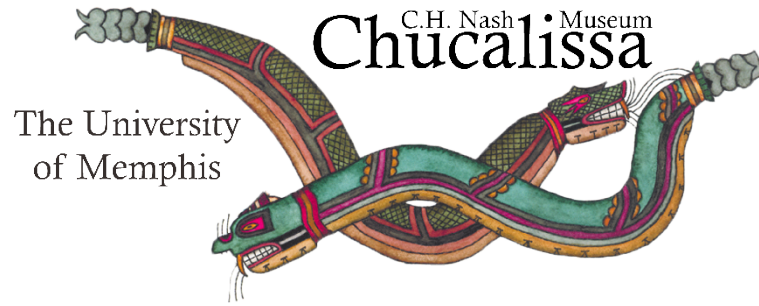




Teacher Information Packet

C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa
1987 Indian Village Drive
Memphis, Tennessee 38109
(901) 785 - 3160
<http://www.memphis.edu/chucalissa/>
Chucalissa@memphis.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS[®]



Dear Teacher,

We take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa. At our Museum, visitors experience a prehistoric American Indian mound complex, a hands-on archaeology laboratory, exhibits on the prehistoric and historic occupations of the region, a nature trail, and a fully certified arboretum, one of the few in the Memphis area. Students gain an appreciation for preserving the past while learning about the science of archaeology, and the fascinating history of both contemporary American Indians and of those who once lived occupied the land prior to European contact.

Today, the C.H. Nash Museum and the Chucalissa site are operated by the University of Memphis. The exhibits and presentations focus on the interpretation of the prehistoric Mississippian culture, the scientific discipline of archaeology, the study of Native Americans of the past and present day, and the African American history of this unique archaeological site.

The earthen mounds at Chucalissa were constructed and occupied between 1000 - 1500 A.D. by people of the Mississippian culture. These Native Americans, or American Indians, occupied nearly the entire Mississippi River Valley from Wisconsin to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippians built platform mounds used for ceremonies and residences of high ranking officials. Some mounds were used as cemeteries for the dead. The Mississippians lived in permanent villages with houses made of mud and thatch. Hunting, fishing and corn agriculture were staples of the Mississippian diet. Chucalissa's prehistoric Indians also participated in a vast trade network and a complex society. Their descendants, including the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Quapaw and Cherokee, are a few of the contemporary tribes that still live in the Midsouth region. Also, the area surrounding the Chucalissa site was the home for many African Americans from the times of slavery to the modern communities.

To prepare for your class visit, this packet contains information about our site and the opportunities available during your visit. These materials will better prepare your students for an educational and enjoyable visit. We encourage you to share this information with other educators.

If you have additional questions or for more information, please feel free to call us at 901-785-3160 or write to chucalissa@memphis.edu. Thank you for choosing the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa. We look forward to your visit.

Sincerely,

Robert Connolly
Museum Director

C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa



The C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa offers a variety of educational opportunities and fun learning experiences for students of all ages. Chucalissa was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1994.

Tours: Guided tours are available for all visiting school groups. Teachers are provided with a visitor's guide containing important points of interest. A Hands-On Archaeology Laboratory Exhibit is available year-round and includes Native American tools and technology, items from their environment, samples of pottery and stone, and mortar and pestle used for grinding corn. Exhibits explore both the prehistoric and historic American Indian cultures of the Midsouth along with the African American experience in the area. The site complex contains a Nature Trail, Arboretum, Museum Store and a Picnic Area. We also offer special programming and craft making opportunities for student groups.

Admission Fee: Student/Children group tours are \$2.00 per person for students and \$3.00 per adult with one free adult per ten students. Please make guided tour reservations at least two weeks in advance.

GROUP RATES AND TOURS REQUIRE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS.

Your Visit to the C.H. Nash Museum: Information for Teachers

- Upon arrival, Teachers should coordinate payment of admission fees at the front desk in the Museum Store.
- A Visitor's Guide containing information about the museum and site is provided to each adult.
- Students first enter the Museum Theater for a welcome and orientation for their scheduled activities.
- After the welcome, if your class contains more than twenty students, we will divide the class into groups and rotate them between the main hall, hands-on lab, and mound complex, in 20 to 30 minute increments. For a minimum tour:
 - 20 minutes is needed in the main hall.
 - 20 minutes is needed in the Hands-On Archaeology Laboratory.
 - 20 minutes is needed for the mound complex.The total tour of the museum and site is one hour.
- In addition to the museum and site tour, we offer an array of activities - including short talks and arts and crafts. The amount of time for these activities varies and can be fashioned to suit your needs. See the attached Activity & Craft sheet for more information.
- Other opportunities to consider during your visit:
 - Nature Trail (a 1/2 mile loop in the woods)
 - Arboretum (along the nature trail)
 - Picnic Area
- If you have special programming requests or ideas please do not hesitate to contact us in advance!
- Please remember that Teachers/Chaperones are responsible for maintaining order with the students. Attention this detail provides a more enjoyable experience for all and allows the museum staff to focus on instruction and student activity.



