The Moundbuilders: Who, Where, So What?

Students learn about the location, culture, and importance of the Moundbuilders.

Author: Dennis Rees
Grade Level: High School
Duration: 2 class periods

National Geography Standards

ELEMENT ONE: THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS
1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
3. How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments.

ELEMENT FOUR: HUMAN SYSTEMS
12. The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement.

ELEMENT SIX: THE USES OF GEOGRAPHY
17. How to apply geography to interpret the past

Arizona Geography Strand

Concept 1 World in Spatial Terms
PO 2. Interpret maps and images (e.g., political, physical, relief, thematic, Geographic Information Systems [GIS], Landsat).

Concept 4 Human Systems
PO 6 Analyze factors that affect human populations.

Other Arizona Standards

Strand 1 American History
Concept 2 Early Civilizations
PO 1 Describe Prehistoric Cultures of the North American continent:
b. Moundbuilders (i.e. Adena, Hopewell, Mississippian)

ELA Common Core Standards

Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies
Key Ideas and Details
11-12.RH.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
11-12.RH.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects
Production and Distribution of Writing
11-12.WHST.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge
11-12.WHST.9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis reflection, and research.

Overview
The Moundbuilders are often an overlooked group in Native American history. Students need to understand who they were and their impact on other Native American Cultures.

Purpose
In this lesson, students will gather information on the Moundbuilders and analyze the location of Moundbuilder sites in order to gain a better understanding of this culture.

Materials
- Moundbuilders Background Information Sheet
- Transparency of Moundbuilders Background Information Sheet
- Moundbuilder Map
- Moundbuilder Map Worksheet and Key
- Moundbuilder Summary Chart and Key
- Moundbuilder Assessment and Key
- Moundbuilder Writing Prompt
- Blue markers or colored pencils
- Highlighters

Objectives
The student will be able to:
1. Read and highlight important information in the Moundbuilder Background Information Sheet.
2. Complete the Moundbuilder Chart
3. Analyze the Moundbuilder Map and complete Moundbuilder Map Worksheet
4. Write a public service announcement on Moundbuilders.

Procedures
1. Have students read and highlight the Moundbuilders Background Information Sheet. Model this process for students using a transparency of the handout. Students will use this sheet to complete a chart at the end of the reading.
2. Show the powerpoint presentation on the Moundbuilders to gain a visual background on this culture.
3. Analyze the Moundbuilder Map and complete the Moundbuilder Map Worksheet. Be sure to emphasize that these civilizations could not have been successful without the nearby river systems.
4. Complete the true-false Moundbuilder Assessment.
5. Write a public service announcement on the Moundbuilders using the writing prompt. Make sure the students use the checklist while composing their writing.

Assessment
The Moundbuilder Map Worksheet may be graded for a social studies grade. A score of 80% would be considered mastery.

The true-false assessment may be graded for a reading comprehension grade. A score of 80% would be considered mastery.

The public service announcement may be graded for a writing grade. A score of 4 or higher in each area would be considered mastery.

Extensions
Students could use the same process to gather and report information on the ancient cultures of the American Southwest, i.e., Anasazi, Hohokam, Sinagua, Mogollan.

Sources
Mound Builders, Bartleby.com
Hopewell Culture, David W. Koeller
Mound Builders, www.nps.gov