

*Boiling Spring Academy Virtual Fieldtrip*

## Video One: A Walk Through History



Photo courtesy of Donna Vissman

**Boiling Spring Academy**  
Primm Historic Park  
Brentwood, Tennessee

*Presented by*



## Lesson One -- A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

This video covers the history of Primm Historic Park and surrounding area starting with the Prehistoric American Indians thru the 1830s and building of Boiling Spring Academy.



### FEWKES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Primm Historic Park is home to two important historical sites: "Fewkes Archeological Group"-Mounds of prehistoric American Indians from the Mississippian Culture and a restored 1832 Boiling Spring Academy. Primm Historic Park is a place to study layers of history and the different peoples and cultures that have been a part of this place.

### VOCABULARY

**Archaeology:** The study of the past through material remains called artifacts.

**Artifact:** Any object made or changed by man.

**Excavation:** The study of an archeological site by systematically removing soil layer by layer.

**Preservation:** Protecting a part of the past, such as Primm Historic Park-the mounds and Boiling Spring Academy.

**Ethnology:** the study of the characteristics of various peoples and the differences and relationships between them.

### PREHISTORIC PEOPLE AT PRIMM HISTORIC PARK

Much of what is known about the prehistoric site comes from archaeological studies. The artifacts found contain messages from and about the past. The City of Brentwood is preserving this site so that you and future generations can learn from it.

In October of 1920 Mr. William Myer, serving as a Special Archaeologist with the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology, conducted a scientific excavation of the site. He named the site in honor of J. Walter Fewkes, then Chief of the Bureau. The Fewkes Archaeological Site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

From A.D. 900 to 1450, Middle Tennessee was home to prehistoric American Indians of the Mississippian Culture which dominated the southeastern United States. They are called Mississippian Culture because they are from a period in history. They built temple mounds which were flat top mounds that had a special building on top. This settlement was a temple site with 5 mounds.



The Native Americans were:

- gatherers of berries, nuts and plants
- planters primarily of the three sisters crops: corn, squash and beans
- hunters of mostly turkey and deer

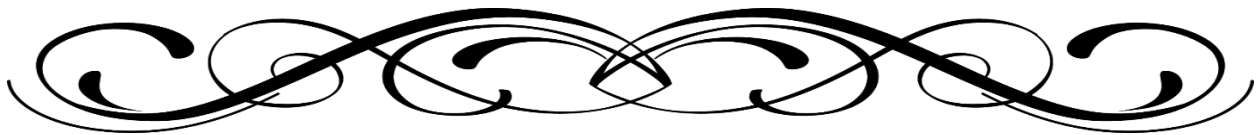
The peoples built their town near sources of water. Williamson County has some of the most fertile soil in Tennessee with good water supplies. The Little Harpeth River, as well as several nearby springs provided water at the Fewkes site. The river not only provided needed water but served as a major source of transportation. From artifacts found, it is known they were part of a vast trading network.

Why did the Prehistoric American Indians choose to live here?

- Abundance of natural resources in Tennessee--Rich, fertile soil to grow crops & abundance of wild animals for food and clothing
- Proximity to river for water and transportation
- Lots of open land

### Settlement of Tennessee

- Pioneers/settlers that arrived later to settle this area were also attracted to this area for the same reasons the prehistoric Native Americans
- As long hunters returned to the colonies, their stories of abundant fertile land and animals for food and furs inspired and encouraged other pioneers to move to TN.
- As settlers moved from the east across the Cumberland Gap to settle in Middle Tennessee, this became a contention and many fights occurred between what had been a peaceful pioneer and American Indian relationship.
- Tennessee became the 16<sup>th</sup> State in 1796
- As more settlers came to the area of Williamson County, Academies were built. Attending school was a privilege and not required. They were not free. Boys were often given more schooling. Children were often sent to different schools based on their gender, race or religion.



### OPTIONAL STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

- BSA Activity book-[\[link to activity book\]](#)
- Timeline Worksheet
- Artifact worksheet
- Prehistoric Native American Worksheet
- Trade Goods worksheet
- Food Chain Worksheet
- Pack your bag

### TIMELINE WORKSHEET

Put statements in proper sequence of occurrence

- Boiling Spring Academy was built \_\_\_\_\_
- De Soto's Exploration through eastern & western TN \_\_\_\_\_
- Paleo-Indians hunted in the area \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_
- Daniel Boone and other long hunters visited Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_
- Tennessee became a state \_\_\_\_\_
- Mississippian culture built the Fewkes Mounds \_\_\_\_\_

### ARTIFACT WORKSHEET

Some questions to consider when looking at artifacts:



- What material is the object made out of –wood, paper, plastic, rubber, metal, fabric, feathers etc.?
- Is the material made by man or nature?
- If it is natural or has it been changed by people? (carved, cast, molded, glued, sewed)
- Is the object sturdy or fragile?
- What might be the purpose of the object?
- Is the object still used today?

What do you think this was?



Challenge: What do you think this was?

## PREHISTORIC AMERICAN INDIAN WORKSHEET

Determine whether each statement below is True or False. Place a T or F in the space provided before it.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mississippian Culture Native Americans came from the state of Mississippi.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mississippians had a vast trade network.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mississippian Native Americans were hunters and gatherers with no knowledge of farming.

\_\_\_\_\_ Warfare, disease, drought and resource depletion could have all contributed to the decline of the Mississippian Culture.

## TRADE GOODS WORKSHEET

Imagine that you are a long hunter about to set out for a long trip home after a winter of trapping furs. Below are items you needed to buy from the trader. The value key helps to understand which furs are the most valuable. Furs of equal value are interchangeable. During the 1820s and 1830s, the currency of the fur trade was the muskrat and all items, from furs to guns, were valued in muskrats. Using your math skills, answer the questions below.

