

VFT: INDIAN MOUNDS

TEACHER GUIDE

OVERVIEW

The Indian Mounds virtual field trip provides students with an in-depth look at the cultural and technological advancements of the four prehistoric Native American groups found in Georgia. This virtual field trip specifically focuses on the Woodland and Mississippian Indians; however, students can still understand the evolution of all four prehistoric cultures through the information provided. We recommend that students explore this virtual field trip after they have read through Unit 2, Chapter 4 of *The Georgia Studies Book: Our State and Our Nation*. Teachers could use this activity as a whole-group experience, provide class time for students to explore the field trip at their own pace, or assign it as homework in a flipped classroom setting.

FEATURES

- **video** footage of interviews with rangers at Georgia's three prehistoric Indian mound sites: Etowah, Ocmulgee, and Kolomoki
- **photos** of each site with captions
- **360° experiences** at the top of each significant mound

GEORGIA STANDARDS

- SS8H1** Evaluate the impact of European exploration and settlement on American Indians in Georgia.
- a. Describe the characteristics of American Indians living in Georgia at the time of European contact; to include culture, food, weapons/tools, and shelter.

DISCUSS

1. What does the word "paleo" mean, and why is that an accurate word to describe this group of people? Explain the food source(s) and tools used by this group of Native Americans. Why were paleo artifacts found throughout the state of Georgia?
2. Similar to the Paleo Indians, Archaic Indians were nomadic. What technological advancements did the Archaic Indians invent to make life easier? Discuss other similarities between the Paleo and Archaic Indians and explain how the two groups differ.
3. What are the major characteristics that distinguish the Woodland Indians from their predecessors?

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4. The Mississippian Indians are described as being the most “complex” prehistoric culture in Georgia. Explain the technological and cultural changes they introduced that would make this description accurate.
5. Evaluate the impact of European contact on Native American cultures, specifically discussing how the Mississippian Indians were affected.

EXTEND

1. Pretend that you are the chief of a Mississippian settlement (chiefdom). Create two to three journal entries in which you describe your chiefdom’s hierarchical system, its encounters with the Europeans, including the impact of these encounters, and the contributions of your chiefdom.
2. Compare and contrast two of the prehistoric Native American cultures. You may choose any two, but one must be from Before Common Era (either Paleo or Archaic) and the other must be from Common Era (Woodland or Mississippian). Be sure to discuss the similarities and differences of both groups. For example, Paleo Indians and Mississippian Indians were both prehistoric Native American groups that lived in Georgia. Paleo Indians were nomadic and moved throughout the state, whereas Mississippian Indians settled in permanent villages.