

Time Capsules from the Past Traveling Teaching Trunks

The Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, offers a series of six teaching trunks entitled *Time Capsules from the Past*, available for loan to schools and other organizations. Each “capsule” tells a story of Iowa’s human past from Ice Age times to the present, as known from archaeology, history, and oral tradition. Trunks include authentic artifacts, replicas, pictures of reconstructed scenes, videos, DVDs, references, activities, lesson plans (aimed at 4th-8th grade learners), and a user’s guide. Trunks may be borrowed for a minimum thirty-day period for \$45.00 per box. A charge of \$20.00 is added if trunks must be shipped. Borrowers are also responsible for paying return postage. Fees for shorter-term loans may be negotiated.

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Iowa’s Earliest Residents: 13,000-3000 Years Ago Iowa’s original residents were small populations of hunters and gatherers distributed widely across a late Ice Age landscape who relied on many species like the mammoth and mastodon, soon to become extinct. They were followed by growing populations practicing new lifeways that incorporated modern types of plants and animals.

Early farmers and traders: Iowa 2000 Years Ago People in many parts of Iowa were living in small communities, hunting, gathering, and gardening, making pottery, and burying their dead beneath earthen mounds.

Corn farmers and effigy mound builders: Iowa 1000 Years Ago People in Iowa were farming for corn, using the bow and arrow, living in settled communities, trading widely, and constructing a variety of earthen mounds including effigy mounds.

Meskwaki Culture and History: Resources highlight the changes in Meskwaki history and culture from Contact Period times to the present. The accompanying, interactive CD-ROM, prepared by the State Historical Society of Iowa partnering with the Meskwaki Nation, contains primary source materials on the history and culture of the tribe.

Dairy on the Prairie: Historic archaeology in Jones County tells the story of pioneer Iowa, particularly the rise of the dairy industry from the farm to the factory. Contents include a sampling of the material culture of eastern Iowa pioneers between the 1830s and 1870s. Users may wish to borrow the table-top exhibit as an accompanying resource. The exhibit cannot be shipped.

NEW Fort Atkinson and the Neutral Ground, 1840-1849: Resources highlight the culture and interaction of groups associated with the occupation of Fort Atkinson and the Neutral Ground in northeastern Iowa during the 1840s: the soldiers, the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Indians, and the pioneer settlers. Contents include a sampling of artifacts used by each of these groups, lessons and activities, books, period images, and a DVD about archaeological excavations at the fort. Of special interest are a journal written by a pioneer girl who lived in the area and a book detailing the childhood of a Ho-Chunk girl of about the same time period.