



LESSON PLAN

A large, stylized illustration of a bright orange sun with numerous thin rays emanating from it. Below the sun are several rolling hills or mountains in shades of green and brown. The title "Effigy Mounds" is written in a large, dark brown, serif font, with "Effigy" on the top line and "Mounds" on the bottom line, centered over the mountain range.

Effigy Mounds

Camp Effigy
I A M WATSON

DATE:
SESSION:
ROOM:

TIME:
CLASS:

OUTCOMES:

Cultural Awareness: Students will understand the cultural and spiritual significance of Effigy Mounds created by ancient Native American tribes.

Personal Expression: Students will create mini Effigy Mounds of personal significance.

Critical Thinking: Students will engage in critical thinking during discussions, reflecting on their chosen symbols and the broader cultural context of Effigy Mounds.

LESSON SEQUENCE

Intro (15 min): Show images and share stories related to the different shapes and symbols represented in Effigy Mounds. Discuss a timeline these mounds.

Interactive Activity (30 minutes): Encourage students to think about a symbol that holds significance for them. Instruct students to use air-dry clay to create their own mini Effigy Mound, incorporating their chosen symbol(s).

Discussion (15 minutes):

1. Ask students to share the symbols they chose and why.
2. Connect their creations to the cultural and spiritual aspects of Effigy Mounds, exploring the idea of personal symbolism in art.
3. Why do you think Effigy Mounds are important to preserve?
4. What questions would you want to ask a person from the tribes who built the Effigy Mounds?

Conclusion (10 minutes):

Summarize the key points about Effigy Mounds and their cultural significance. Emphasize the importance of understanding and appreciating diverse cultures and their historical contributions. Encourage students to take their dried mini Effigy Mounds home as a tangible reminder of the lesson.

Extension Activity (10-20 minutes):

Invite students to draw the outline of their mound and create a short reflection on their mini Effigy Mounds, explaining the symbolism and personal meaning behind their chosen symbols. Display these reflections in the classroom or create a class "Effigy Mound Gallery."

