Changing Ways of Life

Trace how life in Alabama changed before European colonization.

SS24.3.8 "Describe Indigenous cultures, governments, and economies in the Southeast prior to European colonization. 8a Identify changes that took place in prehistoric/pre-contact cultures in the Southeast between the Paleo, Archaic, Woodland..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one food detail from each period. Circle one detail from each period that shows how people lived together.

Four Periods in Alabama

1. Long before Europeans arrived in Alabama, people found ways to live on the land. During the Paleo period, small groups moved often as they hunted animals and gathered wild plants. They shaped stone points for their tools. Later, during the Archaic period, people still hunted and gathered, but many stayed longer near rivers. They fished, collected nuts, and made baskets to carry food.

2. During the Woodland period, many communities made pottery for cooking and storing food. They grew some crops, including sunflowers, while still hunting and gathering. Some built earthen mounds for gatherings and burials. These changes did not happen on one day or in every place at once. Over many years, people shared ideas and adapted to the places where they lived.

3. During the Mississippian period, many people in Alabama grew corn and lived in towns. At Moundville, large earthen mounds stood near a central plaza. Leaders and their families had high rank, and people used the mounds for important events. At Bottle Creek, people also built mounds, but their town stood among waterways near the coast. We do not know the names these communities called themselves.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How was life near rivers in the Archaic period different from life in the Paleo period? Include a food detail.

2. How did the Woodland period bring changes in growing food and making containers compared with the Archaic period?

3. What changed from the Woodland period to the Mississippian period in farming and mound building?

4. How was life at Moundville different from life in a Paleo group? Think about where people lived and how they were organized.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a family visiting a Paleo camp and then a Mississippian town. Write three sentences describing two changes they would notice in food or community life and how one change might affect a person's day.

ANSWER KEY

Changing Ways of Life

GRADE 3 · SS24.3.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one food detail from each period. Circle one detail from each period that shows how people lived together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was life near rivers in the Archaic period different from life in the Paleo period? Include a food detail.	**Paleo groups moved often. Many Archaic groups stayed longer near rivers, where they fished.**
2	How did the Woodland period bring changes in growing food and making containers compared with the Archaic period?	**Archaic people collected nuts and made baskets. Woodland people grew some crops, including sunflowers, and made pottery.**
3	What changed from the Woodland period to the Mississippian period in farming and mound building?	**Woodland communities grew some crops, and some built mounds. Many Mississippian people grew corn, and Moundville had large mounds near a plaza.**
4	How was life at Moundville different from life in a Paleo group? Think about where people lived and how they were organized.	**Paleo people lived in small groups that moved often. People at Moundville lived in a town where leaders and their families had high rank.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The family would see people growing corn in the Mississippian town, while the Paleo group hunted and gathered food. They would also see a town with a plaza instead of a small group that moved often. Growing corn could mean spending part of the day caring for plants near home.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage. Students should not identify Moundville or Bottle Creek by a tribal name, since the passage states that these communities' names are unknown.