

# Teacher's Guide for Discovering the Hopewell Culture

This publication was created as an educational resource for the Ross County History Depot local history program. This is a nonprofit endeavor to enrich students understanding of the significance of local history.

The illustrations included in this guide were provided as a courtesy by the National Park Service for use in this educational publication only. The information and activities are a combined effort of the staff of the Hopewell Culture National Historic Park and Ross County History Depot.

Please direct any questions to Julie Lambert at [coverlet@bright.net](mailto:coverlet@bright.net) or Terressa Reep at [reepterressa@yahoo.com](mailto:reepterressa@yahoo.com).

## **Pg. 1** Introduction

**Pg. 2** Glossary The definitions not filled in are given in the text. Students should pull the meanings from the text and fill in the definitions.

**Pg. 3** The First Americans The earliest Americans came from Asia by way of the Bering Strait.

**Pg. 4** Digging Into the Past Archeologists have found clues of how the prehistoric people lived by what they left behind.

**Pg. 5** Prehistoric Time Prehistoric time in Ohio is divided into four time periods. Order of spear points: 4, 5, 2, 1, 3 Covers on BC & AD on timeline.

## **Pg. 6** Paleo-Indians

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Samples of these different materials can be purchased fairly inexpensively at the park.

**Pg. 15** The Creative Hopewell

**Pg. 16** The Hopewell Obtained Raw Materials from Distant Places This can be done with students by using the PDF on the overhead.

**Pg. 17** What Happened to the Hopewell Culture? Just as the Adena people are believed to have evolved into the Hopewell peoples, the same is believed to be true of the Hopewells evolving into later day indians.

**Pg. 18** 1847 Map of Indian Mounds Found in the Chillicothe Area This Squier & Davis map shows Adena and Hopewell earthworks known of in the 1840s. Many of the earthworks are gone, due to farming and development. Squier & Davis will be discussed in the 4th grade unit.

**Pg. 19** You can help protect the past!

# Discovering the Hopewell Culture



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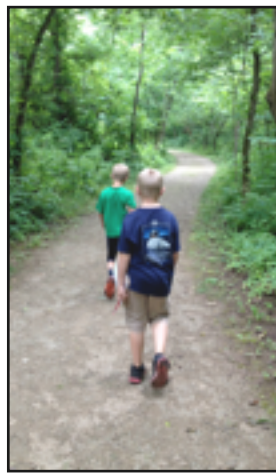
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Discovering the Hopewell Culture was written by the Hopewell Culture rangers and Ross County Connections to introduce you to the Hopewell people.

Meet Brennen and Anthony. They visited Hopewell Culture National Historic Park to learn more about the prehistoric Hopewell. As you read through Discovering the Hopewell Culture, you will see some of their discoveries.



They explored the park, inside and out.



Worked on their Jr. Ranger booklets.



AND were sworn in as Hopewell Culture Jr. Rangers!

In the pages ahead you will learn the story of the Hopewell people, then you can plan your visit and become a Jr Ranger too!!

# Glossary

As you read, you will discover the definitions to some of the words below. Write them on the blank lines.

**Bering Strait-** a narrow stretch of water separating Alaska from Siberia and connecting the Arctic Ocean with the Bering Sea. It is believed that during prehistoric times the strait formed a land bridge by which people came to North America.

**archeologists-** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**archeology-** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**artifacts-** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ancient-** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**prehistoric-** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**cultures-** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**atlatl-** \_\_\_\_\_

**earthworks-**a type of archeological site that is constructed by placing or moving piles of stone or soil. Earthworks can be mounds, walls or ditches and can be made into a many different shapes.

**cremation-**to reduce a dead body to ashes; a part of the Hopewell burial ceremony at some Hopewell sites.

## The First Americans

Thousands of years ago, before the Ice Age ended, the first people crossed the Bering Strait into North America. These people first came from Asia. They travelled into North America on a frozen land bridge that connected the two continents. The people spread throughout what is now the United States, and eventually into Ohio.





## Digging Into the Past

Then first people arrived in Ohio over 12,000 years ago. **Archeologists** are scientists who study ancient people by looking at the stuff they left behind. This science is called **archeology**. By carefully digging into the ground, archeologists look for objects called artifacts. **Artifacts** can tell many things about people who lived in Ohio's **ancient** past.

Archeologists depend on artifacts to tell about the ancient times because Ohio's first people lived before written history. The time before written history is called **prehistoric**.



A good place for archeologists to find artifacts is in the trash piles of the people they are studying. They have learned many of the things you will read about in this booklet by digging through what these early people left behind. If future archeologists were to look at you classroom and what was in the trash, what would they learn?

They would want to know. . .

1. Could we write? \_\_\_\_\_ How would they know? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What kind of power did we use? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did we eat? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What materials did we make our clothing from? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was our shelter made of? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Prehistoric Time

Prehistoric time in Ohio is divided into four time periods:

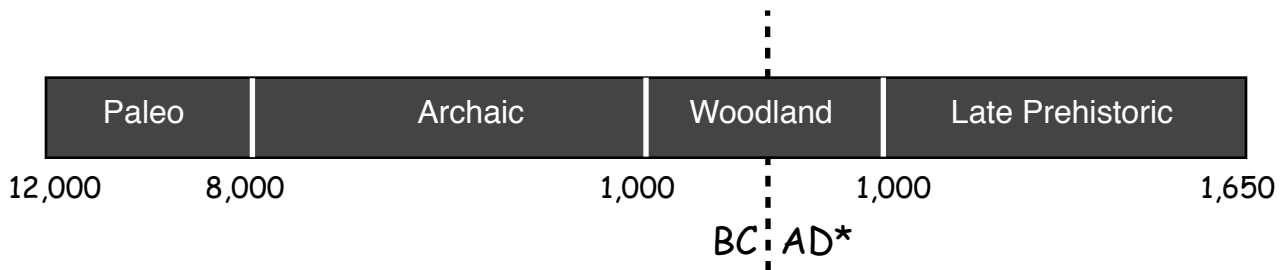
Paleo-Indian: 12,000-8,000 BC

Archaic: 8,000-1,000 BC

Woodland: 1,000 BC - AD 1,000

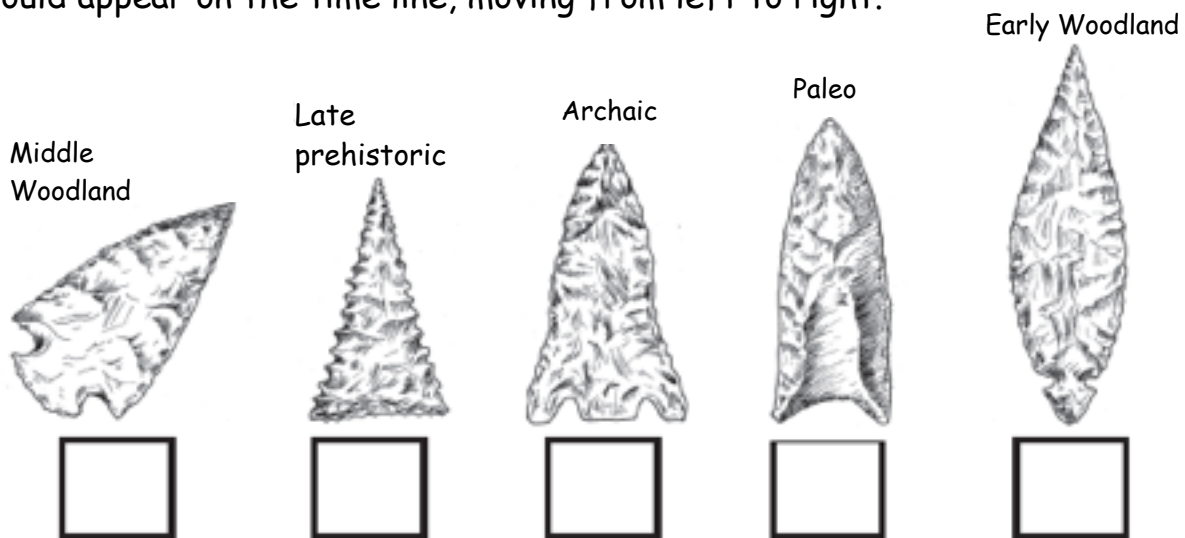
Late Prehistoric: AD 1000 - 650

Throughout the different time periods, different **cultures**, or ways of life developed. Each culture displayed unique, or one of a kind, ways of living.



During each time period, different styles of stone tools were made, including unique flint points. Archeologists use these unique artifacts to tell cultures apart and to tell when a site was being used.

Using the timeline above, number the different points in the order they would appear on the time line, moving from left to right.



\*BC & AD. Historical timelines are divided into two parts based on the time that Jesus Christ lived. BC refers to the time before Christ was born. AD refers to the time after he was born.

## PALEO-INDIANS



The Paleo-Indians lived in Ohio at the end of the last Ice Age and had to adapt to a very cold climate. They moved across the land, hunting large Ice Age animals, like the mastodon, and gathering food from plants. People made clothes from animal hides, built shelters and used fire to keep warm.

