

American Indians in Georgia

**Brain
Wrinkles**



STANDARDS:

SS8H1 Evaluate the impact of European exploration and settlement on American Indians in Georgia.

a. Describe the characteristics of American Indians living in Georgia at the time of European contact; to include culture, food, weapons/tools, and shelter.

Georgia

- For thousands of years, American Indians have inhabited the land that is now Georgia.
- Some of the earliest indigenous groups were Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian Indians.
- Mississippian Indians inhabited Georgia from about 800 to 1600 CE, and were around when Europeans began exploring the area.

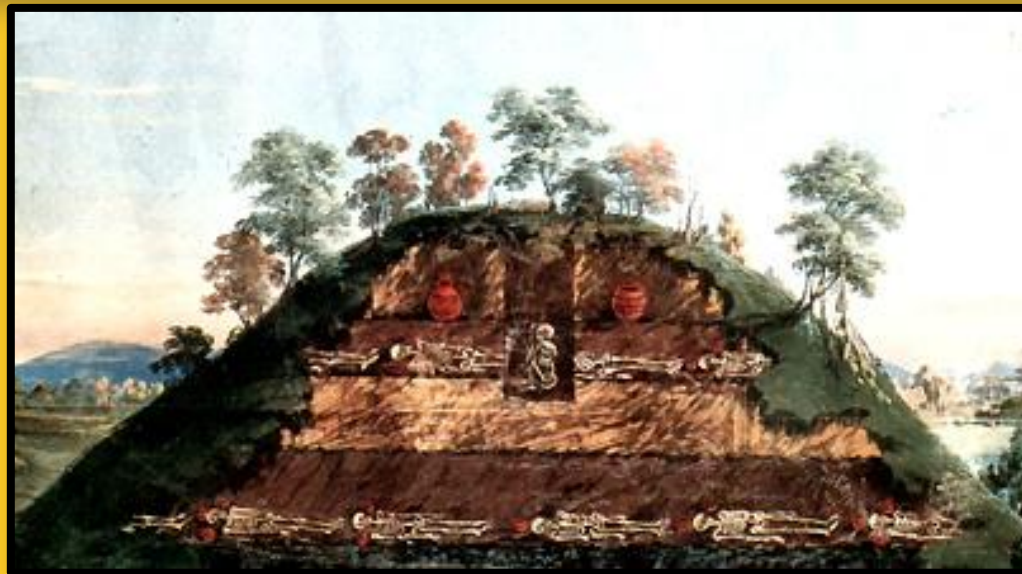
Among your groups
discuss what comes to
your mind when you
think of a Native
American

How did they live? What did they eat? What did their homes look like?



Culture

- Mississippian Indians built flat-topped burial mounds and had religious ceremonies.
- The dead were buried in fine cloths with feathered headdresses and the bodies were tattooed and painted.



Food

- Mississippian Indians were the first of Georgia's early inhabitants to begin farming on a large scale.
- They grew maize, squash, beans, tobacco, etc.
- They also hunted animals, fished, and gathered nuts and berries.

Weapons & Tools

- The Mississippian Indians used stone, wood, and bone to create weapons and farming tools.
- They were accomplished craftsmen, creating pottery, pipes, instruments, and jewelry.
- The Mississippian Indian groups traded tools, weapons, pottery, and other goods with one another.



Early Paleo-Indian

9500–9000 B.C.
Clovis Point



Late Paleo-Indian

8500–7900 B.C.
Dalton Point



Early Archaic

8000–7000 B.C.
Kirk Corner
Notched Point



Middle Archaic

3500–2800 B.C.
Guilford Point



Late Archaic

2150–1800 B.C.
Savannah River Point



Middle Woodland

500 B.C.–A.D. 500
Yadkin Point



Middle Woodland

A.D. 1–500
Bakers Creek Point



Late Woodland

A.D. 500–1100
Triangular Point



Mississippian

A.D. 800–1700
Triangular Point

Shelter

- The Mississippian Indians lived in towns governed by chiefs, who lived in religious centers on top of large earthen mounds.
- Mississippian settlements contained thousands of families.
- Villages were protected by guard towers and moats.



