

TEACHER & GROUP LEADER INFORMATION PACKET

A RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS



C.H. Nash Museum
CHUCALISSA
University of Memphis

1987 Indian Village Drive
Memphis, Tennessee 38109
(901) 785-3160
www.memphis.edu/chucalissa

Dear Teacher or Group Leader,

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, a fully certified arboretum, along with an array of plant species used in medicinal, dye and other activities from the past. At the same time, students learn about the science of archaeology as well as the fascinating history of both contemporary American Indians and of those who once occupied the Chucalissa environment 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, the African American history of this unique archaeological site, and the nature of our 40 acre forested environment.

The earthen mounds at Chucalissa were constructed and occupied between 1000-1500 A.D. by the people of the Mississippian culture who built platform mounds used for ceremonies and residences of high-ranking officials. 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 descendents, including the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Quapaw and Cherokee, are a few of the contemporary tribes that still live in the Mid-South region. The Chucalissa site and the surrounding area was the home for many African Americans from the times of slavery, during the sharecropper era and to the present day.

To prepare for your class visit, this packet contains information about our site and the opportunities available during your visit including:

- A brief overview of what the C.H. Nash Museum has available for your group
- How to make reservations for your group and prepare for your visit
- What to do when your group arrives for their visit and tour
- A description of our educational program and craft offerings along with the appropriate grade level and time to complete each offering. The Teacher Resources link on our website contains the curriculum standards for all of our educational program offerings.

If you have additional questions or need 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, PhD
Museum Director

Group Tours, Exhibits & Programs



- Guided tours are offered to groups of all ages.
- A Hands-On Archaeology Lab gives students the opportunity to learn about the science of archaeology.
- Our *African American Cultural Heritage in Southwest Memphis* exhibit focuses on the historic era community surrounding Chucalissa.
- Our main exhibit gallery interprets prehistoric and contemporary Native American cultures with a focus on the Mid-South and Southeastern United States.
- The forty acres surrounding the museum includes a complex of Native American earthen mounds and ridges, a traditional medicinal garden, a vegetable garden, an arboretum, nature trail, picnic area and replica house.
- The C.H. Nash Museum Store has the largest selection of Native American and archaeological titles in the Mid-South along with educational and gift items. We feature a wide array of handcrafted pieces by Native American artisans.
- With advance registration we offer group special programs and craft activities as listed in the following pages of this information packet.

Group Rate Admission Fees

Our student/child group rate is \$3.00 per person. The rate for accompanying adults/chaperones is \$4.00 per person. For every ten students, one adult receives free admission.

Making Your Reservation

So that we have adequate time to prepare for your group visit, please make reservations two weeks in advance of your intended visit. You may call 901-785-3160 or email inquiries to chucalissa@memphis.edu.

Preparing For Your Visit

Pre-visit Activities: For pre- and post-visit activities, please visit our web site at www.memphis.edu/chucalissa where you will find a link to our Teacher Resources page containing additional activities.

Student Expectations: All students must show respect to the Earthworks and Native American artifacts located throughout the Chucalissa site. Everyone must remain together as a group and follow the tour guide. There is no food, drink, gum, or candy allowed in the Museum. Students are only allowed to touch and pick up artifacts in the Hands-On Archaeology Lab with supervision of a tour guide.

Proper Dress: A reservation includes a tour of the central mound complex located outside of the museum. Students and adults must wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate seasonal dress for walking outside. If you choose to hike our Nature Trail and Arboretum, you will encounter bugs, dirt, and poison ivy. Poison ivy is found in the woods in general but not the trails.

Parking: Automobiles and buses must unload students, chaperones, and teachers at the front door of the Museum. Buses are to park in the picnic area located in our upper parking lot. There is a parking lot for additional automobiles.

