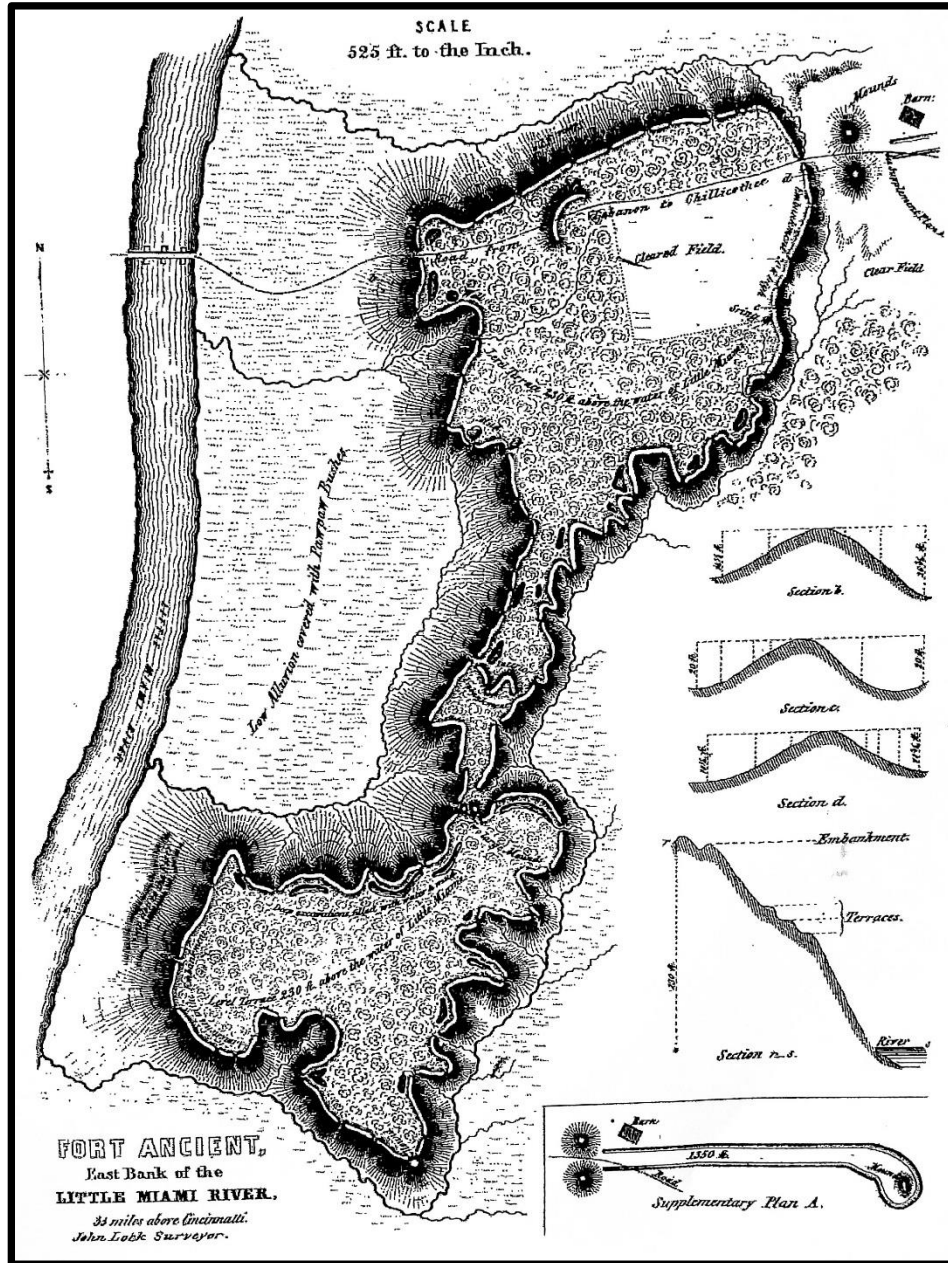


Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve

Teacher Field Trip Guide

ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY by E.G. SQUIER, A. M. and E.H. DAVIS, M.D. – 1848
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OHIO
HISTORY
CONNECTION

Fort Ancient Earthworks
& Nature Preserve

Educators' / Children's Group Information

Fort Ancient offers four unique, age-appropriate guided tours designed to complement classroom and homeschool curriculum guidelines, providing students with a unique educational experience.

