

# *Time Capsules from the Past*

## Traveling Teaching Kits

Prepared with the assistance of a grant from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Iowa Science Foundation, and the Fred Maytag Family Foundation.

The Office of the State Archaeologist-University of Iowa has created a series entitled *Time Capsules from the Past* consisting of four different traveling teaching kits. Each capsule helps tell the Native American story in Iowa from ancient times to the present. Items in each box include artifacts, replicas, and easily obtainable natural materials. Pictures of reconstructed scenes, videos, audio tapes and DVDs illustrate archaeological research and describe both ancient and more recent Native American lifeways. References, activities, and lesson plans (aimed at 4-8<sup>th</sup> grade learners) are included. Kits may be borrowed for a minimum 30 day period for \$30 (shipped) or \$20 (picked up).

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The following boxes are available:

***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 occupying a setting more similar to today's, and practicing new lifeways that incorporated modern types of plants and animals. In these locations they chose important spots for the communal burial of their dead and they included some exotic goods in grave sites. Some cleared the land and prepared structures. By the end of this time, people were trading over long distances and had begun to supplement their economy by gardening.

Artifacts in this time capsule include a flintknapper's (stone tool maker's) leather bag that includes good quality stone for tool making, antler billets and a hammerstone for making stone hunting and butchering tools; a well-made spear and spear-thrower (atlatl); wood shavings for starting fires; a bag of feathers to test the direction of the wind (important to a hunter stalking large game animals); a hide-working kit including bone awl and needle, sandstone abrader to shape bone needles, porcupine quills, sinew thread, red ocher or pigment; basswood cordage (a source of string); a bone wrench, possibly used as one of a pair to straighten green wood spearshafts; mammoth tooth (flat specimen); mastodon tooth (pointy specimen), caribou and snowshoe hare tracks, representing game animals sought by the very earliest hunters; dog skull (the dog was probably used as a pet, for hunting, as a pack animal, and for protection); and fire-cracked rock cobbles left over from a campfire or used as boiling stones.

Bone fish hooks; ground stone axes; grinding stone and mortar; raw copper; tanged point of copper; gourd rattle; gourd bowl; small seeds of early domesticated plants; shell beads; white tailed deer and pronghorn antelope tracks; cattail mat sample; and edible walnuts and hickory nuts reflect the innovations seen in the changing lifeways of Iowa residents following the Ice Age.

Resources: (Printed) *Iowa's Archaeological Past* (Alex), *Discovering Archaeology: An Activity Guide for Educators* (Schermer), *Iowa's P.A.S.T.: A Classroom Manual for the Video Series* (Hoyer), "The Earliest Americans" (*Common Ground* 2000); and (Videos) *The Early Iowans*; *Flintknapping with Bruce Bradley*; *NOVA: Mammoths of the Ice Age*; *IPTV Schools to Careers: The Archaeologist*; *Mastodon in Your Back Yard*; *Acorns: Staple Food of California Indians*; (DVD) *Modern Methods in Iowa Archaeology*;

Contents: laminated visuals of life in Iowa, posters, books, resource guide (including lesson plans grade 4-8), teacher resource packet, videos, DVD, artifacts, replicas

**Early farmers and traders: Iowa 2000 Years Ago** People in many parts of Iowa were living in small communities, hunting, gathering, and gardening plants such as squash, gourds, sunflowers, and those of the small seed variety including marsh elder, chenopodium, and little barley. In some locations they were participating in elaborate burial rituals, covering their dead with mounds and interring exotic materials traded from across the continent. By this time pottery had been around for several hundred years, and ceramic decorations were shared with peoples outside of Iowa. This time capsule includes good quality stone; spear and spear thrower (atlatl); favorite stone making tools; seeds from tobacco; sunflowers; chenopodium; reed canary grass; walnuts and hickory nuts; white-tailed deer tracks; gourd rattle; fish hook; clam shell; stone pipes; pottery vessel; wooden paddle and smooth pebble for pottery making; a toothed shell stamp; shell bead; fiber for weaving; dog bones; deer sinew; deer bone; marine shell; Appalachian mica; Rocky Mountain obsidian; Great Lakes copper; projectile point and other replica stone tools and raw material; cattail mat sample; laminated visuals of life in Iowa 2,000 years ago.

