

Wisconsin's First People

This chapter deals with the first inhabitants of Wisconsin, the peoples who came to the area thousands of years before the first Europeans arrived in the 1600s. In addition to studying the history, cultures, and oral traditions of these people, students will learn how to analyze Paleo-Indian spear points and decipher the possible meanings of ancient effigy mound sites.

Activity 3.1 *Paleo-Indian Spear Points*

Overview

This activity helps students understand that Paleo-Indians traveled widely and developed extensive trade alliances with other groups. It also gives students practice with map and measurement skills.

Management

Materials

- Student Activity 3.1 (Teacher Pages 1–2; Student Pages 1–3)
- Map of United States
- Centimeter ruler (optional)

Grouping

- Pairs
- Individual, supervised or independent

Activity 3.2 *Effigy Mounds*

Overview

This activity gives students a chance to explore the relationship between effigy mounds and their specific locations in southern Wisconsin, where the majority of the mounds in the state are found. Students will investigate site maps, identify mound types in one of two counties, graph the various kinds of shapes that occur in selected locations, and discover how the types of effigy mounds vary from east to west across the state. Students will learn that certain types of mounds appear more frequently in one area than in another.

Management

Materials

- Student Activity 3.2 (Teacher Pages 1–4; Student Pages 1–7)
- Ruler (optional)

Grouping

- Group students as follows: Whole class, then small groups, then individual students, then student pairs, and finally whole-group discussion