

FARMING

7. The Farming culture is very elaborate. What do you think is taking place in this picture?

CONFLICT AND CHANGE

8. When American Indians began trading with the French, they were still making their own pottery, but they stopped within 30 years. What kind of containers did they start using? Why?

LIFEWAYS EXHIBIT (behind the Farming Case, in the room to the left)

9. You can see that the pottery in this Farming culture was made in many different styles. Draw three different pottery containers and describe how they might have been used.

ANIMAL EFFIGIES CASE (behind the Farming Case, to the immediate right)

10. Animal effigy pots were made to look like animals that had special meaning in the religious beliefs of this culture. They were used every day and even placed in burials. What animals do these effigy pots look like?

CHIEF CASE (behind the Farming Case, in the room to the right)

11. Find the water bottles in this case that are shaped like gourds and have a cross and circle symbol on them. This symbol was associated with the chief. The cross stood for the four directions of the earth and also the four logs of the sacred fire. The circle with rays was a sun symbol. It was believed that the chief was a descendant of the sun. Make a sketch of this symbol.

12. Can you think of any symbols that are used for important people in our culture today?

Fieldnotes of an Archaeologist

Today **you** are an **archaeologist**. Examine the artifacts at the museum, especially the great amount of pottery, as clues to learn about Native American Indian cultures that have lived in the Illinois River Valley. Each question section relates to an exhibit area with the same title.

3rd FLOOR

OBSERVATION DECK (weather permitting)

1. A natural resource is anything from the environment that can contribute toward human survival. What natural resources do you think American Indians were using in this area around Dickson Mounds? (Hint: the labels mention some things that may not be in view)
Answer: earth, plants, roots, berries, water, mammals, fish, waterfowl, turtles, mussels, wood, clay, rocks, etc.

2nd FLOOR

HUNTING AND GATHERING

2. Hunting and Gathering peoples did not use pottery. Why do you think this is so?
Answer: It would have been difficult to use heavy, cumbersome pottery and keep it from breaking in a nomadic lifestyle. Other types of containers were lighter.
3. List four natural resources that could have been used to make containers in this culture.
Answer: wood, woven plant fibers, freshwater shells, turtle shells, animal skins, dried animal stomachs and bladders

GARDENING

4. Why do you think people began to make and use pottery in the Gardening culture? (Hint: think about the changes in lifestyle.)
Answer: Gardening people stayed in one place longer making it more practical to use pottery containers which were more durable and better for cooking. Pottery was also important for the storage of gardened foods. The idea for pottery spread from Mexico along trade networks during this time period.
5. Find the biggest pot in the Gardening case. The shape of this pot, with a rounded bottom, was common for both large and small pots in this time period. How do you think the pot stood up?
Answer: The pot was probably seated in sand or rocks and the holes were for rope handles to lift it when it was full of stored food or the pot was hung from a tripod of sticks over a fire for cooking.
6. Find the pot in the back of the Gardening case with the footprint and other decorations on it. What story might these pictures be telling?
Answer: Answers may vary. Archaeologists theorize that this is perhaps a story of an important event or belief. In American Indian art, wavy lines often symbolize water. The footprint suggests someone's journey. The Gardening people believed in a life after death. The designs on this pot may tell a story about one's spiritual journey after death.

FARMING

7. The Farming culture is very elaborate. What do you think is taking place in this picture?
Answer: The chief and villagers are watching a ceremonial dance. The scene may be of a war dance because warriors often dressed as falcons. These dancers have a featherd cape and a falcon beak mask to look like the awesome bird of prey.

CONFLICT AND CHANGE

8. When American Indians began trading with the French, they were still making their own pottery, but they stopped within 30 years. What kind of containers did they start using? Why?
Answer: The French explorers and traders introduced brass and iron cooking kettles that could heat food better and would not break as easily.

LIFEWAYS EXHIBIT (behind the Farming Case, in the room to the left)

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serving food --



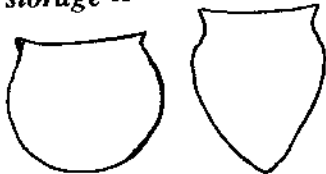
cooking --



holding seeds --



food storage --



*water bottle/
holding liquids --*



special occasions --



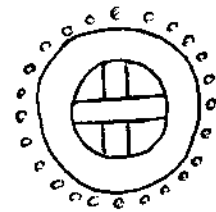
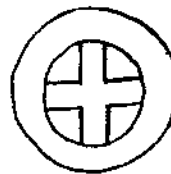
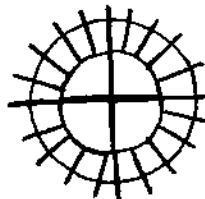
ANIMAL EFFIGIES CASE (behind the Farming Case, to the immediate right)

10. Animal effigy pots were made to look like animals that had special meaning in the religious beliefs of this culture. They were used every day and even placed in burials. What animals do these effigy pots look like?
Answer: duck, beaver, owl, spider, bat

CHIEF CASE (behind the Farming Case, in the room to the right)

11. Find the water bottles in this case that are shaped like gourds and have a cross and circle symbol on them. This symbol was associated with the chief. The cross stood for the four directions of the earth and also the four logs of the sacred fire. The circle with rays was a sun symbol. It was believed that the chief was a descendant of the sun. Make a sketch of this symbol.

the sacred fire and sun symbol --



12. Can you think of any symbols that are used for important people in our culture today?
Answer: the presidential seal, the cross of a holy man, the sheriff's star badge, the physician's snake and staff symbol, etc.