MATERIALS

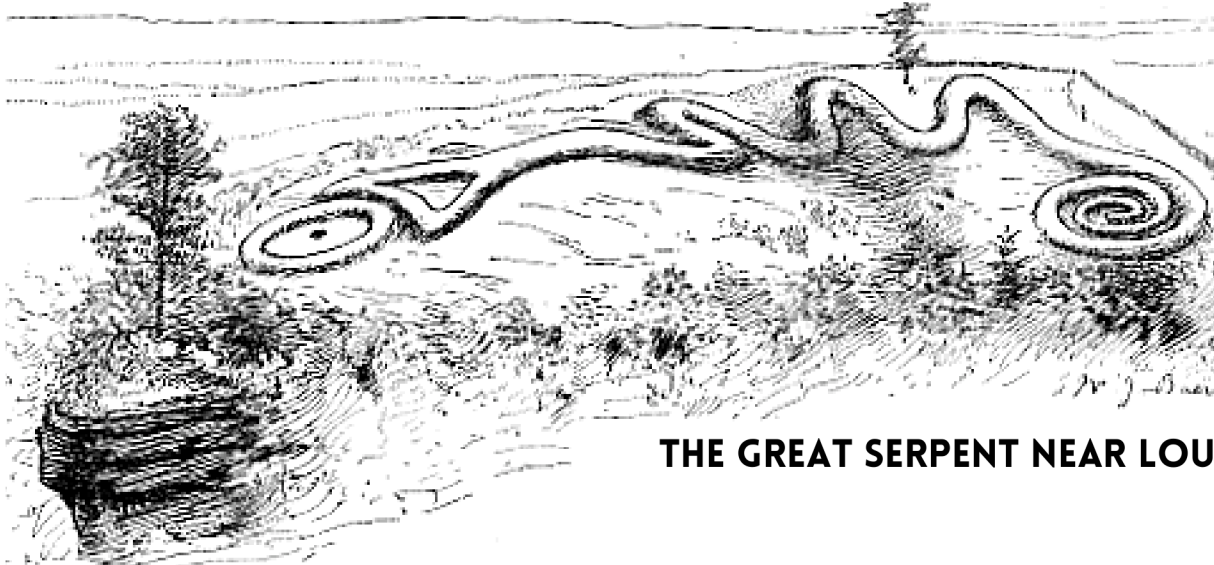
This printable lesson packet

Air dry clay

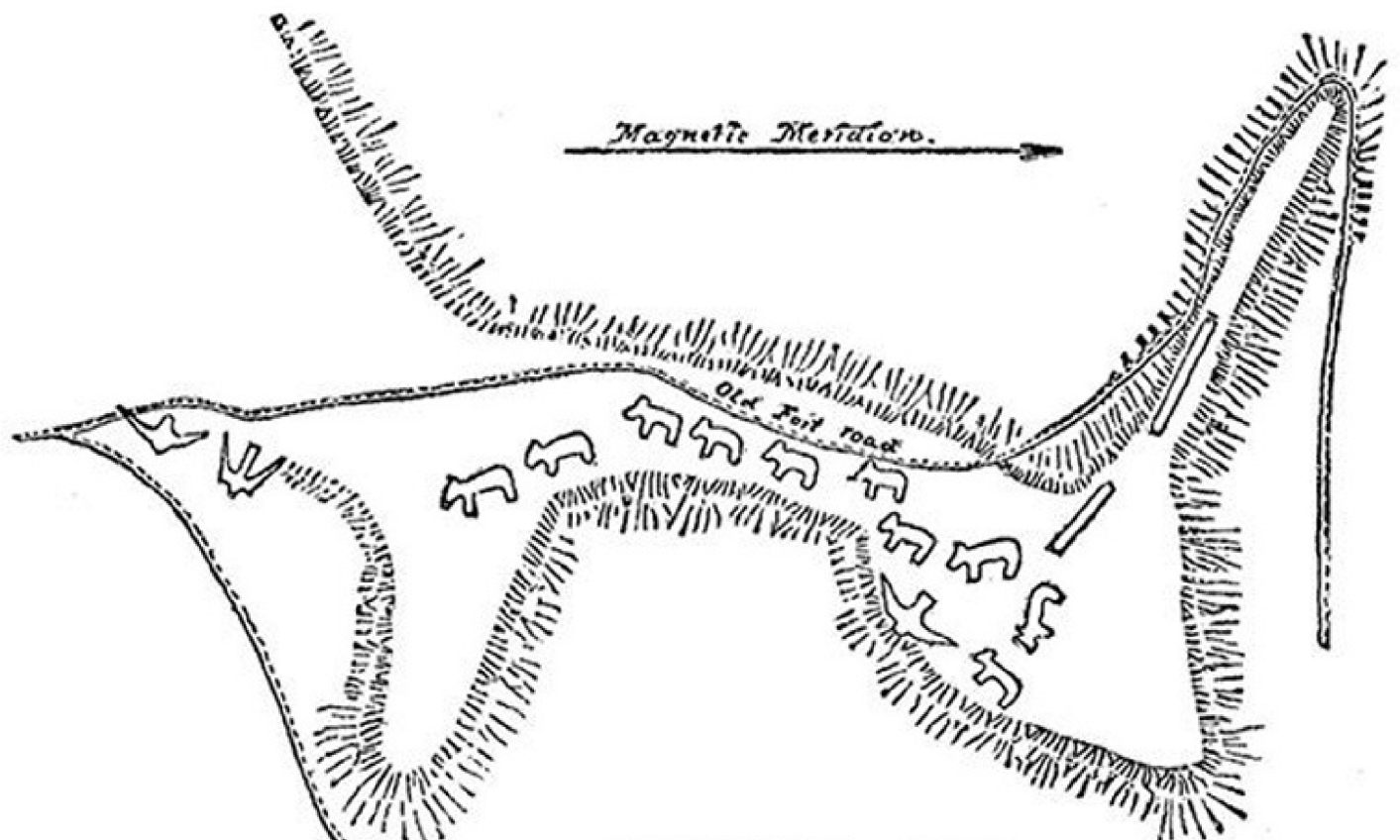
Optional sculpting tools

Drawing and writing tools

PETROGLYPHS (CAVE PAINTINGS) IN WISCONSIN THAT RESEMBLE EFFIGY MOUNDS



THE GREAT SERPENT NEAR LOUDIN, OHIO



EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL PARK IN NORTHEAST IOWA



HOW WERE THEY BUILT?

Building Effigy Mounds involved carefully stacking layers of earth by hand to create shapes like animals and symbols, which took a long time. This not only showed their artistic skill but also their deep respect for spiritual and ceremonial aspects of life. Effigy Mounds tell a lasting story of how clever and culturally rich these ancient Native American tribes were.

WHY ARE THEY SPECIAL?

Effigy Mounds are cool because they represent the skilled craftsmanship and cultural legacy of ancient Native American tribes, including the Hopewell and the Mississippian cultures. These tribes, with advanced knowledge of earthworking techniques, shaped the land into these intricate forms. What makes them even more fascinating is their profound spiritual and ceremonial significance. The mounds were not just random shaped hills; they were beautiful representations of animals or symbols, serving as sacred spaces for important rituals and ceremonies. In essence, Effigy Mounds embody a rich tapestry of Native American history, blending cultural richness, spirituality, and technological achievements into a unique and enduring legacy. They have stood the test of time despite modern farming practices and erosion, and they are worth protecting and honoring.

WHO BUILT THEM?

Archeologists believe that the Hopewell Native Americans were probably the first to create Effigy Mounds. They were talented builders. After them, the Mississippian cultures continued the tradition. These tribes were advanced in farming, using the three-sisters system with corn, beans, and squash. Their lives were filled with spiritual ceremonies, showing how connected they were to the land.