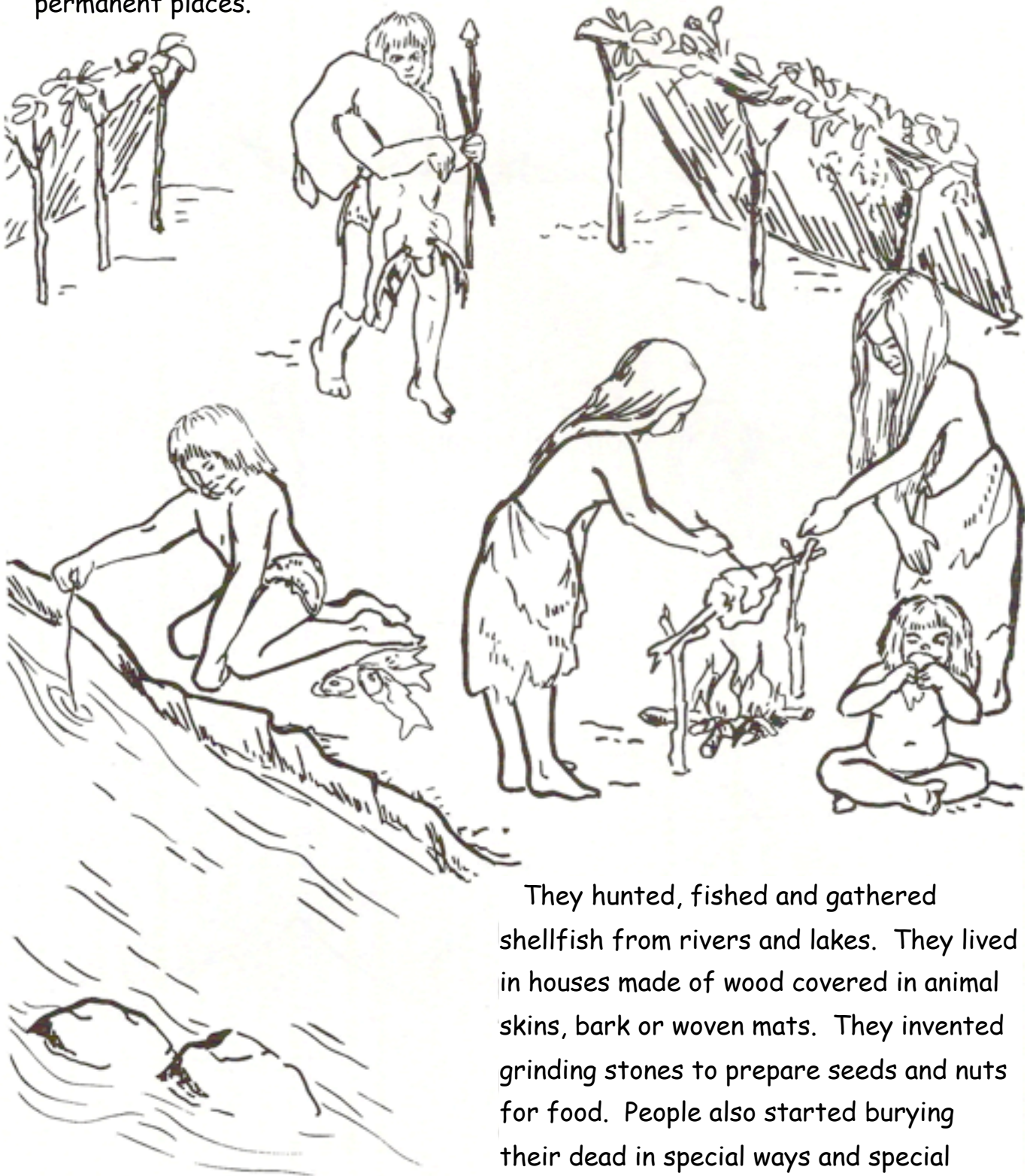


A park ranger shows Anthony and Brennen how an **atlatl** (spear thrower) was used by the prehistoric indians. Then they tried it!



## ARCHAIC INDIANS

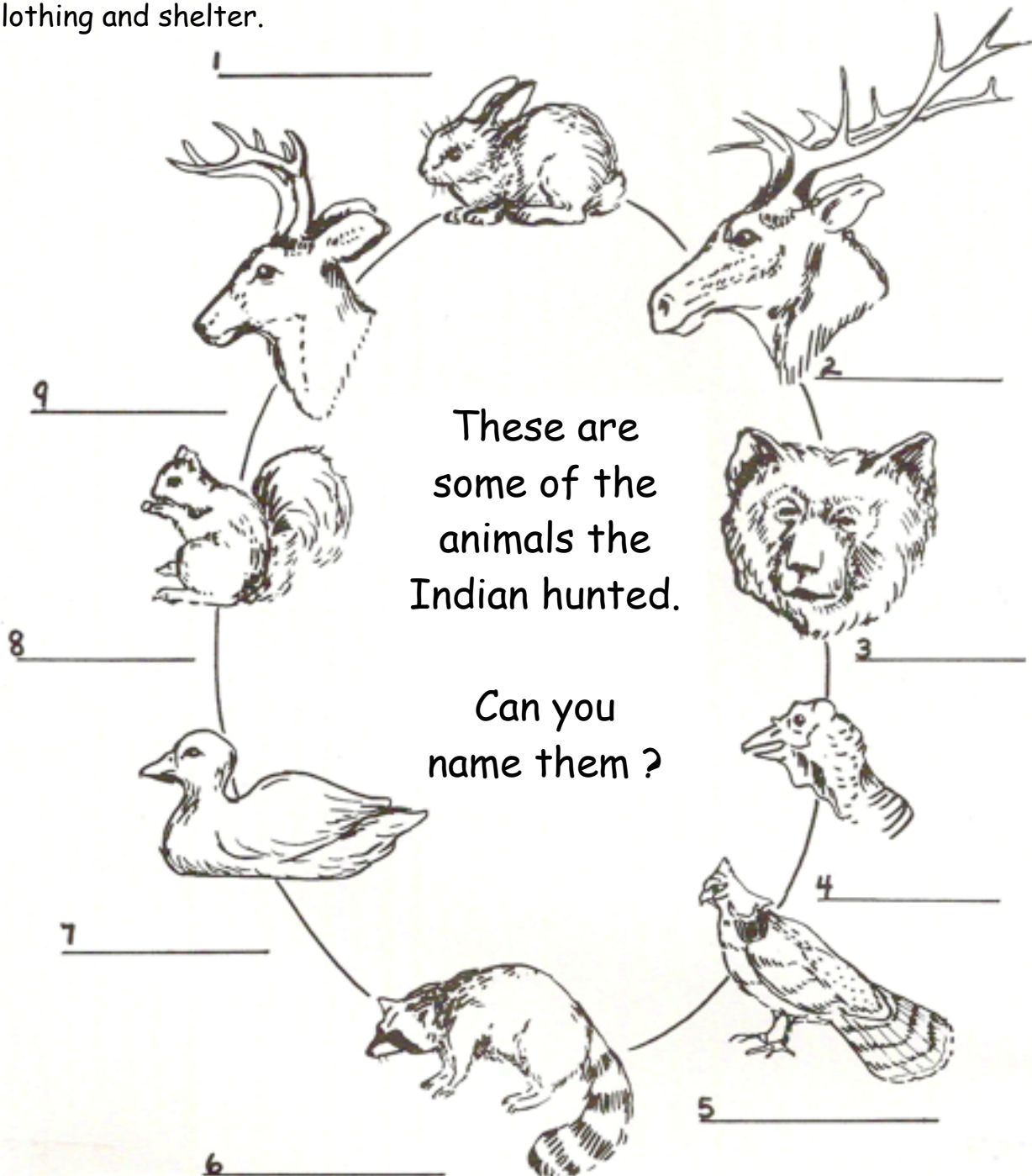
As time passed, climate changed to the four seasons we know today in Ohio. The people changed, too. They started to settle down in larger, more permanent places.