Resources include (Printed) *Iowa's Archaeological Past* (Alex), *Discovering Archaeology: An Activity Guide for Educators* (Schermer), *Iowa's P.A.S.T.: A Classroom Manual for the Video Series* (Hoyer), *A Guide to Effigy Mounds National Monument*; (Videos): *The Hopewell Culture*; *NOVA: Myths and the Moundbuilders*; *Archaeology and You*; *IPTV Schools to Careers: The Archaeologist*; *Flintknapping with Bruce Bradley*; (DVD) *Modern Methods in Iowa Archaeology*.

Contents: laminated visuals of life in Iowa, books, resource guide (including lesson plans grade 4-8), teacher resource packet, videos, DVD, artifacts, replicas

**Corn farmers and effigy mound builders: Iowa 1000 Years Ago** This was a time of significant innovation. People in Iowa were farming for corn, using the bow and arrow, living in settled communities of mud-walled houses in the west or in mat and bark structures in the east, and interacting with communities throughout the Midwest, not always hospitably. Effigy mounds were being constructed in eastern Iowa, and elsewhere conical and elongated mounds were erected sometimes as monuments to the dead. Unusual burial items were being laid to rest with the dead in large cemeteries at some locations in the west. These included marine shell like *Busycon* and *Dentalium*. This time capsule includes garden seeds like corn and beans; mano and metate; stone

pestle; woven fabric sample; shell amulet (replica from a Jones County site); shell roulette to decorate pottery; shell disc beads; marine dentalium for beads; marine conch; shell crosses (replicas of those from a Des Moines site); a bone hoe; pottery-making tools; ceramic pot, pot sherds (like those from vessels used by Effigy Mounds people); gourd rattle; bone awl; bone needle; bone matting needle; replica knife and scraper; chert core and flakes; stone discoidal; elk antler and stone scraper; bison bone; catfish bones; bones from faithful dog; shaft abrader; arrow point; wooden shaft straighteners; bison and elk tracks; bison jerky (edible); sweet sage braid; pipestone ear spool; pigment; wattle and daub impression from a house; cattail mat sample; laminated visuals of life in Iowa 1000 years ago.

Resources include (Printed) *Iowa's Archaeological Past* (Alex), *Discovering Archaeology: An Activity Guide for Educators* (Schermer), *A Guide to Effigy Mounds National Monument* (Lenzendorf), *Cahokia: City of the Sun* (Mink); *Waheenee: An Indian Girl's Story* (as told to Gilbert Wilson); and (Videos) *The Iowa Effigy Mounds*; *Earthlodge Builders at Glenwood*; *Northwest Iowa Farmers*; *Ancestors of the Ioway*; *IPTV Schools to Careers: The Archaeologist*; *Flintknapping with Bruce Bradley*; *The Earthshapers, Sacred Land*; *NOVA: The Iceman* (DVD) *Modern Methods in Iowa Archaeology*.

Contents: laminated visuals of life in Iowa, books, resource guide (including lesson plans grade 4-8), teacher resource packet, videos, DVD, artifacts, cassette tape, DVD

***Meskwaki Culture and History***: Funded by the Fred Maytag Family Foundation, the kits are designed to highlight the changes in Meskwaki history and culture from Contact Period times to the present. Artifact replicas and natural materials stimulate an understanding of Native American lifeways and illustrate what can be learned from archaeological research. Items reflect a variety of customs and lifeways found among the Meskwaki from the time when they were first contacted by the French (trade rings) up to today (modern pow-wow fan, casino tokens). They include images and replicas of artifacts related to hunting (arrow; poster), gardening and food gathering (bone and wooden hoe), sewing (bone needle and sinew thread; applique), weaving (bone cattail matting needle), household tasks, housing (cattail mat), decoration and clothing (porcupine quills and woven belts), games (pin-toss), ceremonies (gourd rattle, wooden ladle), trade, and even political organization (flag, land deed).