Admission Fees: Admission fees must be paid on or before the day of your visit. Please coordinate your group to make one single payment. Fees are based on the number of students and adults in your group as well as additional craft activity fees. Designate one adult in your group to coordinate payment upon your arrival. Please make sure to update your payment according to the number of people in your group. We cannot make change for overages of pre-printed checks. We accept cash, check and credit cards. All checks must be made payable to the University of Memphis.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located in the front and rear of the Museum. There is a handicap-accessible restroom in the rear of the Museum. Please allocate time for your group to have restroom breaks.

Lunch: Lunch may not be eaten in the Museum or central mound complex. We have designated picnic areas for snacks and lunch. The T.O. Fuller State Park, located adjacent to Chucalissa, has several picnic and pavilion areas. Call the T.O. Fuller Park Office at 901-543-7581 for more information.

Photography: Still and video photography are allowed throughout the Museum and Earthworks.

Museum Store: Only ten students are allowed in the Museum Store at one time. You may wish to consider our Grab Bags for your students (more information at the end of this brochure).

Chaperones: Adult chaperones are responsible for maintaining order with the visiting school group, providing learning assistance, and possibly helping with activities. Chaperones are required to remain with students throughout the store.

Weather: In the event of inclement weather conditions, outside tours may be replaced with additional indoor programs.

On the Day of Your Visit

- Upon arrival, please make a single payment at the Front Desk in the Museum store. Payments may be cash, check, or credit card. All checks must be made out to the University of Memphis. **Checks must be for the exact amount. We cannot give cash change for checks written for more than the actual fee amount.**
- After payment, teachers are given a group agenda. These agendas include an itinerary of the tour, programs, crafts, and names of tour guides.
- Students enter the Museum's auditorium for an orientation and introductory video.
- After the introductory video and orientation, tour guides begin rotating students through the Hands-On Laboratory, the *African American Cultural Heritage of Southwest Memphis* exhibit, the main museum hall that focus on prehistoric and modern Native American cultures, and the central mound complex. Guided tours last about one hour and 30 minutes (20 minutes each for orientation/video, Hands-On Laboratory, main museum hall and central mound complex).
- In addition to the guided tour, we offer a variety of activities for your group. The following page contains a list of available programs and crafts. You may choose one program and one craft when making your reservation. If you have a request for special programming, please call the Katie Maish at 901-785-3160 ext. 12.
- Other opportunities to consider during your visit include our 1/2 mile Nature Trail, Plant Sanctuary, and Arboretum. We also have a picnic area for your convenience.
- Please remember that teachers and chaperones are responsible for maintaining order and appropriate student behavior. Your attention to this detail is critical to be certain our tour guides can provide an educational and enjoyable experience for all participants.



Educational Programs at the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa

Native American Music



Grades: K-8 and special needs

Time: 45 minutes

The program explores the history and provides a demonstration of traditional Native American musical instruments. Students will learn about various instruments and ways the music is used in Native American culture. Comparisons with other cultures from throughout the world are also presented. Through a storytelling activity, individual students are selected to play different instruments. Students also participate in a fun drumming circle activity! For an additional fee of \$3.50 per person, each student receives a bamboo flute to use during the program that they may take home.

Prehistory to Trail of Tears

Grades: 4-12

Time: 30 minutes

Explore the presence of American Indians in the Mid-South from 10,000 B.C. to their forced removal from the region in the 1830s. This program details the archaeological evidence found of Native Americans throughout the United States including Earthworks complexes such as the Serpent Mound in Ohio, Poverty Point in Louisiana, and Cahokia Mounds in Illinois. The program also discusses and analyzes the different stereotypes of Native Americans and emphasizes the diversity among tribes. The program also points to the role of Native Americans as individuals and communities in contemporary North American culture.

