



Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
1725 State Street
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601
Phone: 608-785-6473
Web site: <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/>



The following lessons were created by **Nancy Jacobsen**, a teacher participating in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers entitled Touch the Past: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Region.

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Archaeology Opportunities for Educators in Northeastern Iowa

Grade Level: 4-12

Subjects: All Core subjects when using integrated models and the Visual Arts

Objectives: Provide information to educators on the following:

1. Archeological Parks for Field Trips
2. Extended-Education Opportunities for Educators
3. Volunteer Opportunities

Background: My interest in the prehistoric people in the Upper Midwest was first experienced during frequent childhood visits to what is now known as the Black Hawk State Historic Site in Rock Island, Illinois. A human skeleton on display made a lasting impression. (The skeleton has since been identified as John Long, one of the three men convicted of the murder of Colonel George Davenport on Rock Island in 1845. Its presence at the museum is odd, as it has nothing to do with the story of the Saukenuk Village that was located nearby.) Later, I visited Dickson Mounds, located in Lewiston in west central Illinois at the confluence of the Illinois and Spoon Rivers. At the time of my visit to Dickson Mounds in the late 1960's, 248 human skeletons were visible (the site was resealed in 1992). Both of these experiences are now time bound, as the viewing of skeletal remains is no longer appropriate or even possible to use when "telling the story" of prehistoric inhabitants in the Upper Midwest.

Numerous archaeological sites are located in Northeast Iowa. Many are suited for school sponsored field trips. Since looking at human remains and artifacts where they are found is not part of the experience when visiting these sites, interpreting what one can view at these prehistoric sites is an important part of pre-planning and pre-teaching and is also necessary at the sites to provide context to students. Generally speaking, students benefit positively by visiting prehistoric sites starting at about the 4th grade level; plus, at this level, visiting state prehistoric sites starts to fit well within the curriculum for Social Studies. In fact, most Iowa students who visit archeological parks on an organized trip are between 4th and 6th grade.

The following is a list of Archaeology Parks located in northeastern Iowa in the Driftless Area:

1. Fish Farm Mounds State Preserve, near New Albin
2. Slinde Mounds State Preserve, near Hanover (access can be difficult - no facilities)
3. Effigy Mounds National Monument, near Marquette
4. Pike's Peak State Park, near McGregor
5. Turkey River Mounds State Preserve, near Millville

Additional Archaeology Parks suitable for school field trips in and near northeastern Iowa include:

1. Little Maquoketa River Mounds State Preserve, near Dubuque
2. Catfish Creek State Preserve, Mines of Spain Recreation Area, near Dubuque
3. Bellevue State Park, near Bellevue
4. Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center, near Cedar Rapids (offers extensive programming)
5. Toolesboro Mounds State Preserve, 20 miles southeast of Muscatine
6. James Weed Park in Muscatine

Many Area Education Agencies, colleges and universities offer specific coursework and other professional development experiences to educators with an interest in archaeology or related fields. These may be of interest to educators who want to broaden their skill base prior to teaching about archaeology (there is no specific endorsement for "archeology" issued by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners).

Many National and State Parks offer special programming, as do Park and Recreation Departments, Conservation Boards and museums in larger urban areas.

The annual summer teacher institutes offered at Effigy Mounds National Monument are extremely popular with educators and fill up within two weeks of their on-line offering in mid-January. These recertification and/or graduate credit courses are offered on six Saturdays in the summer and include both prehistory and historical information. Teachers can pick from and attend one or more sessions that interest them and the cost for attending (\$25.00 per Saturday, which includes transportation during the 9 hour sessions and lunch) is extremely reasonable. Another program offered at Effigy Mounds for teachers each summer is the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher (TRT) position. Educators selected for this unique position perform duties related to interpretations and development of curriculum. Teachers also explored in-depth aspects of a specific park within the National Park Service and can share their experiences with other professionals and students. Aspects of this program include participation in National Park week activities in their classroom. The National Park Service has a paid opportunity that may fit educators and college students, specifically Summer Fulltime Seasonal employment positions which are paid positions. Other professional development opportunities, such as the NEH Summer Institute for Educators at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, are also available and worth further exploration.