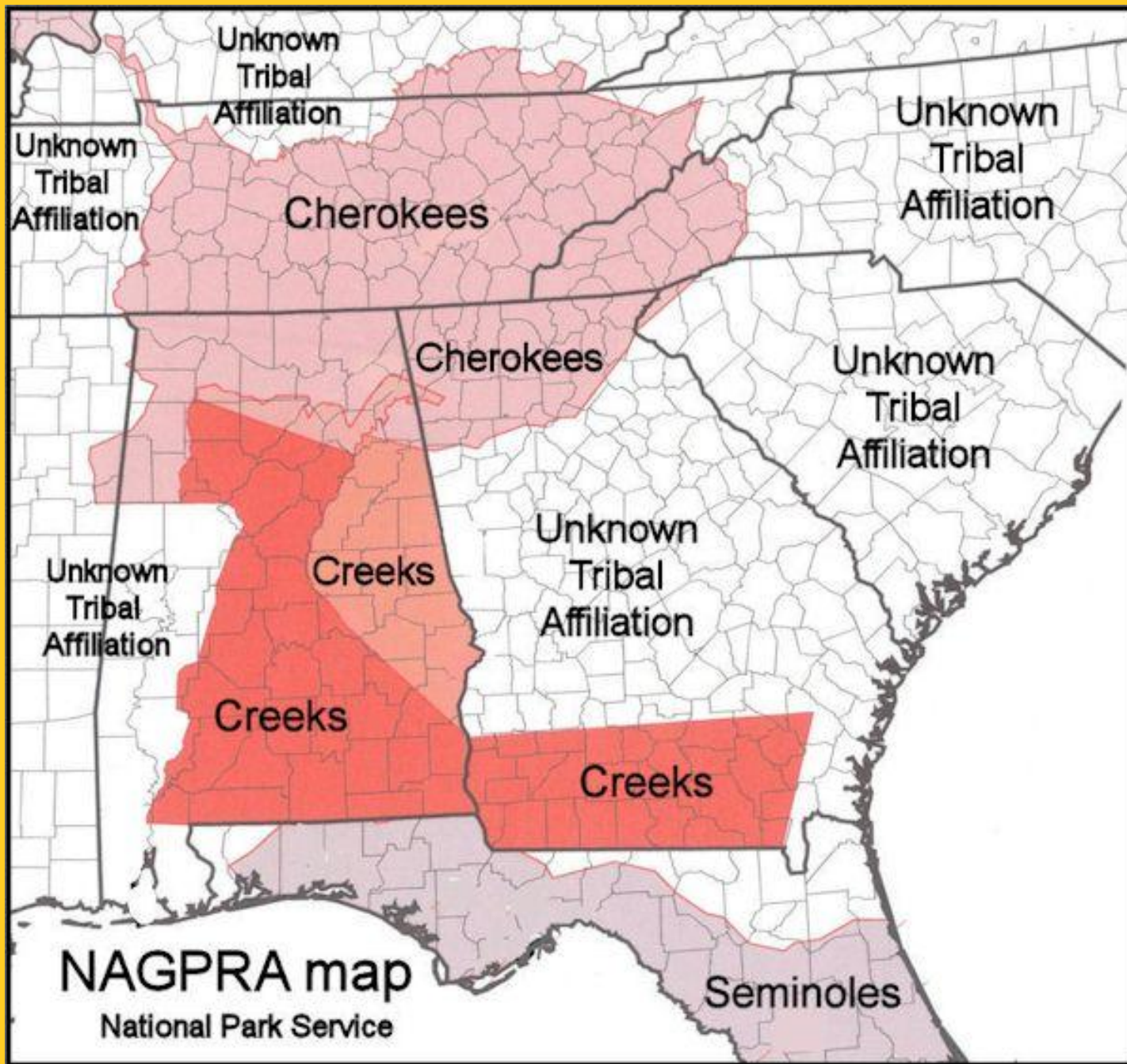
Mississippian

- Mississippian Indians were alive when Europeans discovered America, but soon after their culture began to disappear.



Early Georgians

- When Europeans really started exploring Georgia in the mid 1500s, there were two major indigenous tribes left in the state.
- The Creek Indians lived in southern Georgia, while the Cherokee lived in the northern part of the state.
- The two tribes had similar cultures and ways of life.



Culture

- The Georgia Indians settled in villages near rivers.
- Villages were part of larger towns that were protected by a huge wall of logs called a palisade.
- The Cherokee and Creek both built their towns around a central plaza that held a council house where government meetings took place.