Special Programs and Presentations at the C.H. Nash Museum

We feature a wide range of educational programs on American Indians of the Midsouth, the history of the Chucalissa site area, and the science of archaeology. Choose from among our Special Programs listed below. All programs last between 20 and 45 minutes and, except as noted, are adaptable to all ages.

Storytelling about Native American Indian Cultures - We offer age-appropriate (K-12) stories that highlight different aspects of Native American culture. The programs range from basic introduction to American Indians of the mid-south to creation beliefs. (20-30 minutes)

Native American Music - The program explores the history of traditional musical instruments along with an actual demonstration. Students will learn about various instruments and ways that music is used in Native American culture. Comparisons with other cultures from throughout the world is also presented. Through a story-telling activity individual students are selected to play different instruments. **For an additional fee of 2.00 per person, each student receives a bamboo flute to use during the program and take home.** (45 minutes)

Trash Talks - Archaeologists excavate through what people left behind, or other peoples garbage. Pretend you are an archaeologist from the future examining the trash of today. What can you learn about our culture from our trash? Examine the modern “artifacts” left behind to discover the lifeways of today. (30 minutes)

From Prehistory to the The Trail of Tears - Explore the presence of American Indians in the Midsouth from 10,000 BC to their forced removal from the region in the 1830s. (25 minutes)

Video Offerings on Native American Culture - We have several video offerings that explore the history and contemporary lives of both the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians. The videos are produced by Native Americans of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw and the Chickasaw Nation. Videos are appropriate for Grades 7-12. (10-20 minutes)

2009 Group Craft Programs at the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa

One of the four crafts below (Basic Beading, Coloring, Paper Weaving, Talking Stick) is included in the cost of group admission:

- Basic Beading: (ages 5 & up) - create your own necklace or bracelet with basic pony beads
- Coloring: (ages 5 & up) students can take the coloring books home with them and continue learning about the Native American people of Chucalissa after they leave the site
- Paper weaving: (ages 5 & up) learn how to weave by creating your own paper place mat.
- Talking Stick: (ages 5 & up) Create your own talking stick and learn how American Indians used these devices to keep order in their meetings.

Along with the crafts available at no additional charge, listed below we are pleased to offer all new craft activities (30 - 45 minutes each) at a cost ranging from \$1.00 - \$2.00 per student.



Beading: (ages 8 & up) create your own bracelet - \$2 each



Paint a snake (ages 6 & up) hear the story of the sinti (snake) and paint your own snake. \$2 each



Weaving (4 choices /age groups): (ages 8 & up) weave a mat or basket. \$2 each



Pottery: (ages 6 & up) make your own vessel, pot, or bowl. \$1 each

Teacher Resources

Books and Resources on Native Americans and Archaeology - K-12

Internet Site Resources

The Tennessee Archaeology Network
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kesmith/TNARCH/>

Dig's Archaeology Guide for Tennessee
<http://www.digonsite.com/guide/tennessee.html>

Society for American Archaeology - click on the Educators link
<http://www.saa.org/>

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
<http://www.choctaw.org/>

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
<http://www.choctawnation.com/>

Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma
<http://www.chickasaw.net/>

American Indian Association of Millington
<http://americanindianassoc.com/>

Books available at the C.H. Nash Museum:

Black Indians by William Loren Katz, Simon and Schuster, 1986

Choctaw Language and Culture by Marcia Haag and Henry Willis, University of Oklahoma, 2001

They Dance in the Sky, Native American Star Myths by Jean Guard Monroe and Ray A. Williamson, Houghton/Mifflin, 1987

Lessons From Turtle Island: Native Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms by Guy W. Jones and Sally Moomaw, Redleaf Press, 2002

More Than Moccasins: A Kid's Activity Guide by Laurie Carlson

Preparing for your visit . . .

Pre-visit Activities - Prepare your students for a visit to Chucalissa by using the available activity sheets and reading the background information. Please share the enclosed materials with other teachers participating in your group visit.

Student Expectations - First and foremost, students are expected to be respectful of the earthworks and artifacts of the American Indians that comprise the C.H. Nash Museum and the Chucalissa site. Please WALK everywhere--no running or horseplay. Stay together as a group and follow your guide. Please, no gum, candy, eating or drinking inside the museum. Deposit trash in a trash can. No touching exhibits except in the Hands-On Archaeology Laboratory Exhibit or with the assistance of a guide.

Proper Dress - Students should wear appropriate comfortable clothing and shoes, and dress for the weather with coats, gloves, rain gear, etc. During the tour, you will walk throughout the museum and the mound complex. Chucalissa is an archaeological site--with dirt, bugs, poison ivy, rain, heat and cold. If your class plans to hike the nature trail, long pants, sturdy shoes, and bug repellent are required.

Parking - Unload your bus or cars directly in front of the Museum. Buses must park in the upper lot near the picnic area to allow for adequate vehicle room.

Payment of Admission Fees - Admission fees must be paid by the day of your visit. The amount of the fees are determined when you schedule your tour, based on the number of participants you report and any additional activity fees. Designate one adult from your group to check-in and make the payment of fees at the admission desk. We need to know the exact number of students, teachers and chaperones in your group. Please make checks payable to the University of Memphis.