They hunted, fished and gathered shellfish from rivers and lakes. They lived in houses made of wood covered in animal skins, bark or woven mats. They invented grinding stones to prepare seeds and nuts for food. People also started burying their dead in special ways and special places. They are the Archaic Indians.



The Archaic Indians hunted smaller animals like deer, turkey and raccoon. The animal meat was eaten. Bones were made into tools. Skins were used for blankets, clothing and shelter.



Word Box

Bear

Deer

Duck

Elk

Grouse

Rabbit

Raccoon

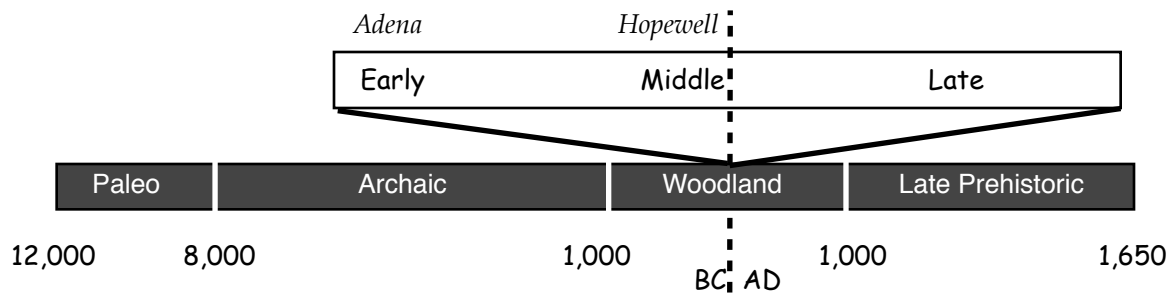
Squirrel

Turkey

## Woodland Indians

Beginning in the time known as the **Woodland Period**, people began spending more time farming native plants. They became very good at making pottery. They also began an unusual tradition : building **earthworks**. They could be mounds that were often used to mark burials and large walled in areas built for special ceremonies.

The Woodland Period is divided into three different periods: Early, Middle and Late.



### EARLY WOODLAND INDIANS \* The Adena Culture

During the Early Woodland Period, the Adena culture emerged, or began. These Indians grew native plants from seeds they gathered. They built large cone-shaped mounds up to 69 feet tall. These mounds covered the place where special buildings once stood and often contained burials. They set aside ceremonial space by piling earth into low walls in the shape of circles.

Look at the picture of the Adena mound below.

How would you describe the shape of the mound? \_\_\_\_\_

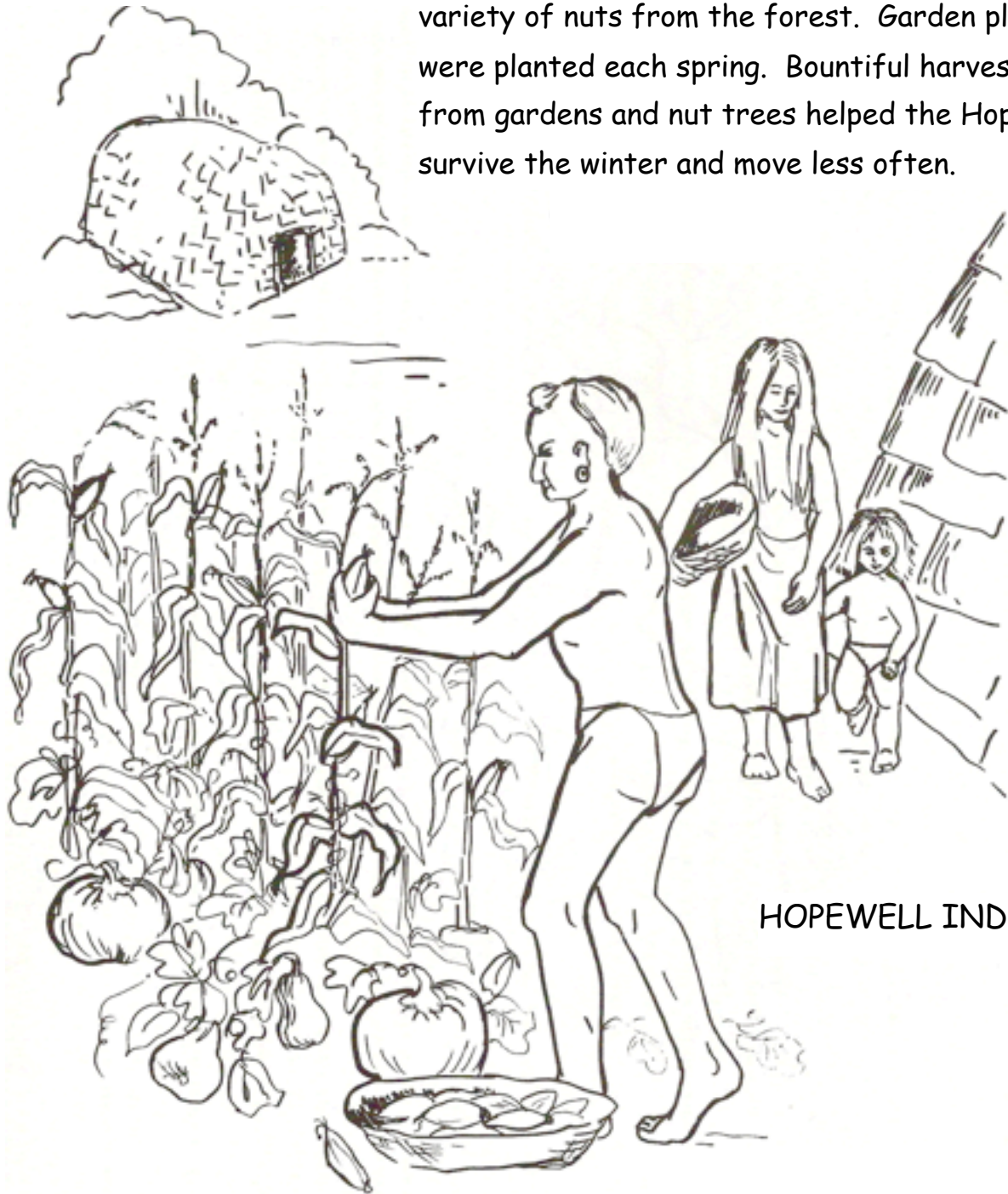
How tall is the tallest Adena Mound known? \_\_\_\_\_