SQUARE GROUND, SACRED FIRE

Every Indian settlement of substantial size was built around a centralized public plaza, or Square Ground, where residents and visitors met to discuss and settle the social, political, commercial, or legal issues facing the community. At its center was an open hearth on which burned a Sacred Fire, the catalyst for all community religious activity. Along the sides of the square were seats from which tribal officers and other citizens performed their civic and religious duties. This monument is a symbolic representation of a Square Ground and Sacred Fire.

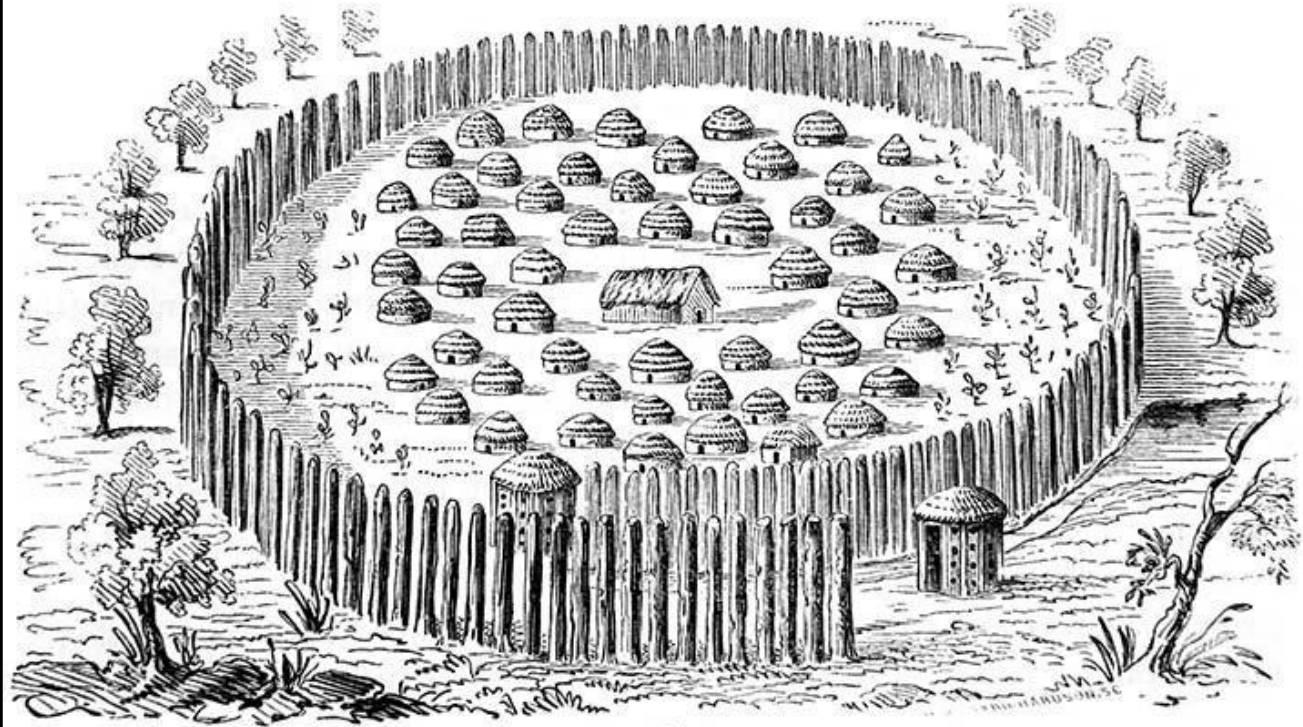
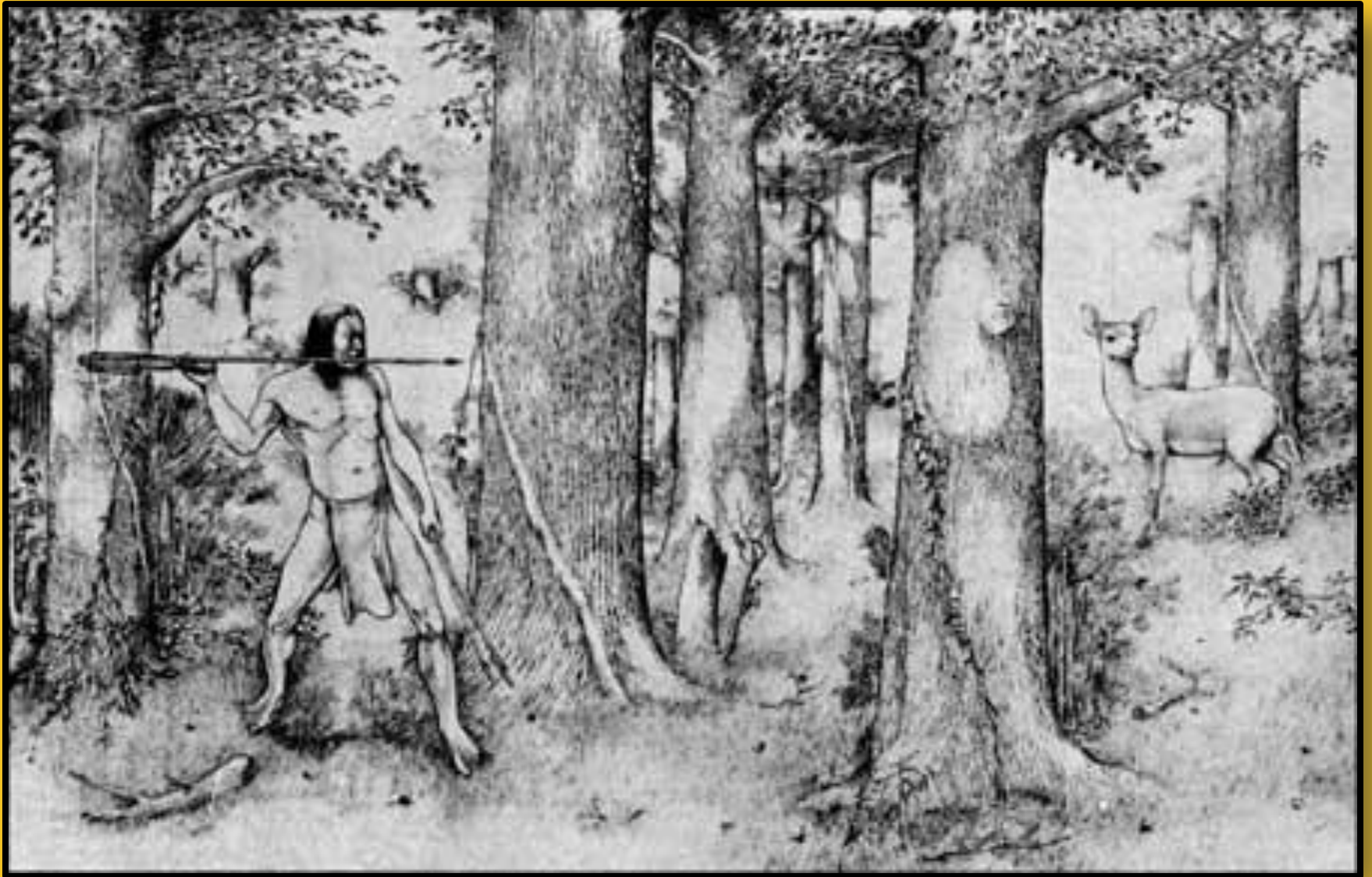


Fig. 29.

Food

- Both the Creek and the Cherokee depended on Georgia's wildlife and plants for food.
- They hunted wild animals like turkey and deer, and they caught and ate fish and mussels from Georgia's waterways.
- Georgia's Indians also gathered berries and nuts, and they grew crops like squash, corn, and beans.



Weapons & Tools

- Both the Cherokee and the Creek Indians had similar weapons and tools.
- They used materials from the environment to create blowguns, bows and arrows, traps, and fishing spears and hooks.
- Georgia's Indians also crafted woven baskets, flint knives and arrowheads, and stone axes.



Shelter

- The Cherokee and the Creeks both had separate homes for the summer and winter months.
- During the summer, the Cherokee lived in long, rectangular houses with clay walls and thatched roofs.
- The Creek also lived in rectangular homes, but they had no walls so that breezes could blow through.

Shelter

- Cherokee winter homes were smaller, rounder structures with bark roofs.
 - They were known as “hothouses” because they were built over a fire pit and had a cone-shaped roof that trapped the heat inside.
- During the winter, the Creeks lived in rectangular homes with walls made of clay and moss.
- The “hothouse” roofs were constructed with bark and grass-covered clay.



Cherokee Hothouse



Creek Hothouse