



Moundville Native American Virtual Festival Teacher Packet

Table of Contents

Page	Title
2	Letter to Teachers
3	Letter to Students
4	What is a Virtual Festival?
5	Pricing Structure for the Virtual Festival
6	Educator Portal and How to Access Online Content



Dear teachers,

Welcome to the Moundville Native American Festival by Moundville Archaeological Park! We are excited to offer this event for the first time virtually. The virtual festival will offer all of the programs, education, and events you expect with the same care for visitors' safety. Our staff and on-line Native Americans presenters and demonstrators are looking forward to sharing their knowledge of the culture and heritage of Southeastern Indians with you.

So, what is a virtual festival? A virtual festival is a collection of virtual content that is both recorded and live. You will have access to all of this content from a password-protected website. Content is available every day of the festival at 9:00, 11:00, and 1:00, which includes performances, interviews, craft demonstrations, and more! For a complete schedule of events, please refer to your packet. The admission fee gives you access to all of this content. You also have the option of purchasing materials kits for your students to follow along with the craft demonstrations.

Included in this packet is everything you might need to know about the virtual Moundville Native American Festival. Please refer to your table of contents for a list of included information. For any questions outside of this information, don't hesitate to contact us.

We hope you and your students enjoy this virtual event. We are excited to introduce you to the talented, knowledgeable, and passionate vendors, performers, and demonstrators that make up the Moundville Native American Festival and give you a glimpse into their work and expertise. We hope that you come away with a better understanding of Southeastern Indian culture, past and present, and a new vision of Moundville Archaeological Park.

Sincerely,

Moundville Archaeological Park Education Staff



Dear students,

Close your eyes and imagine a field of grass as far as the eye can see. A bright blue sky is overhead with fluffy white and grey clouds dotting here and there. You see the silhouette of a bird making swooping circles near the clouds and landing in a nearby tree. You notice that this field is surrounded by trees all along the edge, except for the winding river flowing at the far end of the field. Now imagine this field also has some curious-looking hills. These don't look like hills you are used to seeing. They are much taller and have flat tops. There are several all over the field. These are mounds and you are pretty sure that they are something special. And you'd be right.

What you are picturing is a place called Moundville. Today, a museum and park sit on this site, but 800 years ago, Moundville was a thriving city with people moving all around; artisans making pottery, families buying goods, friends visiting each other, people going to religious services, kids playing games, sports tournaments with spectators watching on. The museum and park there today work to preserve and share Moundville's culture and history, both past and present, and one way it does that is through the Moundville Native American Festival. Normally, this festival is a big outdoor event, but this year, the festival is a virtual event that will come right into your classroom!

The festival is a special time at Moundville Archaeological Park. Suppose you take that first picture of Moundville that you built in your mind and add lots of big white tents. There will be food stands with the smell of delicious fried bread wafting in the breeze, flute and drum music coming from the stage, craft areas where you can make necklaces and rattles or buy lots of things, and demonstrators showing you how they spin their yarn or make arrowheads from rocks; you'll have a pretty good picture of what it's like. While we won't include every part of the festival in this virtual event, but we have been able to include almost all of it.

Your teacher will show you some videos and activities that will teach you all about Moundville and the people who lived there. They will also let you meet Southeastern Indian musicians, filmmakers, storytellers, demonstrators, and artisans that will teach you more about Southeastern Indian culture, both past and present. We hope you enjoy this event. If you have any questions, please let your teacher know so that he/she can contact us. We'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Moundville Archaeological Park Education Staff



How does a virtual festival compare to the in-person festival?

### **SAME**

- There is an admission fee
- You will need a purchase order number for your registration
- Activities correlated to ALEX and national standards
- Musical performances, artisan demonstrations, historical reenactors
- There will be crafts from the “Children’s Area”
- Southeastern Indian culture will be at the heart of all activities
- The history of the Moundville site is a thread throughout the event
- We are available for any questions or concerns you may have

### **DIFFERENT**

- The pricing structure has changed. Please refer to the pricing structure in this packet.
- All performances, demonstrations, and crafts are accessed via password protected website
- The password is only sent after successful paid registration
- All content will be released at the same times each day. Please refer to the schedule of events in this packet.
- Crafts supplies for your class may be purchased for an extra fee



Moundville Native American Virtual Festival

Pricing Structure




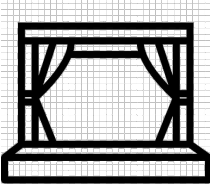
WHAT?	COST	# OF STUDENTS
Access to exclusive content	\$35	Per class
Craft materials for exclusive craft content (optional but recommended)	\$5	Per student
Shipping for craft materials	\$12	Per class

Pricing examples:

**One class of 25 students**

Price to access exclusive content for whole class.....\$35  
 Craft materials for each student.....\$5 x 25 = \$125  
 Shipping for craft materials.....\$12  
 TOTAL.....**\$172**

*Your \$35 class fee includes:*

-  Six Days of Exclusive Online Content
-  Access to Educator's Portal
-  One-on-one Conversations with Artists, Performers, and Experts
-  Access to Live Musical and Dance Performances



## Educator's Portal

### How to Access Online Content

Once you register with the Moundville Education Staff (Lisa Rasco, [llrasco@ua.edu](mailto:llrasco@ua.edu)) you will receive a password to access an exclusive YouTube channel where online content will be posted every day at 9:00, 11:00, and 1:00.

