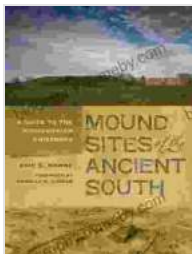


Guide to the Mississippian Chiefdoms: Unraveling the Enigmatic World of Ancient Native Americans

The Mississippian culture was a complex and sophisticated Native American civilization that flourished in the southeastern United States from approximately 800 to 1600 CE. Mississippian chiefdoms were characterized by their large populations, elaborate social hierarchies, and impressive monumental architecture. This guide will provide a comprehensive overview of the Mississippian culture, including its history, society, and culture.

History

The Mississippian culture developed out of the earlier Woodland culture. Around 800 CE, Mississippian communities began to coalesce into larger chiefdoms. These chiefdoms were ruled by powerful leaders who controlled large territories and populations. The Mississippian culture reached its peak around 1200 CE, when it covered an area of over 250,000 square miles and had a population of over 2 million people.



Mound Sites of the Ancient South: A Guide to the Mississippian Chiefdoms by Eric E. Bowne

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 11679 KB
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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 268 pages



The Mississippian culture declined after 1400 CE, due to a number of factors, including warfare, disease, and environmental change. By 1600 CE, the Mississippian culture had largely disappeared. However, the legacy of the Mississippian culture can still be seen in the many archaeological sites that dot the southeastern United States.

Society

Mississippian society was highly stratified. The elite class consisted of the chief, his family, and his close advisors. The common people made up the majority of the population and were responsible for farming, hunting, and gathering. There was also a class of artisans who specialized in making pottery, jewelry, and other goods.

Mississippian chiefdoms were ruled by powerful leaders who had absolute authority. The chief was responsible for leading the community in war and peace, and for distributing resources. The chief was also the head of the religious hierarchy.

Culture

The Mississippian culture was a rich and complex one. Mississippians were skilled farmers, hunters, and gatherers. They also developed a sophisticated system of writing and mathematics. Mississippian art was highly stylized and often depicted religious and mythological themes.

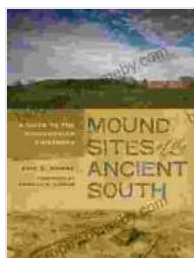
Mississippian chiefdoms were also known for their impressive monumental architecture. Mississippians built large earthen mounds that were used for

a variety of purposes, including temples, palaces, and burial grounds. The largest Mississippian mound is Monk's Mound at the Cahokia site in Illinois. Monk's Mound is over 100 feet tall and is the largest pre-Columbian earthwork in the Americas.

The Mississippian culture was a complex and sophisticated Native American civilization that flourished in the southeastern United States for over 800 years. Mississippian chiefdoms were characterized by their large populations, elaborate social hierarchies, and impressive monumental architecture. The Mississippian culture left a lasting legacy on the southeastern United States, and its influence can still be seen today.

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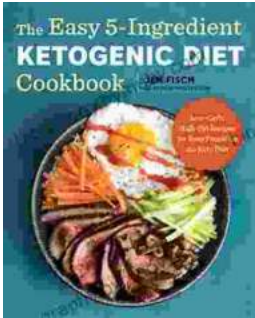
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