Story Mound, can be found just down the street from Worthington Elementary School, at the corner of Allen and Delano Street here in Chillicothe. It is 19 1/2 ft tall and has a diameter of 95 ft. It was built by the Adena culture.

## MIDDLE WOODLAND INDIANS \* The Hopewell Culture

Over the years, the Adena culture became the people of the Hopewell Culture. This time period is known as the Middle Woodland and lasted from 100 BC to AD 400. People were spending even more time farming native plants and gathering a variety of nuts from the forest. Garden plots were planted each spring. Bountiful harvests from gardens and nut trees helped the Hopewell survive the winter and move less often.



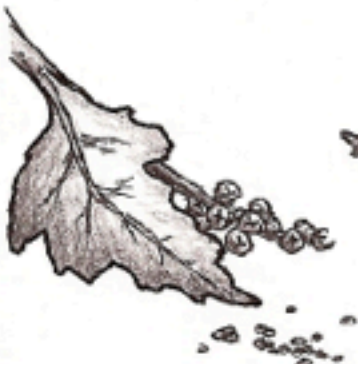
HOPEWELL INDIANS

What are some native plants seen in the drawing above:



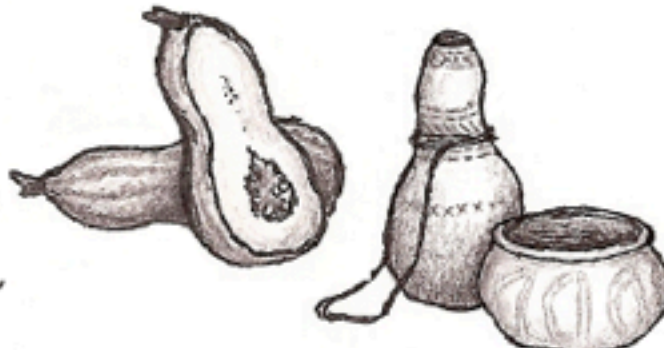
# The Hopewell Garden

The Indians of the Hopewell Culture were among Ohio's first gardeners. They cut clearings in the forest to plant gardens near their homes. The garden plants provided the Hopewell with food and many other important materials. Read the Hopewell uses for the plants listed below. Did you use similar plants today?



Goosefoot - leaves and seeds were eaten. The leaves I ate today:

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Squash- Seeds were eaten and shell was dried and used for pots.  
The containers I use are made from:

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Hackberry - berries were eaten and bark boiled into tea for medicine.  
The berries I like to eat:

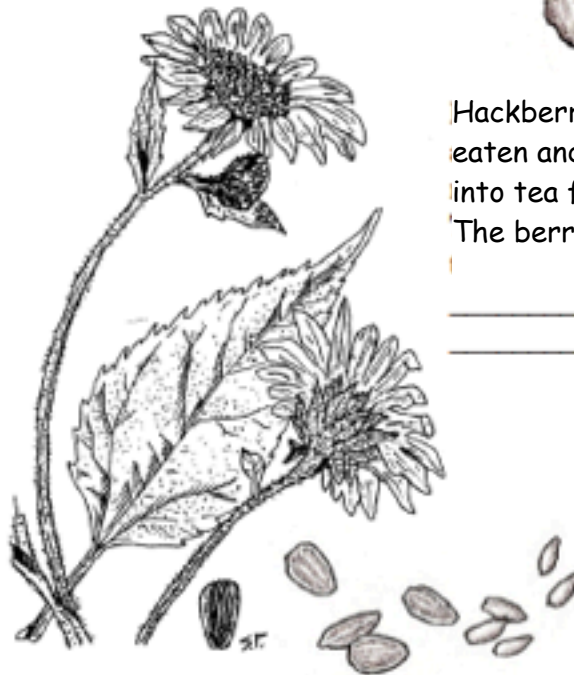
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Milkweed - used to make mats, baskets and clothing. A plant that is used to make my clothes:

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Sunflower - seeds and oil were eaten. The seeds I eat today:

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## Hopewell Earthworks

During the time of the Hopewell culture, earthwork building expanded to include large walled in areas shaped like circles, squares and octagons. Sometimes the walls were 12 feet high and closed in more than 120 acres. The Hopewell did not live inside the earthworks. These spaces were set aside for a special purpose.



Wooden buildings were constructed inside the earthworks and used for special ceremonies. First, the ground was cleared and a floor made of sand and clay was prepared. Next, a wooden structure was built by tying wooden posts together with flexible bark or rope made from braiding native plants.