Restrooms - We have limited restroom facilities available in the front and back of the museum. As necessary, allow additional time for restroom use.

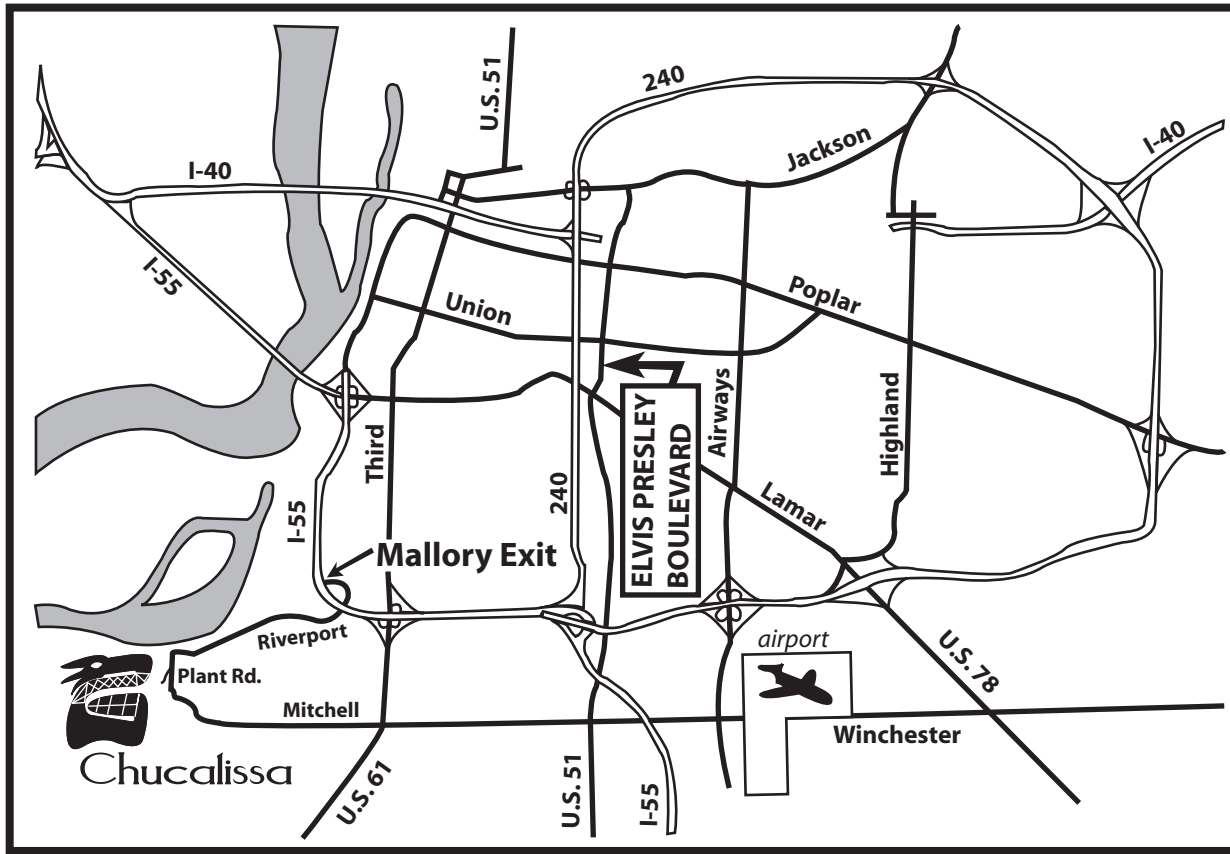
Lunch - Food and Drinks are prohibited in the main hall of the Museum. Open picnic areas are available for students to eat lunch. We can accommodate a limited space for students to each lunch BUT ONLY WITH ADVANCE NOTICE. The T.O. Fuller State Park, adjacent to the Chucalissa site, has several picnic areas and covered shelters. Contact the Park at 901-543-7581 for more information.

Photography - Photographs may be taken inside the museum and outside throughout the mound complex.

Museum Gift Shop - Your class is welcome to browse our gift shop during your visit. Many items are priced at under \$5.00. As well, see the attached flyer for "Grab Bag" options.

Chaperones - Adult chaperones are responsible for maintaining order with the visiting school group, provide learning assistance, and be prepared to help with an activity. Chaperones are required to remain with students throughout the tour. Smoking is allowed only in the parking area in front of the museum.

Directions to Chucalissa



Directions to Chucalissa Museum

Get on I-240 using the most convenient route for you.
Take I-240 South to I-55 North.
Go north on I-55 (St. Louis).
Get off I-55 on Exit 9 and turn right onto Mallory Ave.
Go approx. 100 yards to Riverport Road (after the truck terminal). Turn right.
Go 4 miles to Plant Road. Turn left.
You will see our driveway 1/10 mile on the right side.

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Memphis, TN 38109
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www.chucalissa.org

Because of current road construction on I-55, the Third Ave exit on I-55 or traveling west on Winchester/Mitchell Road may be a more direct route to the Museum

