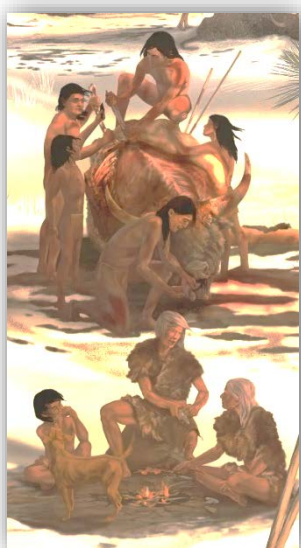


Who are the Southeastern Indians?

Most of what we know about historic Southeastern Indians is from studying things they left behind and listening to indigenous peoples' oral tradition. Archaeologists dig for many amazing artifacts like pottery, arrowheads and more. These artifacts can tell the story of these different people groups. Another way to learn about these people is to listen to their stories. Each generation would tell the young children stories and then they would pass it on to their children and so on, lasting even into today.

You will notice while you read that there will be **bold letters**. Use these letters to fill in the puzzle on the back of this page, revealing a hidden message.

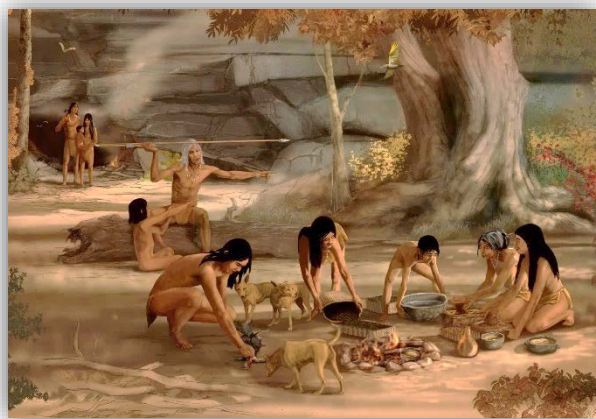


Paleo-Indians were nomadic, following food sources such as mastodons, woolly mammoths, and bison for food and crafting materials, such as bone and fur for tools and clothing. The mastodon was generally smaller than the woolly mammoth. The tools they **u**sed for hunting were called spea**l**s with projectile points on the end of it, and an atlatl was used for thr**o**wing the spear.

Woolly Mammoth



Spear
Projectile Point



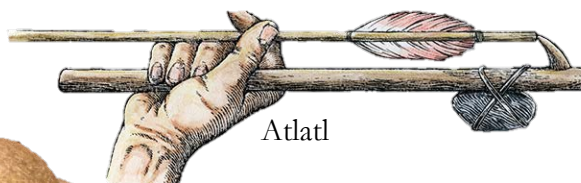
By the **Archaic** time, Native Americans were semi-nomadic, living seasonally in rock shelters. The **p**eople of this time also used stone tools such as stone scrapers (grinding stones) and soapstone bowls. One of the tools that was crucial to the Archaic Indian's life**e** was the atlatl. The atlatl allowed Native Americans to throw a spear with more force and **a**ccuracy than they could with just their arm strength. Although this tool enabled the Archaic **I**ndians to kill large animals, the bow and arrow eventually replaced it.



Soapstone Bowl



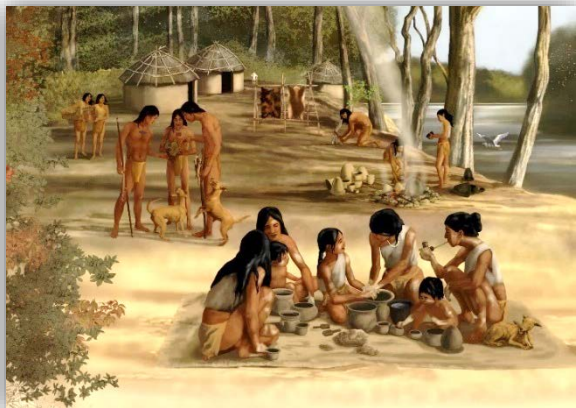
Grinding Stone



Atlatl

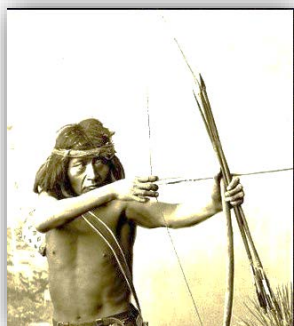


Who are the Southeastern Indians? continued



During the **Woodland** period, the Southeastern Indians were no longer nomadic. They built homes out of wattle and daub (mud/**C**lay and sticks) and lived in villages. During the Woodland period, Native Americans in Alabama also began to utilize **p**ottery. Native Americans used a variety of items, including their own fingernails, to decorate and make designs on the pottery. Detailed designs indicated that the Native American**n**s of this period had more time to devote to pottery making and artistry and had an increasingly complex society.

They also developed better hunting **t**ools like the bow and arrow, and wore stone gorgets to show their status among the people.



Bow & Arrow



Clay Pottery

Stone Gorget



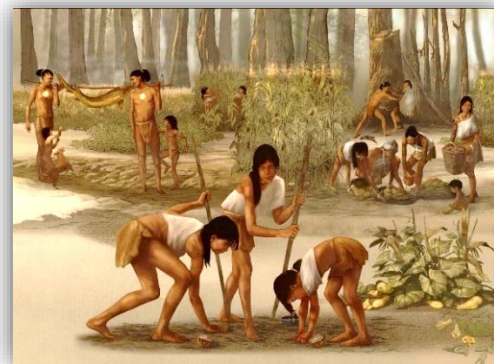
Ceremony

The **Mississippian** civilization was the most **a**dvanced Native American civilization in prehistoric Alabama, lasting from about 1,000 to around 1,550 AD. Mississippian life included communal farming (corn, beans, squash), **C**eremony (led on the top of the mounds), religion, recreation (chunkey game), and advancements in **t**echnology (arrows, pump drills, baskets). Generally, the women were the farmers, while the men hunted and fished.

Rattlesnake Disk



Chunkey Stone



Communal Farming

If you get the chance to come to the Museum of Alabama in Montgomery, Alabama check out the

section of the First Alabamians gallery to learn more about the Southeastern Indians.

Check our website archives.alabama.gov for hours and availability. Admission is always free.