

Archeology at Good Earth State Park

Age

3-4 year olds

Time

1 hour

Outline

Set up

Staff/EA Meeting

Arrival

-Introduction (5 minutes)

-Archeologist (5 minutes)

-Artifacts (15 minutes)

-Archeology (10 minutes)

-Geoglyphs (10 minutes)

-Pitted Boulders (5 minutes)

-Hike (45 minutes)

-Wrap Up

Theme: *to teach participants about archeology at Good Earth and some findings.*

Background

Learn the basics about archeology. Students will learn the basic about what an Archeologist is and what their role was during the Good Earth dig. They will also learn about some of the artifacts found and how they increase our knowledge about what they were used for. We will also go over archeology in general and the different aspects of it.

Program Activities

Introduction (10 minutes)

Objective: To inform the participants of what the class will be about

1. Talk about the schedule of the class
2. Introduction of ourselves

Archeologists (5 minutes)

Objective: To teach the participants about the archeologists involved at Blood Run.

1. Archeologists are scientists who study the past by examining material remain left behind by earlier people.
2. Shirley Schermer and Dale Henning were archeologists who managed the site.
3. Francis La Flescher was a part of the Omaha Tribe and was the first Native America archeologist in the United States.



Artifacts (15 minutes)

Objective: To teach the participants about the Artifacts found.

1. Archeologists use the Oneota label to describe a number of cultural sights in Upper Midwest that shared similarities.
2. Oneota sight had presence of a particular style of pottery (kept from cracking by being fired), end scraper (used to remove fat and hair from animal hides, multiple purpose and could be used for working wood or bone), and triangle arrow point (used for hunting Bison, Elk and other games, Archeologists think notches were used to be fit on a stick and glued on as an arrow).
3. Hints given by artifacts depending on their weight and how deep the were buried

What kind of hints do you think they discovered?

(ex: leg of a bison is heavy indicating that the hunting sign was near)

4. Artifacts found often gave clues about life for them

If they found a piece of pottery what clue would that give them?

The tribes supported the digging to help give in sights of why they did things and how but it is vague and doesn't give the spiritual connectedness.

5. Changing soil color and composition along quarry wall indicate storage of trash pit. It was then covered back up before it was destroyed.
6. Screening was used to reveal any tiny artifacts that might have been missed earlier.

Screening Activity: Split participants up into groups, each will receive a brown paper bag with a few objects in it. They are the creators of those objects so with the piece of paper and pencil placed in the bag they with write on the side that says Creator what each object represents/is used for. They will then fold the paper and place it back in the bag and pass it around the room until it lands with a new group. They are the Archeologists so on the side labeled Archeologists they have to try and determine what the creators were using and representing with these items. Afterwards discuss how archeologist aren't always sure of the true meaning of things because they weren't around when it was created.

7. Finding things like bones with notches cut into them allows us to believe they were used as a musical instrument.



Archeology (10 minutes)

Objective: To teach the participants about some of the technique used during the dig.

1. 1980 gravel mining on the Iowa side posed threats to mound sand village sites
2. Salvage Archeology began as an effort to save information otherwise lost
3. Cultural Archeology is beginning to be more accepted by Western Archeology opening doors for them.
4. There is a need for being respectful because they (people and objects) aren't just things to be studied. (If a person was dug up, they try to avoid that at all costs; they make sure to replace it and put it on display).
5. Test pits were used to determine if salvage archeology was needed.

Geoglyphs (10 minutes)

Objective: To teach participants about the Geoglyphs found.

1. In 2014 beneath a layer of sod they found geoglyphs
2. Good Earth is 1 out of 3 Native American Sites with the drawings.
3. The geoglyphs reinforce the understanding of the sacred rites.
4. They were created by digging a trench (12-18 inches deep) and filling them with top soil that typically had a darker color due to being exposed to plants and such.
5. They are estimated to be 3.5 acres and may have included around 100 geoglyphs.
6. The visitor center was originally going to be built where the geoglyphs were found, outside the area just shy of 79 feet long and 32 feet wide.

Go into the exhibit and look at the geoglyph painting on the ground and see what they think it might be.



Pitted Boulder (5 minutes)

Objective: To teach participants about the findings of the pitted boulder.

1. They were found on the Iowa side.
2. The meaning behind the pitted boulders has been forgotten but tribal members believe they were sacred.
3. Large quartzite rocks covered with manmade pits formed by hammering or grinding repeatedly.
4. One to two inches in diameter and less than an inch deep
5. They are rarely found in Blood Run.
6. The one along the fence near us it was counted to have 753 pits. 5 more boulders were found nearby.
7. You are asked to not touch them.

Hike (45 minutes)

Objective: To review what the participants and show them a realistic view of it.

1. Outlook trail
2. Show Iowa side and discuss how most of the excavating took place on that side.
3. Discuss some cultural facts
4. If there are kids we will bring out the sand and bottles and have to shake and sift through them to look for artifacts.

Wrap Up (5 minutes)

Objective: To review what the participants have learned.

Back-Up Activities

In the case of bad weather we would have to exclude the hike. If the program is mainly adults we would exclude the sand jars.

REFERENCES

Good Earth Exhibit