WHAT ARE THEY FOR?

Effigy Mounds have long been a source of curiosity and debate. The prevailing notion is that these mounds carried spiritual significance for the Native American communities that built them. Often resembling animals or symbolic figures, these earthen effigies played a role in ceremonies of the tribes. The precise alignment and construction of these mounds were very intentional, possibly aligning with astronomical events.

Effigy Mounds

Timeline

200 BCE - 500 BCE



The Mississippian tribes kept the tradition of building Effigy Mounds alive.

The Hopewell built Effigy Mounds all across the Americas.

800 BCE - 1300 CE



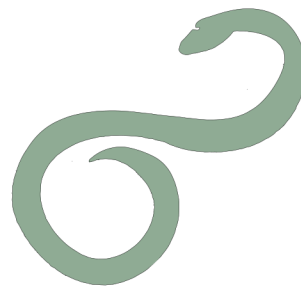
Shifts in techniques and practices lead to a decline in Effigy Mounds.

1300 - 1900



Effigy Mound National Park was formed and archeologists try to protect these mounds.

1940 - TODAY

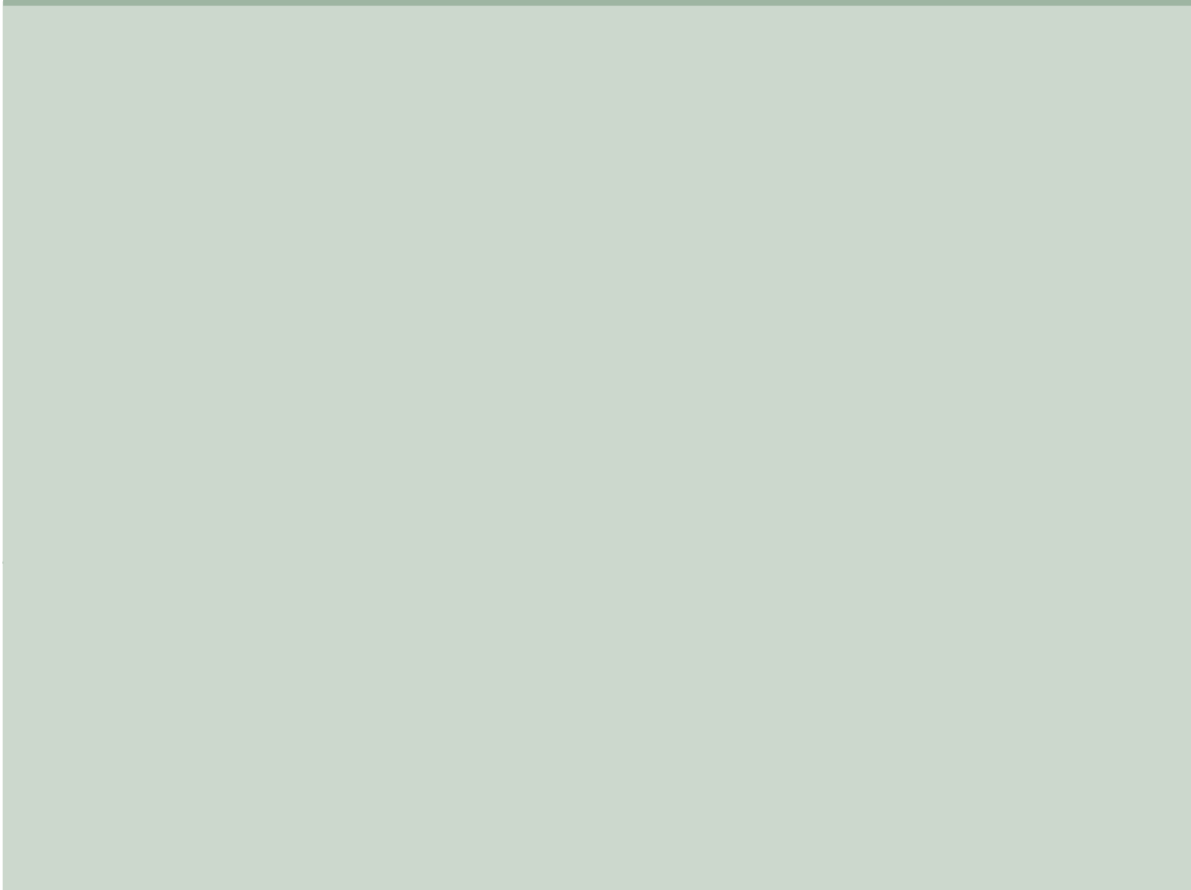


My Own Effigy Mound



SYMBOLS THAT MEAN SOMETHING TO ME

DRAW YOUR EFFIGY MOUND HERE



THE MEANING OF THIS MOUND TO ME