Mystery Box



Grades: 3-8

Time: 30-45 minutes

Participants in our Mystery Box activity have the opportunity to handle and interpret the same types of artifacts that archaeologists excavate from West Tennessee sites. In an introduction to the activity, students learn that archaeology is a scientific exercise and not a treasure hunt as often displayed in popular media. In groups of four, students are then assigned a Mystery Box that contains actual historic and/or prehistoric artifacts which they sort, inventory, and interpret. Throughout the activity students learn about the cultures that produced the artifacts. The students record their findings while considering the artifact's function, the raw materials used to manufacture the artifact, and whether the object was used by historic or prehistoric peoples. Prehistoric artifacts include pottery, projectile points, stone tools, and animal bones. Historic artifacts include bottles, ceramics, metal objects, and plastics. After interpreting their own Mystery Box, each student group compares the similarities and differences of the culture represented by their artifacts with that of groups. The activity concludes with a discussion of the types of artifacts that we leave behind today that will be interpreted by future generations of archaeologists.

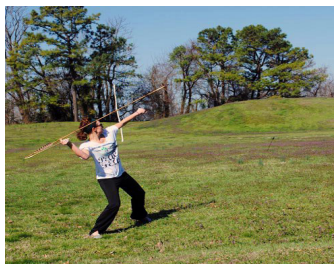
Trash Talks

Grades: 4-12

Time: 30 minutes

Archaeologists excavate through what people left behind, or other people's 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. The program emphasizes the importance of the conservation of cultural and natural resources.

Native American Sports & Hunting



Grades: Pre-K - 12 for program as well as chunky and stickball activities, 6-12 for atlatl activity

Time: 30-45 minutes

Native American Sports & Hunting is a program offered to students of all ages, providing an exciting and interactive opportunity to play and learn about traditional sports and games including chunky and stickball as well as hunting with spears and atlatls. This program promotes learning and physical fitness. We invite students to participate in a hands-on game and hunting experience on our central mound plaza!

African American History of Southwest Memphis

Grades: 3-12

Time: 30 minutes

This program complements the C.H. Nash Museum's recently installed exhibit, *The African American Cultural Heritage of Southwest Memphis* created in the summer of 2010 by nine area high school students. The exhibit features a 20 minute documentary that was created by the students. The interactive activities of the program chronicle the events, people, and life in Southwest Memphis from the Civil War to the present day through games and role playing.

Prehistoric Stone Tools and Weapons

Grades: 4 - 12

Time: 45 minutes



This program is a truly unique offering in the Mid-South. Students handle and learn about a wide range of prehistoric stone tools. They learn that prehistoric stone tools commonly referred to as arrowheads actually served many different purposes such as use as knives, drills, and scrapers. Comparisons are drawn between the technologies of prehistory and the present day. All of the artifacts used in this program are authentic, some several thousand years old. Weather permitting, the program concludes with each student having the opportunity to throw a dart with a type of hunting tool in use for the past 10,000 years known as an atlatl. Because of the unique nature of this program, group size is limited to 20 participants.

What is Archaeology?

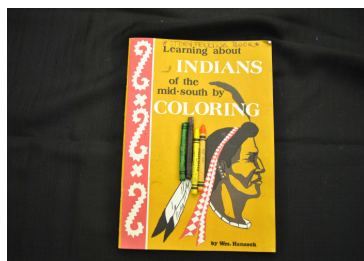
Grades: 4 - 12

Time: 30 minutes

The "What is Archaeology?" program allows students to appreciate how archaeologists interpret the significance of the use, age, and location of excavated artifacts. The program is ideal for learning about lifeways ranging from prehistoric hunter-gatherers to the "garbage" left behind by our contemporary society. In this interactive program, students are challenged to interpret the typical types of garbage or artifacts that archaeologists excavate from both prehistoric and historic sites.

Educational Craft Activities at the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa

Coloring Books



Grades: PreK - 2

Cost: Free

This craft includes a brief history of Native Americans who lived in the Mid-South from 900 A.D. to 1500 A.D. The story is accompanied by blank illustrations. Students color in the illustrations while learning about Native American prehistory.

Simple Beading



Grades: PreK - 12

Cost: Free

Simple Beading consists of one piece of yarn and eight beads students use to make a necklace or bracelet. This activity includes a short lesson on Native American jewelry and color symbolism.