Many educators and other members of the general public are also interested in sharing their knowledge of the prehistory time period with students in the school setting and with the general public on weekends, during the summer or in retirement. Volunteer opportunities are available through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the County Park system (i.e. Wickiup). While limited in scope (many serve as park hosts and include providing interpretation as an aside) they do offer the opportunity to share a love of archaeology. The National Park Service has several types of volunteer opportunities. Volunteers at Effigy Mounds have many different avenues where they can give time, including interpretation, curating, maintenance, resource management, assistance at special events, and park administration. Summer Fulltime Seasonal employment opportunities, which are paid positions, are also available through the National Park System and may be ideal for teachers and college students. A wide variety of specific tasks may be done by these employees.

I had the opportunity to interview a Volunteer Park Ranger at Effigy Mounds National Monument. Mr. Jerry Mays has been a volunteer for four years. He shared that the application process for volunteering as an interpreter at a National Park Site is much more complicated than at a state or other locally run site or as a volunteer in most school systems. His application to be a volunteer Park Ranger was 10 pages long and took 7 months to clear through channels in the Department of the Interior. He is, for all intents and purposes, a Park Ranger and his role is that of an interpreter - specifically, he interprets data to the public. Prior to being allowed to serve as an interpreter for visitors, he had to pass the same on-line courses that paid Park Rangers take, including Interpretation, History of the National Park Service, How to Give Tours, EEOC, Safety and General History of the United States. He also had to read local resources, books and pass approval of the current Head Ranger, Merle Frommelt. As a Volunteer Park Ranger, Mr. Mays must complete and keep current in the same level of training as a paid Park Ranger, including 40 hours of training each May in subjects covering topics related to Safety, Park Regulations, Health and Safety, CPR Training and Invasive Plant Training to name a few. Other volunteer opportunities in the National Park System that do not have interpretation responsibilities have less stringent requirements.

Websites of Interest:

1. This website will provide teachers with summer professional development workshops held at Effigy Mounds National Monument each summer on six Saturday's. Topics covered are varied and cover both prehistoric and historic time frames:

<http://www.nps.gov/efmo/forteachers/professional-development-annual-workshops.htm>

2. This link provides teachers with curriculum guides for Effigy Mounds National Monument:

<http://www.nps.gov/efmo/forteachers/curriculummaterials.htm>

3. This link provides information on planning a field trip to Effigy Mounds National Monument:

<http://www.nps.gov/efmo/forteachers/planfieldtrip.htm>

4. The following link provides information on volunteering at Effigy Mounds National Monument. A volunteer application can also be found on the website:

<http://www.nps.gov/efmo/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm>

5. This web site provides information on Pike's Peak State Park and also includes links to information about volunteering as an Iowa State Park Host. Pike's Peak State Park is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR):

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Destinations/StateParksRecAreas/IowaStateParks/ParkDetails.aspx?ParkID=610141&idAdminBoundary=20>

6. This site contains information on educational opportunities and field trip options at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This park is administered by the Linn County Conservation Board:

<http://www.mycountyparks.com/county/Linn/Park/Wickiup-Hill-Learning-Center-Area.aspx>

Sources:

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Morse-Kahn, Deborah. *A Guide to the Archaeology Parks of the Upper Midwest*. 1. Lanham, MD: Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 2003. 49-69. Print.

Web. <http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Linn/Park/Wickiup-Hill-Learning-Center-Area.aspx>.

Web. <http://www.nps.gov/efmo/index.htm>.

Web. <http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismsites/dickson/history.htm/>.

Web. <http://www.boee.iowa.gov/addition.html>.

Mays, Jerry. *Personal Interview on July 17, 2012 in Harpers Ferry, IA*.