Changing Ways of Life

Trace changes in the Southeast across four periods.

SS24.3.8a "Identify changes that took place in prehistoric/pre-contact cultures in the Southeast between the Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian periods."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about food in each period, then number the four details from 1 to 4 in time order to track how ways of getting food changed.

From Camps to Towns

1. Long before Europeans arrived, Indigenous people lived across the Southeast, including Alabama. We call the earliest of these times the Paleo period. Families moved often to find food. They hunted animals and gathered wild plants. Hunters made sharp stone points for spears. Later, during the Archaic period, people still hunted and gathered, but they also fished more and used grinding stones to prepare nuts and seeds.

2. Over time, some Archaic groups stayed longer in places where food was easy to find. By the Woodland period, many communities made pottery for cooking and storing food. They grew some plants for food, though hunting, fishing, and gathering still mattered. Some built earth mounds to bury the dead. Groups also traded goods over long distances. These changes did not happen in every community at the same time.

3. In the later Mississippian period, corn farming became a major way to get food in many Southeast communities. Larger towns grew, often near rivers. People built big, flat-topped earth mounds, and some placed important buildings on top. Leaders helped organize town life. Hunting and gathering did not stop. The shift from moving camps to towns with farms took many years and looked different from place to place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did ways of getting and preparing food change from the Paleo period to the Archaic period?

2. What new way of getting food does the passage describe in the Woodland period?

3. How did the role of growing food change from the Woodland period to the Mississippian period?

4. How did the earth mounds described for Woodland communities differ from those described for Mississippian towns?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you visited an Archaic camp and a Mississippian town. Write three sentences: describe one food or daily-life detail at each stop, then explain a change you noticed without saying every community changed at once.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about food in each period, then number the four details from 1 to 4 in time order to track how ways of getting food changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did ways of getting and preparing food change from the Paleo period to the Archaic period?	**Paleo families hunted and gathered wild plants. Archaic people still did those things, but they fished more and used grinding stones to prepare nuts and seeds.**
2	What new way of getting food does the passage describe in the Woodland period?	**Woodland communities grew some plants for food, while hunting, fishing, and gathering still mattered.**
3	How did the role of growing food change from the Woodland period to the Mississippian period?	**Woodland communities grew some plants. In many Mississippian communities, corn farming became a major way to get food.**
4	How did the earth mounds described for Woodland communities differ from those described for Mississippian towns?	**Some Woodland communities built mounds to bury the dead. Mississippian people built big, flat-topped mounds with important buildings on some of them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At an Archaic camp, I saw people use grinding stones to prepare nuts and seeds. In a Mississippian town, I saw people growing corn and building large, flat-topped mounds. Farming and towns grew over time, but communities did not all change at once.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that correctly place changes in time. For Part 3, look for one accurate detail from each named period and a change that does not claim all communities changed together.