Inside these buildings, special ceremonies took place, like the cremation of the dead. Once the cremation was complete, the ashes were swept up into were swept up onto an earthen platform and a small mound was built over the remains. Special objects were left behind as an offering or sign of respect for the dead.

At some point, the Hopewell would stop using these building. They would either burn or take apart the wooden structures and build a mound over the floor, burials and any objects that were left behind. Rather than just piling up any earth, the Hopewell mounds were made of layers of sand, gravel and clay.



Anthony and Brennen investigate the area where one of these buildings once stood at the Hopewell Culture National Historic Park. It had been covered by a mound. Can you tell what shape the mound was?

Anthony looks at markers which show where the wooden posts had been.



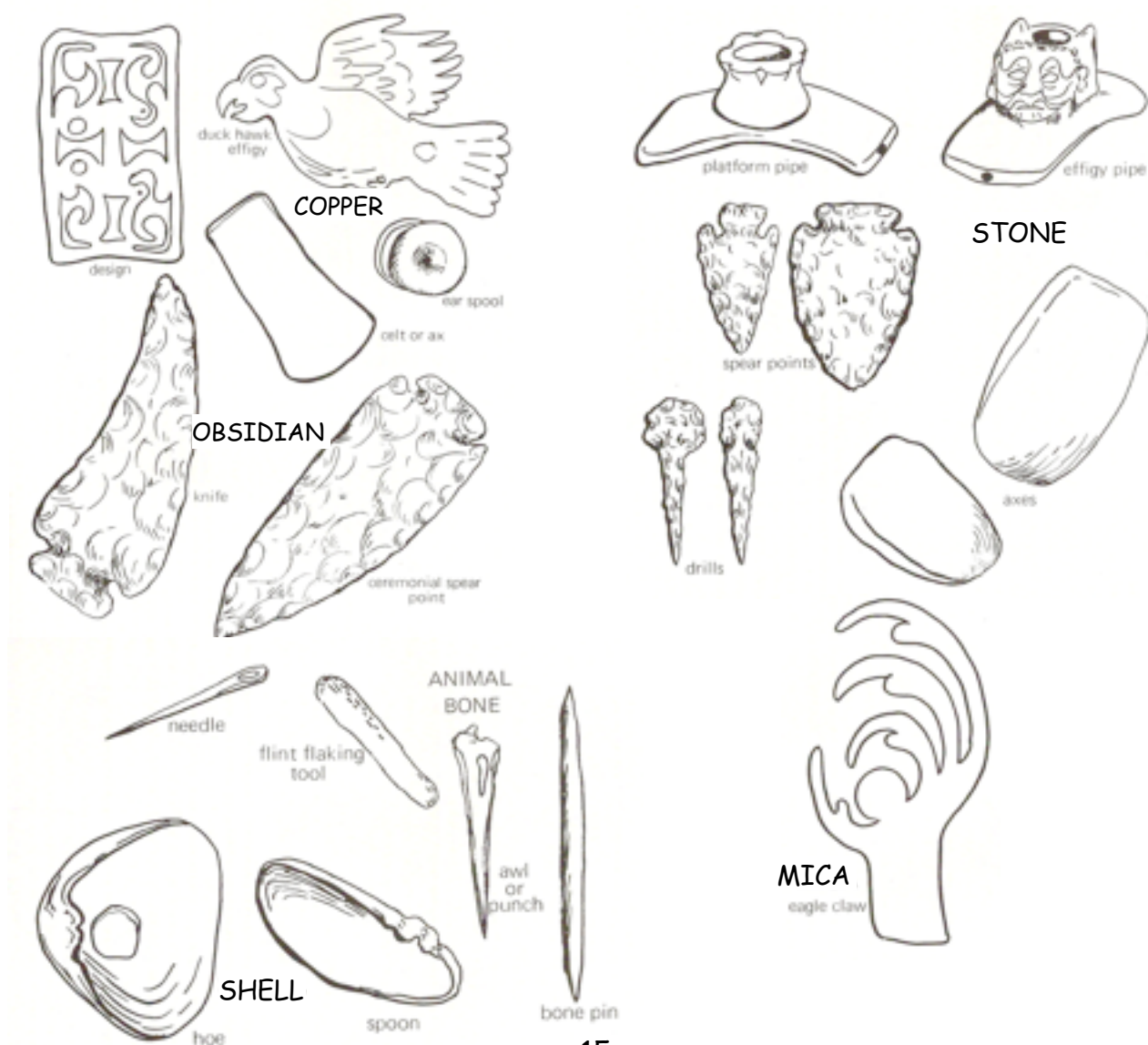


## The Creative Hopewell

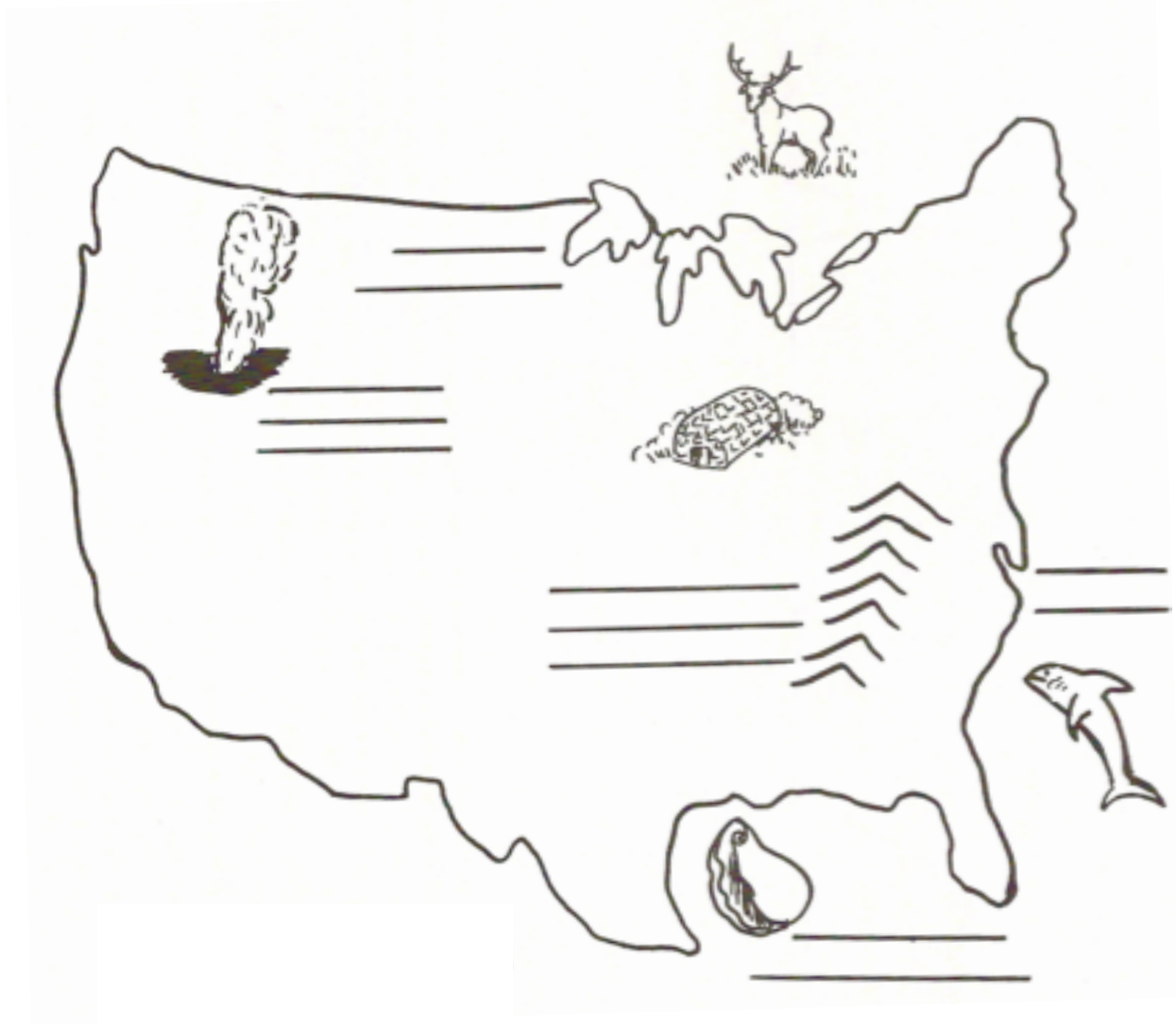
The Hopewell Indians were skilled artists. They made beautiful objects from materials such as mica, copper and obsidian. The variety of materials suggests that the Hopewell had a large trade and travel network. Using rivers and trails for transportation, materials from hundreds of miles away were brought to southern Ohio.



The Hopewell created beautiful objects made of the materials from far away places.



## The Hopewell Obtained Raw Materials from Distant Places



**Obsidian** came from Yellowstone National Park

**Mica** came from the Blue Ridge Mountains

**Shark's teeth** came from the Atlantic Ocean

**Shells** came from the Gulf of Mexico

**Copper** came from near Lake Superior.

Label these places on the map above.

## What Happened to the Hopewell Culture?

By AD 400, Hopewell communities were using their earthworks less and less and the variety of artwork was declining. Once then Hopewell stopped building earthworks, the forest grew over them. The reason why the earthworks were built was forgotten. When the early settlers came to Ohio, they started to discover the ancient earthworks and wondered who had built them. Even the American Indians the early settlers met did not know why the earthworks had been built.



Archeologists have spent years studying the Hopewell Indians to learn more about them and to discover what became of them. They believe the Indians of the Hopewell culture did not die off. They just started doing different things. Their descendants continued to live in Ohio and are represented by today's American Indian Tribes.