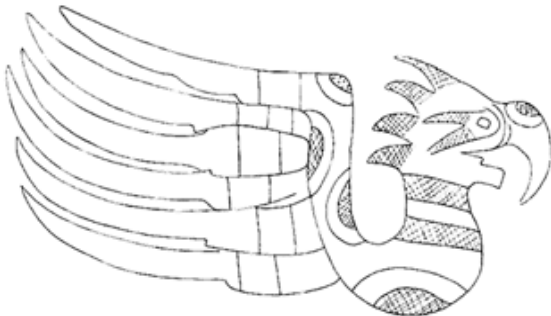
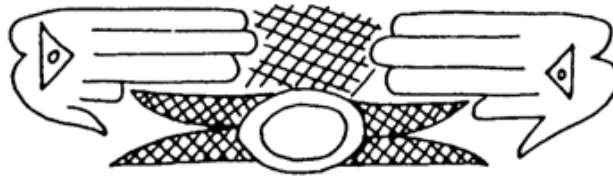
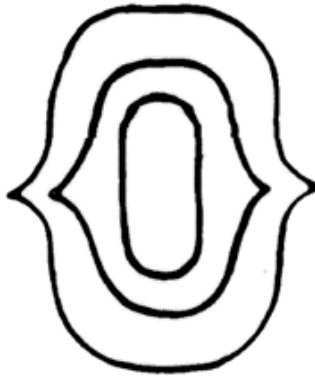
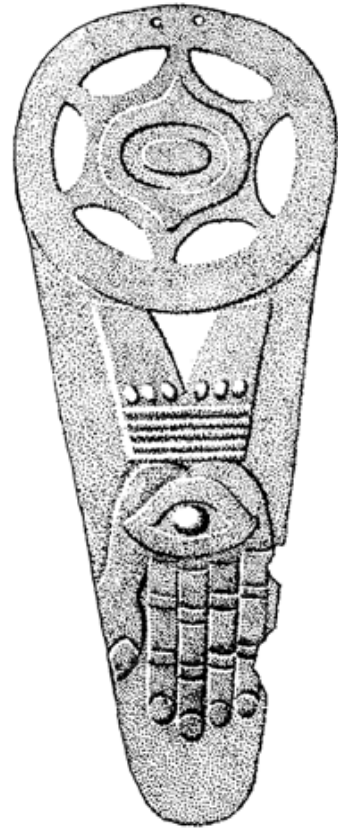
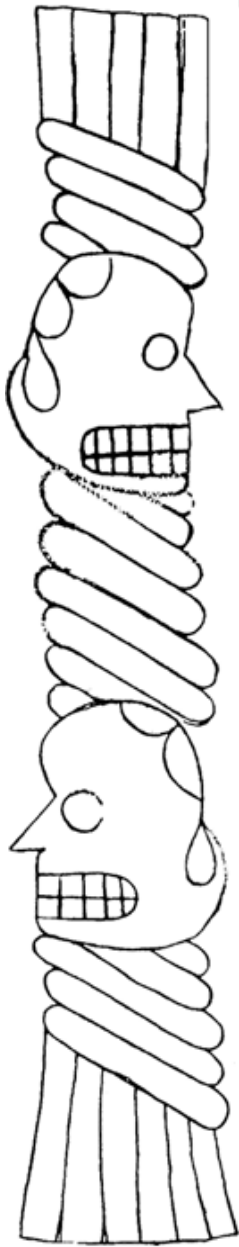


## CLASS PRE-VISIT

1. Ask your students what they think when they hear the word “Indian.” Do their responses show any evidence of stereotypes about Native Americans? For example, some students may think that all Indians lived in teepees and wore long feathered headdresses, when in reality these were characteristics of the Plains Indians, not Southeastern Indians. Discuss how Native Americans are portrayed on television and in movies.
2. Discuss the difference between an archaeologist and a pot hunter. An archaeologist uses scientific methods to carefully excavate sites and study all aspects of past human activities. A pothunter is someone who recklessly digs up artifacts to sell. Why would archaeologists not want pothunters to dig up artifacts?
3. Plant corn, bean, and/or squash seeds. These were the primary crops for Moundville Indians. Discuss what is needed to grow these types of plants. Point out that without chemical fertilizers, the Indians relied on the winter rains to flood the rivers and bring in fertile soil on their farmland. Ask your students to imagine farming without modern tools. What kind of tools did the Indians need to farm? Explain that Moundville Indians made hoes with wooden handles and a stone blade. Indians in other areas used conch shells or bison shoulder blades for hoe blades.
4. The mounds at Moundville were built one basketful of dirt at a time. The shapes of the mounds are truncated pyramids. Set aside an area of your school grounds to experiment with building a miniature mound of your own. Measure the amount of cubic feet of dirt in your mound and how long it took to build. Calculate how long it would take to build a mound the size of Mound B (4 million cubic feet of earth).
5. Show students the enclosed overhead projection. Get their opinion on what the different designs might mean. Afterwards, let students make their own pottery from self drying clay (found at most craft stores), decorating their pots with designs from the overhead projection sheet.
6. Make copies of the scavenger hunt sheet included in this guide. Hand it out to your students just prior to visiting Moundville Archaeological Park and ask students to use them during their

field trip.





Here are some images found on artifacts made of clay, stone and copper. What do you think they mean?