#### 1835 Fur Values Key from Traders

1 bear skin = 7 muskrats skins  
 1 Beaver skin=25 muskrats skins  
 1 Buffalo Skin=25 muskrats skins  
 1 Deer Skin=2 muskrats skins  
 1 Raccoon skin=2 muskrats skins  
 1 Red fox skin=1 beaver skin

#### Trader Supplies Cost

5 gun flints=4 muskrat skins  
 1 gun=120 muskrat skins  
 1 knife=4 muskrat skins  
 5 measures/gunpowder=50 muskrat skins  
 1 kettle=31 muskrat skins  
 1 axe=20 muskrat skins

#### Native American Trade Goods

15 lbs of maple sugar=2 beaver skins  
 1- 25 foot canoe=20 beaver skins  
 12 pair of moccasins=3 beaver skins  
 10 pr small earrings=1 beaver skin  
 Silver Broaches=1 raccoon skin  
 Large blanket= 1 beaver skin



1 Brass Kettle=\$5.00



1 Axe Head=\$3.20

1. How many Muskrats is the kettle worth? \_\_\_\_\_
2. You have 1 raccoon & 3 deer furs. Do you have enough to trade for a large blanket from the Americans Indians? \_\_\_\_\_
3. If you had one bear fur and 1 beaver fur, could you afford to buy the kettle? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many axe heads would you need to trade for a gun? \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you have 10 beaver and 5 buffalo furs, how many more beaver or buffalo skins would you need to trade for a canoe? \_\_\_\_\_

## **FOOD CHAIN & NATURAL RESOURCES**

A food chain goes from the food you eat way back to the plant origin. For example Me, Milk, Cow, Grass; you can even add soil water sun and air since they are necessary to plants  
Native Americans used the natural resources around them to survive. Not only did they grow and harvest for their own needs, they also traded and sold crops to other groups of people.

1. What are some foods that early Native Americans may have eaten?
2. Chooses one food eaten by the Native Americans and creates a food chain for that item.

### **YOUR MISSION: PACK YOUR BAG LIKE A PIONEER**

Imagine that you are traveling across the mountains to the newly formed state of Tennessee. Everything the family takes, such as food and traveling supplies, must fit in your covered wagon. This means you can only take items that are necessary because there is no room for extras. Each family member could only pack what they needed. What is the differences between needs and wants? If you are at home you are challenged to go through the house with your backpack and select only things you would need to move west. If you are at school, make a list of 10 things you would take and describe why you chose them.



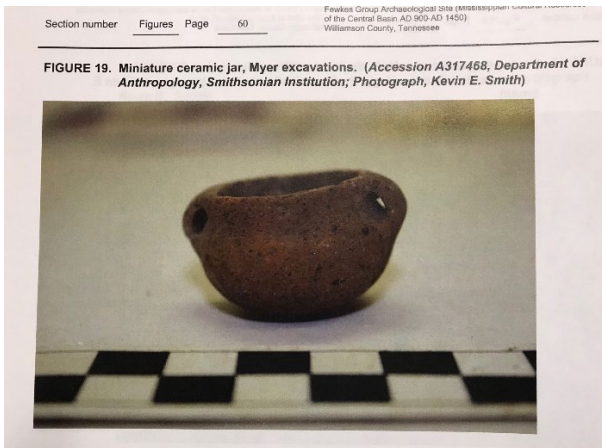
## KEY TO QUESTIONS

### TIMELINE WORKSHEET

Put statements in proper sequence of occurrence

- a. Boiling Spring Academy was built 6
- b. De Soto's Exploration through eastern & western TN 3
- c. Paleo-Indians hunted in the area 1
- d. Daniel Boone and other long hunters visited Tennessee 4
- e. Tennessee became a state 5
- f. Mississippian culture built the Fewkes Mounds 2

### ARTIFACT WORKSHEET



**Miniature ceramic jar**



**Miniature gaming piece**

### PREHISTORIC NATIVE AMERICAN WORKSHEET

Determine whether each statement below is True or False. Place an T or F in the space provided before it.

- F Mississippian Culture American Indians came from the state of Mississippi.
- T Mississippian American Indians had a vast trade network.
- F Mississippian American Indians were hunters and gatherers with no knowledge of farming.
- T Warfare, disease, drought and resource depletion could have all contributed to the decline of the Mississippian Culture.

### TRADE GOODS WORKSHEET

1. How many Muskrats is the kettle worth? 31
2. You have 1 raccoon skin and 3 deer skins. Do you have enough to trade for a large blanket from the Native Americans? No 1 raccoon =2 muskrats; 3 deer=6 muskrats-so you have 8 muskrats worth; the blanket cost 1 beaver or 25 muskrats.
3. If you had one bear skin and 1 beaver skin, could you afford to buy the kettle? Yes 1 bear=7 muskrats & beaver=25 muskrats for total of 32 muskrats. Kettle is 31 muskrats.
4. How many axe heads would you need to trade for a gun? 6 1 Axe=20 muskrats and a gun cost 120 muskrats. 6 X 20=120
5. If you have 10 beaver skins and 5 buffalo skins, how many more beaver or buffalo skins would you need to trade for a canoe? 5 Beaver & buffalo both worth 25 muskrats. You have a total of 15 skins. Canoe cost 20 beaver. 20-15=5

### FOOD CHAIN & NATURAL RESOURCES

1. What are some foods that early Native Americans may have eaten? **Corn, beans, squash, pumpkins, berries, nuts.**
2. Chooses one food eaten by the Native Americans and creates a food chain for that item. **Variety of answers.**