

Native Americans of the Mid-South: Lab Exploration

Topics covered: Touch buffalo hide, inspect spear points and grind corn. Students, using museum objects and acting in traditional gender roles, demonstrate ways the first Americans hunted animals, made stone tools, formed pottery, grew crops and played games in the lower Mississippi River Valley. While this program focuses on the daily life of indigenous groups before the arrival of Europeans, we discuss both the Trail of Tears and recent contributions by Native Americans to our national story.

Ages: K-2

Purchase Details: Lab Exploration - \$5 per student

Programs can be reserved by phone: 901-636-2362

Wednesday - Saturday, 10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Objectives:

1. Understand how native groups of the lower Mississippi River Valley lived prior to European arrival.
2. Recognize ways these early Americans used the resources and cycles of the natural world around them to provide for their families and build communities.
3. Describe day-to-day tasks of men, women and children in Native American society.

Vocabulary:

timeline

archaeologist

Paleolithic period

hunting & gathering

megafauna

spear

atlatl

flintknapping

pestle & mortar

wattle & daub

Three Sisters

myth

chunkey stone

Trail of Tears

Fun Facts:

- Mississippi is a Native American word meaning “Father of Waters”.
- Many regional roadways, like Highway 64 in Tennessee and Highway 51 into Mississippi, were once Indian trails.
- Chucalissa is a Choctaw word meaning “house abandoned”.

Web Resources:

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian educator resources – <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360>

Native American Genealogy – <https://narf.org/nill/resources/roots.html>

Classroom lessons about Native American History – <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/for-teachers/>

Museum Resources:

- **For Your Classroom:**
 - Borrow the *Native Americans Suitcase* to use at your school. It features prehistoric stone tools, ceramics and a ceremonial pipe as well as animal pelts and object-based lesson plans for K-8 students.
- **In the galleries:** See exceptional examples of Native American tools, pottery and a scale model of a Mississippian period dwelling in our *First Americans Gallery* on the upper level in the museum's **Cultural History Exhibits**. Look for a buffalo, bear and coyote in the *Mammals of the Mid-South Gallery* in the **Natural History Exhibits** on the ground floor.

Where: Pink Palace Discovery Lab or Classroom (for 15-32 students)

When: August-May Tuesday-Friday at 9:30 & 11 am 45-60 Minutes

- **Standards:**
 - (Grade Level) K-2
- **Tennessee: (Social Studies)**
 - GRADE K: K.SSP.01, K.01, K.17
 - GRADE 1: 1.SSP.01, 1.02, 1.03, 1.23, 1.24
 - GRADE 2: 2.SSP.01, 2.01, 2.02, 2.31
- **Mississippi: (Social Studies)**
 - GRADE K: CR.K.2
 - GRADE 1: CR.1.2
 - GRADE 2: CR.2.2
- **Arkansas: (Social Studies)**
 - GRADE K: E.7.K.2, G.10.K.1, H.12.K.1, H.13.K.3
 - GRADE 1: H.12.13
 - GRADE 2: H.12.2.3
- **Catholic Diocese: (Social Studies)**
 - GRADE K: K.1.2, K.11.2
 - GRADE 1: 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.1.5, 1.11.1, 1.111.7, 1.V11.1
 - GRADE 2: 21.3, 21.4, 211.2, 211.3, 2111.4