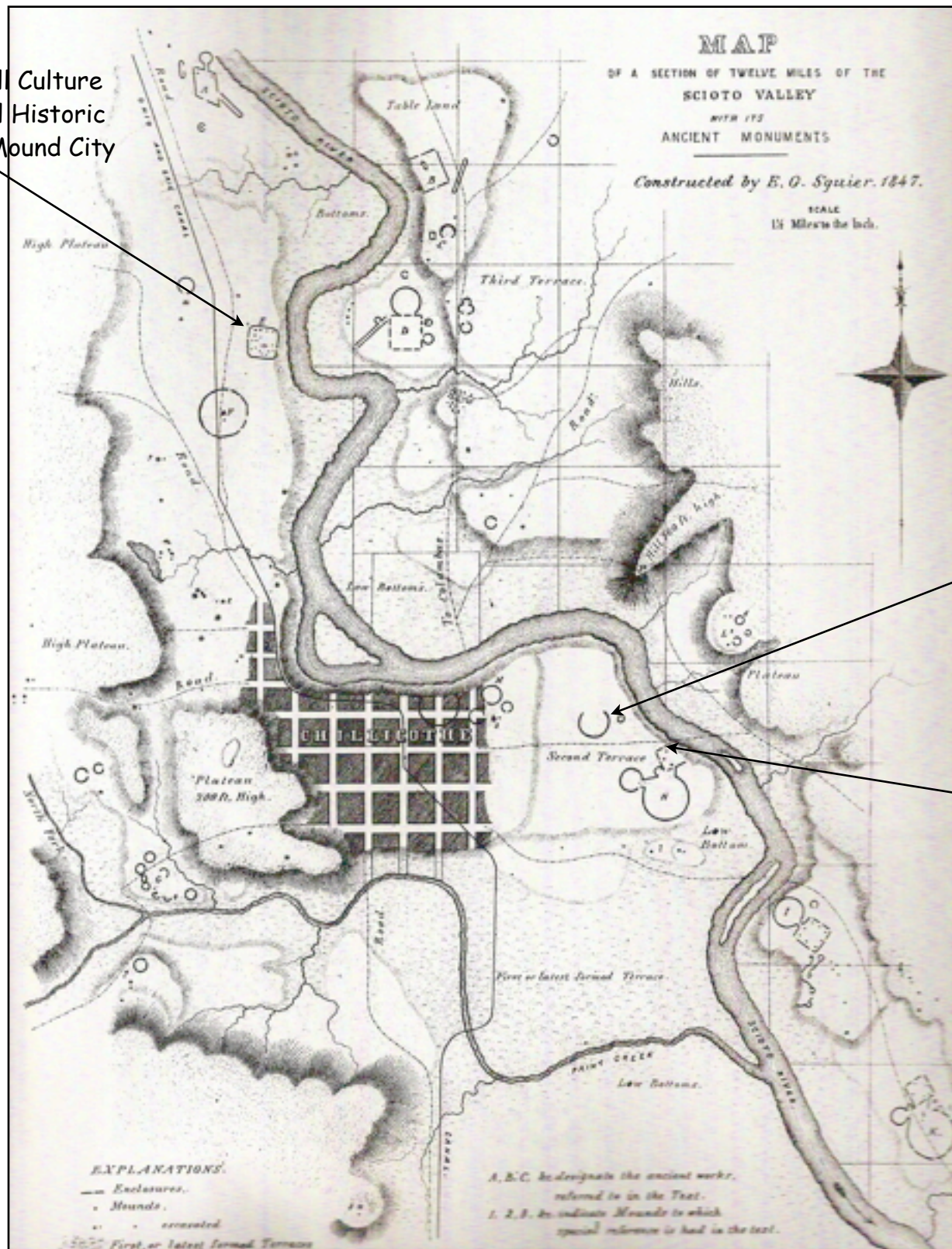
Because of the unique culture of the Hopewell Indians, a national park was established here in Chillicothe, Ohio. At Hopewell culture National Historical Park, earthworks, artifacts and the story of the Hopewell people are preserved for this and future generations. This park, owned by the American people, is a place where you can walk in the footsteps of the Hopewell and make connections to Ohio's prehistoric past.





## 1847 Map of Indian Mounds Found in the Chillicothe Area

Hopewell Culture  
National Historic  
Park \* Mound City



Close to the  
location of  
Mt. Logan  
Elementary

E. Main St.  
McDonalds  
sits near  
here

This 1847 map of Chillicothe shows the many earthworks which were present in and around Chillicothe. Only a few remain.



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## You can help protect the past!

We need your help protecting the incredible story of Ohio's prehistoric American Indians. What can a kid like you do to help?

### •Educate others:

Tell your friends and family about these prehistoric cultures and their sacred places. Most people do not realize the incredible events that took place right in their backyard - or close to it! Share with them what you have learned from the activities in this book.

### •Respect the past:

Artifacts, such as stone tools and pottery, are exciting to find, but it is important to remember that you are not permitted to move or take artifacts from public land. Public land is any land that is owned by the government: federal, state or city. Public lands include your city park, your school, a national park like Hopewell Culture NHP, or a state park. You are also not permitted to dig or take artifacts from other people's property without their permission. Every piece of information that is removed from these special places, removes the story of how these people lived thousands of years ago. Let an officer or ranger know about the find before it is removed or harmed.



### •Visit other places and keep learning:

The best way to preserve these special places is too keep learning. There are many state and national parks that preserve the story of prehistoric people. You can visit the parks, participate in tours and learn from the experts. You can even find out how to volunteer with the archeologists and other scientists who help to preserve these valuable resources! Many of these sites have activities just for kids. To learn more, visit:

### Hopewell sites:

**Hopewell Culture National Historical Park:** [www.nps.gov/hocu](http://www.nps.gov/hocu)

**Fort Ancient Archeological Park:** [www.fortancient.org/](http://www.fortancient.org/)

**Newark Earthworks:** [www.ohiohistory.org/museums-and-historic-sites/museum--historic-sites-by-name/newark-earthworks](http://www.ohiohistory.org/museums-and-historic-sites/museum--historic-sites-by-name/newark-earthworks)

**Fort Hill Earthworks:** [www.arcofappalachia.org/visit/fort-hill-earthworks.html](http://www.arcofappalachia.org/visit/fort-hill-earthworks.html)

### Other Sites:

**Serpent Mound:** [www.arcofappalachia.org/visit/serpent-mound.html](http://www.arcofappalachia.org/visit/serpent-mound.html)

**Sunwatch Indian Village/Archeological Park:** [www.sunwatch.org](http://www.sunwatch.org)

**Ancient Ohio Trail:** [www.ancientohiotrail.org/](http://www.ancientohiotrail.org/)

**Ohio Historical Society/Ohio History Center:** [www.ohiohistory.org/](http://www.ohiohistory.org/)

**Midwest Archeological Center:** [www.nps.gov/history/mwac/](http://www.nps.gov/history/mwac/)