The accompanying, interactive CD-ROM, funded by Humanities Iowa and 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. Topics covered include: Anthology, Artifacts, Audio, Census, Culture (education, history, food sources, pow wow, recreation), Documents, Housing, Language, Maps, Movies, Photographs, Timeline, Glossary, Lessons, Credits, and a Bibliography. Additional videos and CDROM supplement this information. A teacher's resource notebook includes: Brief Summary of Meskwaki History; Tribal Fact Sheet; Excerpt from *Meskwaki Material Culture* (Van Stone 1998); A Meskwaki Drawing, (Torrence 1988); 1857 Deed for Land Purchase in Tama County; Lesson Plans; "Animals Don't Cover their Tracks." Laminated images (mat-covered lodge; wooden bowl; woven bag; charm bag, land cessions, modern scenes) and posters (*Edible Wild Plants of the Meskwaki Nation* courtesy of Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development; Wacoshashe's drawings, courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa).

Resources include: (Printed) *Iowa's P.A.S.T.: A Classroom Manual for the Video Series* (Hoyer), *Iowa's Archaeological Past* (Alex), *We Are Mesquakie*, *We Are One* (Irwin), *Charlie Young Bear* (Ahnen), *ōMequakie Chief Poweshiek's Feathered Cape* (Anderson, reprint); (Videos) *The Mesquakie Indians* (P.A.S.T. Series), *How to Sew a Cattail Mat* (Schultz), Excerpt from *Lead Mining* (National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium); and (CD ROMs) *Meskwaki History* (Bennett and State Historical Society of Iowa), *Understanding the Pow-Wow* (UI American Indian-Native Studies Program).

Contents: laminated visuals, books, posters, resource notebook (including lesson plans grade 4-8), videos, CD ROMs, artifacts and replicas.

***Dairy on the Prairie:*** Funded by a grant from the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, this trunk and accompanying exhibit (which may be borrowed separately), tell the story of pioneer Iowa, especially dairy, as elucidated by the contributions of historic archaeology. It includes artifacts and replica items illustrating real discoveries from a series of archaeological sites in Jones County and other period replicas related to dairying. These include building and construction materials, household articles, personal items and clothing remnants, glass and ceramic containers, toys, corn cobs and seeds, domestic animal bones, and dairy artifacts. With the accompanying resources, activities, and lesson plans, geared to the 4th-8th grade, it illustrates what these discoveries tell us about a pioneer farming community and early dairying in Iowa. Lessons and activities are geared to the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades and address National Standards, Iowa social studies requirements, and Iowa history benchmarks.

Resources include (Printed): *Iowa's Archaeological Past* (Alex), *Discovering Archaeology: An Activity Guide for Educators* (Schermer), *Little Dairy on the Prairie* (Peterson, Kernek, and Rogers), *Little House in the Big Woods* (Wilder), *Pioneer Dictionary* (Kalman and Lewis), *Goldfinch*, 2(3) February 1981: Early Agriculture, *Goldfinch* 7(2) November 1985: Life on the Iowa Prairies, *Goldfinch* 9(1) September 1987: The Iowa Territory's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday, *Palimpsest* 69(2) Summer 1988: Iowa Territory Sesquicentennial, *Goldfinch* 14(2) Winter 1992: Doing Local History, *Goldfinch* 11(3) February 1990: Family Farms.

Selected readings and reprints from the *Goldfinch*, *Palimpsest*, and *Annals of Iowa* include:

ōFrom Hand Churn to Creameryö *Goldfinch* 2(2) November 1980, ōBowen's Prairieö *Palimpsest* June 1928, ōFrom Churns to Butter Factoriesö *Annals of Iowa* 49(7) Winter 1989,

ōReminiscences of a Pioneer Boy: Ellison Orrö *Annals of Iowa* Reprint Winter/Spring 1971.

(Videos) *Schools to Careers: Mark Anderson, the Archaeologist, Holy Cow* (DVD also available), *Unlocking the Fertile Prairie: A Video Tour of Living History Farms; (DVD) Modern Methods in Iowa Archaeology.*

Contents: laminated visuals, books, posters, resource notebook (including lesson plans/activities grade 4-8), videos, DVDs, artifacts and replicas.

**PLEASE NOTE: This trunk and exhibit cannot be shipped. Users must arrange to pick up and return to the Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa in Iowa City.**