Talking Sticks



Grades: 3 - 12

Cost: Free

Talking Sticks are made from a popsicle stick, feathers, strings, and markers. Only the person holding the talking stick is allowed to speak in a group!

Pottery

Grades: 4-12

Cost: \$1.00

This program includes a lesson on Native American pottery and the use of clay. Your student receives a piece of clay and is taught how to make a pinch pot.

Snake Painting



Grades: 4 - 12

Cost: \$2.00 per student

Students creatively decorate a wooden snake with paint. They are taught the Choctaw story of the *Sinti* ("snake" in the Choctaw language) along with color symbolism in Native American culture.

Basket Weaving



Grades: 6 - 12

Cost: \$2.00 per student

This craft teaches students the basic technique of Native American basket weaving and the color symbolism used in Native American dress, ornamentation, art, and pottery.

Dream Catcher



Grades: 5 - 12

Cost: \$2.50 per student

The program includes a history and significance of the dream catcher in Native American culture. Students make a dream catcher using their choice of bead and feather colors.

Storytelling and Videos

We offer several video choices that explore the history of contemporary lives of Native Americans of the Mid-South. Our most popular video offerings include:

The Rough Face Girl

Grades K - 5, 25 minutes

This animated story from the Raven Tales series is told by a frog and teaches the young character (Dza) and children today that true beauty lies within.

How Rabbit Lost His Tail

Grades 4 - 8, 8 minutes

This humorous cartoon story is told in the traditional Chickasaw language with English subtitles.

When the Rabbit Stops Dancing

Grades 6 - 12, 17 minutes

This film traces the history of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Neshoba County Reservation in Mississippi from one of the poorest in the United States to their modern economic success.

Black Indians: An American Story

Grades 9 - 12, 55 minutes

Narrated by James Earl Jones, this film explores the common struggles faced by African Americans and Native Americans. Family memories and historical highlights explore the unique ancestries and influence throughout the generations.

An Enduring Nation: Short History of the Chickasaw Nation

Grade 6 - 12, 12 minutes

This film traces the history of the Chickasaw Nation from their origins to present day in Oklahoma where they are leaders in economic development while retaining their rich cultural heritage.

Group Agenda Example

Please note that this is a general sample. Time and activity order may vary depending upon group size.

Memphis Elementary

January 1, 2014

20 Students

10 Adults

9:30am - 11:45am

Stations:

Auditorium

Hands-On Laboratory

Classroom

Main Museum Hall

Central Mound Plaza (outdoors)

Tour Guides:

Samantha

Carolyn

Agenda:

9:30am - 9:45am

Group arrival/Introductory Video in Auditorium

9:45am - 10:05am

Tour of Hands-On Laboratory

10:05am - 10:30am

Scavenger Hunt in Main Museum Hall

10:30am - 10:50am

Educational Craft in Classroom

10:50am - 11:15am

Educational Program (usually in Auditorium but varies by program)

11:15am - 11:30am

Tour of Central Mound Plaza

C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa Grab Bags

Is your group interested in purchasing merchandise during your visit? Consider ordering grab bags in advance!

Students and/or teachers may make choices before visiting the museum. Teachers collect money in one lump sum in advance and pay upon arrival. Museum staff assembles grab bags that will be ready upon group arrival. Teachers can distribute packages at their convenience. Time can be spent learning, not waiting in line!

Grab Bag Options

\$3.00

Includes:

- 1 Chucalissa pencil
- 1 Chucalissa postcard
- 1 reproduction arrowhead
- 1 dreamcatcher necklace

\$5.00

Includes:

- 1 Chucalissa pencil
- 1 Chucalissa postcard
- 1 reproduction arrowhead
- 1 dreamcatcher necklace
- 1 animal figurine

If you are interested in purchasing grab bags, please contact Katie Maish at 901-785-3160 ext. 12 or chucalissa@memphis.edu to place an order. Thank you!