Tour Fees:

School Groups

\$5/student (20+ count), \$6/student (under 20 count)

\$5/adult chaperone (20+ count), \$7/adult (under 20 count)

Free/Teacher and parent helper

For most tours, groups should allow 45 minutes to 1 hour (grades K–2) and a minimum of 2 hours (grades 3+). Please note that for all groups, parents/chaperones will be asked to assist students with scavenger hunts through the museum. Some programs may vary, based on the weather, but alternative programs will be made available in cases of inclement weather.

For larger groups (over 60) a maximum of 2 parents per class will be asked to assist students with scavenger hunts through the museum. It is best if parent helpers can arrive 40 minutes early for a short orientation, helping provide the best possible program for the students.

For grades 3–12, the students will begin with an orientation to Ohio Valley prehistory. After the orientation, each class will go to a separate station. Some classes will explore the museum while other classes will participate in a series of hands-on activities, including spear throwing, double ball and a classroom program. The classes will then switch, allowing each student to benefit from the full experience.

Tools of Mother Nature (PreK–Grade 1)

Designed for our youngest students, this hands-on class allows students to touch animal furs and bones to see how American Indians used their natural environment to live off the land. Hands on items could also include: turtle shell, flint, a shell hoe, a deer shoulder blade hoe, stone axes, stone hammers, sinew, several different animal furs, puzzles, a small wigwam (shelter), rattles and drums.

Program: Explorer (Grades 2–6)

Explore the lifestyles and artifacts of the earliest people in Ohio and follow the transition from a hunting and gathering society to an agricultural society, and when the American Indian community adapted with the introduction of European contact during the historic period Ohio. The program includes an introduction to ancient and historic American Indians, hands on activities including spear throwing and double ball and a scavenger hunt. Also included is an overview of Fort Ancient and how the 2,000-year-old site has been preserved.

Critical Thinking (Grades 7+)

We will help your students be engaged during this hands-on class that utilizes the entire museum as an extended classroom! Students will look at the different cultures, examine artifacts and then practice critical thinking skills when asked questions about why certain items were made, and how would certain decisions affect their lives. Questions including; why do you think farming started, who were healthier, hunters and gatherers or farmers, will engage your students to make decisions by inferring from the evidence they are given. This program requires student participation in order for it to succeed. The students will also learn to throw a spear with a spear thrower (atlatl) and be taught to play a hand-eye coordination game called double ball.

Educators' / Children's Group Information

Day Care Centers and Home Schools

Due to the wide range of ages present, home schools and day care center programs are designed to provide the same fun and access to all that Fort Ancient has to offer, while accommodating their unique needs. Children will begin their program with an orientation of Fort Ancient in the classroom. Students can also explore over 75 objects in the classroom, and scavenger hunt materials will be provided for the home school parents or day care leaders in order to complete the museum tour at a pace that best suits the needs of all their students.

Each educational program meets the designated curriculum requirements for each grade level. The classroom has many objects to touch and explore including, stone axes, a grinding stone, sinew, brain tanned leather, wooden pottery puzzles, bird nest puzzles, a deer skeleton puzzle, animal hides and bone tools, two large raw hide drums, small hand drums, rattles, an 18th Century dress up box and a small wigwam.

If time permits, students are encouraged to have lunch in the picnic area and to walk a trail. Please allow at least two hours in the museum and additional time for picnicking and hiking.

Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve

Site Description

Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve is a National Historic Landmark situated on a wooded bluff 245 feet above the Little Miami River in Oregonia, Ohio. There are 125 acres featuring nearly 18,000 feet of human made earthen embankments built 2,000 years ago by American Indians of the Hopewell culture between 100 BC–AD 500. Rich in flora and fauna, as well as having a unique archaeological history, it is the largest and best preserved prehistoric hilltop enclosure in the United States.

