

First Alabamians

Words to Know

Prepare for your tour by reading the vocabulary below. Find the vocabulary words in the word search!

- **Archaeology:** The scientific study of past human life, such as culture, technology, and behavior, based on the examination of what people left behind.
- **Atlatls** increased the force and accuracy with which a spear could be thrown.
- **Soapstone** bowls made it possible to boil meat and vegetables, preserving more of the nutritional value.
- **Grinding stones** were used to crush nuts and seeds for cooking.
- **Chiefdoms:** Mississippian societies were organized into towns and villages headed by chiefs. Smaller communities paid tribute to larger towns.
- **Pottery** was made from clay mixed with bits of shells. It was easier to make and produced stronger vessels.
- **Effigies** were pottery creations made by skilled artisans. They depict a variety of animals, people, and mythological characters.
- **Gorget** were neck pendants usually made from whelk shells. Artists used sharp stone tools to create elaborate designs in the shell.
- The **rattlesnake disk**, an iconic symbol of Moundville culture, is one of the most famous Indian artifacts in North America.
- **Chunkey** is a game played by young warriors. One player rolled a stone disc along the ground and then other players threw 8-foot spears toward the rolling stone, hoping to mark the spot where the disc would fall.
- **Paleo-Indians** lived during the Ice Age between 12,000 to 8000 BC. They lived in small groups that moved frequently to follow large animals such as mastodon and bison.
- **Archaic** Indians lived from 8000 to 1000 BC during the end of the Ice Age. They hunted smaller animals such as deer and turkey. Because of new tools and improved skills, people remained in the same place for longer periods of time.
- **Woodland** Indians lived from 1000 BC to AD 1000. Advances in technology allowed communities to grow larger and more complex. They began growing plants such as corn, beans, and squash, hunting with a bow and arrow, and developing a new type of pottery.
- **Mississippian** culture was the most advanced Indian society. It dominated Alabama from AD 1000 until the 1500s. The culture includes highly developed agriculture and large settlements with houses and earthen mounds.

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Words to Know Word Search

Find and circle the vocabulary words in the puzzle below.

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



Woodland Pottery

Coloring Sheet



Mississippian Ceremony Coloring Sheet



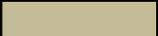
Mississippian Town, Alabama 1300 AD

During the Mississippian period, small towns lined nearly every creek and river in Alabama. Towns varied in population, number of mounds, and other details, but most would have looked like the model below. Complete the activity below and you will be ready to see the real model in the museum!



Use the key below to label the shapes that are empty. Write the number on each shape.

Example: 1 ● fire pit

- 2  House
- 3  Work Shelter
- 4  Granary (stores grain)
- 5  Small garden
- 6  Large corn field
- 7  Chunky field

Bonus:

The lines in the palisade — represent guard towers. Look closely to find the entrance into the town. Circle the opening when you find it!