

Division of Outdoor Experiences

Prehistoric American Indians of Ohio (Woodland Indians)

Grade Level: 4

Length of Program: 3 - 5-15 minute videos

Setting: Asynchronous Remote Learning

State Standards:

4.HTS.2 Primary and secondary sources can be used to create historical narratives.

4.HTS.3 Various groups of people have lived in Ohio over time including American Indians, migrating settlers and immigrants. Interactions among these groups have resulted in cooperation, conflict and compromise.

4.HS.12 People have modified the environment throughout history resulting in both positive and negative consequences in Ohio and the United States.

Theme: Prehistoric people lived off the land in Ohio for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. We do not have written records from them, but know about them by studying what they left behind.

Objectives

At the end of the program students will be able to:

- Understand that prehistoric people in Ohio only had contact with other American Indians as far as we know.
- Understand that prehistoric American Indians made everything from natural materials that could be found in their environment.
- Understand that American Indians lifestyles changed over time as the climate changed.
- Understand that Prehistoric American Indians were gone from Ohio when Europeans arrived.

Vocabulary:

- Prehistoric - before written history
- Artifact - object made or used by humans
- Biofact – object made by nature and not changed by humans
- Archaeologist - scientist who studies artifacts and other evidence left behind
- Extinct – no longer found on earth
- Atlatl - ancient spear throwing device used in Archaic and Woodland Periods.
- Flint - Ohio's state gemstone; important material for making native tools and weapons.

Materials needed: Natural materials collected from outdoors (see enrichment activity A)

Program Outline:

Watch Video 1

- Discuss vocabulary words: prehistoric, artifact, biofact, extinct, archaeology and atlatl in the context of Ohio's American Indians.
- Ask students to describe the lives of Paleo Indians.
- Ask students to discuss the changes that lead into Archaic times. What are similarities and differences between the two time periods?
- Ask students to describe the changes in flora and fauna and weapons during this time.

Watch Video 2

- Discuss changes leading into the Woodland Period.
- Ask what the differences were between the Adena and Hopewell and Woodland people.
- Ask what large shifts took place leading into the Late-Prehistoric period.
- Discuss the lifestyle of Late-Prehistoric people – the last here before the arrival of Europeans.

Watch Video 3

- Discuss the impact of the Iroquois on Ohio's native peoples.
- Ask why furs were so important at that time.
- Discuss historic tribes who later settled in Ohio and emphasize that this was a very short time period.
- Emphasize that we do not know all the answers. Archaeologists are still working on many questions.

Enrichment activities:

- A. Research and create models of various American Indian objects seen in the videos such as domed houses, pottery, or projectile points. See if you can use only natural materials that would have been available to American Indians to build these.
- B. Learn more by reading and watching materials from the Ohio History Connection who manages many American Indian sites in Central and Southern Ohio. Learn more about the great influence of the Adena and Hopewell cultures. www.ohiohistory.org
- C. Visit the Cleveland Museum of Natural History website to learn more about ongoing archaeology of sites in Northern Ohio. www.cmnh.org