Fort Ancient is currently in the final stages to become a designated World Heritage site. This earthwork is on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO's) list as it meets the criteria for International cultural sites as a "Masterpiece of Human Creative Genius," with "Outstanding Universal Value."

Two thousand years ago, American Indians of the Hopewell culture, carrying woven baskets of soil weighing 35 to 40 pounds each, constructed 3.5 miles of earthen walls at Fort Ancient containing approximately 67 "U" shaped openings. The earthworks presently range from 4 feet to 23 feet in height, set off the space for sacred ceremonies and social gatherings. Portions of these walls were used in conjunction with the sun and moon to provide a calendar system.

The museum at Fort Ancient offers students a detailed exploration of 15,000 years of American Indian history in the Ohio Valley. The education classroom has several hands-on activities depicting the daily life of American Indians as well as a timeline. A garden adjacent to the building offers a look at the archaeological plants and planting methods of the Woodland cultures.

***Fort Ancient is open year-round for school programs
with advanced requests and availability of dates for groups of 20 or more.***

Tour Information

Programs include an introduction, hands-on period and museum activities. Schedule one to one and a half hours for a visit involving K-2nd grade; two hours for 4th grade and above. Parent helpers will be asked to assist students with the scavenger hunt and during the outside activities. During lunch, students accompanied by chaperones, may visit the scenic overlook and hiking trails.

Fort Ancient Timeline

Paleoindians 13000–8000 B.C.

- Live in small mobile groups
- Hunted various animals with spears tipped with flint points
- Collected plant food as deciduous forest replaced Ice Age coniferous forest
- Occupied small temporary camps in response to seasonal availability of food

Archaic 8000–1000 B.C.

- Depended on hunting, fishing and collecting plant foods
- Domesticated squash around 2,300 B.C.
- Established camps in different parts of territories per seasonal availability of food
- Made a variety of spear points and knives by chipping flint
- Made axes and various food processing tools by grinding and polishing hard stone (like granite)
- Growing emphasis on trade and ceremony

Early Woodland 1000–100 B.C. (Adena culture)

- Depended on hunting, fishing and collecting plant food (20% reliance on crops)
- Began to plant seeds adjacent to their communities for crops such as sunflower, goosefoot and squash
- Could remain longer in one location due to increase of control over food supply
- Developed pottery vessels as an efficient way to store and cook food
- People from the Adena period frequently built conical earthen mounds over graves of deceased relatives and circular earthworks that may have been used as public gathering areas for ceremonies or other events

Middle Woodland 100 B.C.–A.D. 500 (Hopewell culture)

- Depended on hunting, fishing and collecting wild plant food as well as growing crops (40–50% reliance on crops)
- Continue lifestyle of Early Woodland ancestors living in small scattered communities
- Stone tools are distinctive form
- Pottery is decorated, especially pieces used for special occasions
- People of the Hopewell culture participated in a trade network that brought exotic materials from around the United States (copper, mica, obsidian and shells) to the Ohio Valley and used them to create elaborate ornaments used for ceremony and grave goods
- Constructed earthen burial mounds and complex geometric earthworks enclosing hundreds of acres of land that require considerable planning and organization of labor and had knowledge of geometry and engineering

Late Prehistoric 900–A.D. 1600 (Fort Ancient culture)

- Lived in villages located in areas of fertile soil that could support cultivation of corn, beans and squash (80% reliance on crops)
- Hunted game with bows and arrows, fished and collected wild plant foods and nuts
- Periodically relocated because of declining fertility of the croplands, decreasing supplies of wood and game and an increase sanitation problems
- Different groups had distinctive ways of making and decorating pottery

