

mound	túmulo
Indians	indígenas
subsoil	subsuelo
midden	yacimiento arqueológico de donde viven las personas, si no se limpia la sala por cien años
artifact	artefacto
feature	rasgo
garbage pit	basurero
bones	huesos
pottery	cerámica
shell	concha
deer	ciervo
turkey	pavo
fish	pescado
pedestal	pedestal or mesa
method of archaeology	Método de arqueología
to dig	cavar
Markers with IB & #	SeÑales con I & B
Infant burials	entierros infantiles
We do not show human remains	No mostramos restos humanos.
Many babies died from disease.	Muchos de los niÑos murieron de enfermedades.
corn grinders	molinillos
seeds	semillas
string	hilo
square	cuadrado
map	el mapa
central place	el centro
datum point	punto de dato
metric system	sistema métrico
postholes	hoyos de poste
dirt	tierra
circle	cículo
rectangular	rectangular
wattle and daub	valla de adobe y caÑas
walls	peredes
floors	suelos
paintings	cuadros
layers	estratos--como un pastel de cumpleaÑos
law of superposition	superposición
The oldest layers are on the bottom.	Los astratos más viejos están al fondo.
exhibit cases	cajas de exhibición
bird bowl	tazón con pájaro
trade	economía
ceremonial	ceremonial
Trade between Mississippian villages	Comercio entre los pueblos Misisipianos
flint knapping: to make tools from rocks	hacer herramientos de piËdra
pottery: to make bowls from clay	hacer tazones de arcilla
Archaeologists use the bowls and tools to date the site.	Arqueólogos usan tazones y herramientos para fechar al sitio.

Ceremonial Mound: Túmulo Ceremonial

The largest mound on the site.	El túmulo más grande del sitio.
Mississippi River	Río Misisipí
Ohio River	Río Ohio
Confluence	Confluencia

The river was important to the Indians for water, fish, food, and travel.
El río tenía importancia para los indígenas por el agua, la pesca, los alimentos y el viaje.

This was a good place to live.	Era un buen lugar en que vivir.
There are sites like this every 5—10 miles.	Hay sitios como éste a cada cinco o diez millas.

Architecture: Arquitectura

mound	túmulo de suciedad
important building	edificio importante
important people	pueblo importante
build	construir
stages	estapas
layers	capas, estratos
gray	gris
brown	café
post holes	hoyos de poste
house of the chief	casa del caiscique
big house	casona

Artifacts are not always the most important. Features are also very important.
Artefactos no son siempre más importante. Rasgos son muy importante también.

They had a ranked society.	Tenían una sociedad de diversos grados.
How much labor	¿Cuánto trabajo?

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GOVERNOR

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET

MARCHETA SPARROW
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

ELAINE N. WALKER
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COLUMBUS-BELMONT
STATE PARK
350 Park Road – PO Box 9
Columbus, Kentucky 42032
Phone 270-677-2327

www.parks.ky.gov

Dear Educators:

Greetings from two Kentucky State Parks in western Kentucky along the Mississippi river – Columbus-Belmont State Park and Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site!

We invite you to take a look at what our parks have to offer students, scouts, home schools and youth groups of all ages – kindergarten to college. Experience history, the natural environment, recreational opportunities and educational programs that help meet your curriculum guidelines and learning goals. Here are some ideas for your consideration:

- Wickliffe Mounds (Native American archaeological site) and Columbus-Belmont (Civil War battlefield site) are located 18 miles apart and could easily be visited on a one-day field trip.
- Tours of Wickliffe Mounds take about one hour and a park visit to Columbus-Belmont takes about two hours.
- Both parks have museums, gift shops, picnic areas, museum admission for students is $2.
- Visits can be focused on a variety of themes – civil war history, prehistoric and historic Native Americans, archaeology, technology demonstrations, hands-on activities, environmental, recreation, the Mississippi river, arts and crafts. (additional fees may apply for some programs).
- Give us a call and we can help develop a park visit to fit your educational needs.

Thank you for considering a visit to our parks and please let us know if we can be of service.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lynch
Park Manager, Columbus-Belmont
cindy.lynch@ky.gov

Carla Hildebrand
Park Manager, Wickliffe Mounds
carla.hildebrand@ky.gov

Students Experiencing and Exploring Kentucky State Parks at Columbus-Belmont and Wickliffe Mounds

Scavenger Hunt for Knowledge @ Wickliffe Mounds & Playing the Native American Game of Chunkey

Demonstration of Daily Life of a Civil War Soldier @ Columbus-Belmont & Museum Education Program

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