Fort Ancient Timeline

Historic A.D. 1650–Present

- Early 1700s, American Indian groups who had been pushed out of Ohio by the Iroquois moved back into the Ohio Area: Delaware in northeast Ohio, Miami and Mingo to western Ohio, Wyandot to central Ohio and Shawnee to southern Ohio
- Europeans traded for animal fur, especially beaver and gave American Indians metal, guns and clothing in exchange for fur
- Treaty of Greenville (1795) ended hostilities between American Indian and Euro American settlers. Northern Ohio was designated as Indian lands with established reservations.
- 1800s efforts were begun to remove American Indians to allow American settlement in all parts of Ohio.
- The last organized tribal groups were removed in 1843 to reservations in Kansas and Oklahoma where their descendants still live today
- Census of 1990 identifies over 20,000 people that represent many different tribes who are living in Ohio

Fort Ancient's Role in the Ohio Educational Standards

Fort Ancient Educational Standards' Practices

Kindergarten to Second Grade

The Ohio Education Department standards of education for history for grades K-2 focuses on the beginning of history and understanding historical concepts. Kindergarten focuses on "A Child's Place in Time and Space."

HIS.K2.1a Place a sequence of events or dates on a timeline.

This information is presented in a program that is offered to the students at each visit. The educational coordinator asks for feedback from the participants and clues from around the room are used to help give responses.

HIS.K2.3a Sort Pictures or objects that identify events or tools from past to present.

Much like the above standard, time is taken for this during the presentation and is available during free time in the hands-on education room. Pottery puzzles, pump drills, tool identification games, animal identification games and so much more.

HIS.K2.5a Identify objects people needed in the past.

This is covered in both the initial orientation as well as the scavenger hunt. Using replicas and real tools from the past, the children see, feel and learn the use of various items that were used in everyday life. This is also demonstrated through the atlatl (spear throwing) lesson we give. The students are shown an atlatl, how it works and then get to try their hand at throwing a spear using one.

Grades Third through Fifth

In grades three to five the student focuses more on the local history. They develop a sense of place and take the previous concepts and apply them to history, specifically in Ohio.

HIS.35.4a Describe similarities and differences between cultural groups and activities in Ohio during the past and present.

This is presented through the classroom orientation and the museum exhibit scavenger hunt the students participate in. They are taken through the museum where they find the answers to specific questions by reading the exhibit signs.

HIS.35.5a Make connections between colonization and life today.

This is accomplished through the classroom orientation. The educational coordinator gives the program tailored to fit the needs of each grade level. Students also learn about colonization in the museum and through the scavenger hunt.

HIS.35.6a Describe similarities and differences between life today and life in the past in the Western hemisphere civilizations.

This is achieved through the presentation as well as the exhibit and scavenger hunt. This is also achieved through the outside activities including the atlatl demo, the double ball game and viewing the outside village and garden.

HIS.35.4b Identify or recognize groups of people that lived in Ohio in the past.

This is essentially the theme of Fort Ancient. Our goal is to educate people on the lives and cultures of the people who lived here from prehistory to colonization.

HIS.35.5b Identify or recognize different groups that explored or colonized America.

Fort Ancient endeavors to demonstrate this through the exhibit, scavenger hunt and timeline presentation given during the classroom orientation. Students recognize the different cultures of Ohio and contact between the American Indians and Europeans.

Fort Ancient's Role in the Ohio Educational Standards

Grades Sixth through Eighth

In grades sixth through eighth the students have learned what history is and they have learned about the history of the United States and Ohio. Now students learn their place in history.

HIS.69.2b Identify key physical and human features of societies.

At Fort Ancient, students learn the importance of the Little Miami River to the people during the Hopewell and Fort Ancient culture. They also learn about the history of farming as well as the earthworks/mounds. We encourage our visitors to go out and appreciate the earthworks. During the Fort Ancient visit students will:

- Identify the unique characteristics of American Indian cultures that existed prior to the arrival of the Europeans.
- Identify and explain specific achievements of the Hopewell, Adena and Fort Ancient American Indian cultures.
- Discover there are multiple perspectives for any historical event.
- Describe the various ways American Indians adapted to their environment.
- Learn the significance the mounds (earthworks) played in the lives of those who built them.
- Learn the negative as well as the positive consequences of European contact with American Indian cultures.