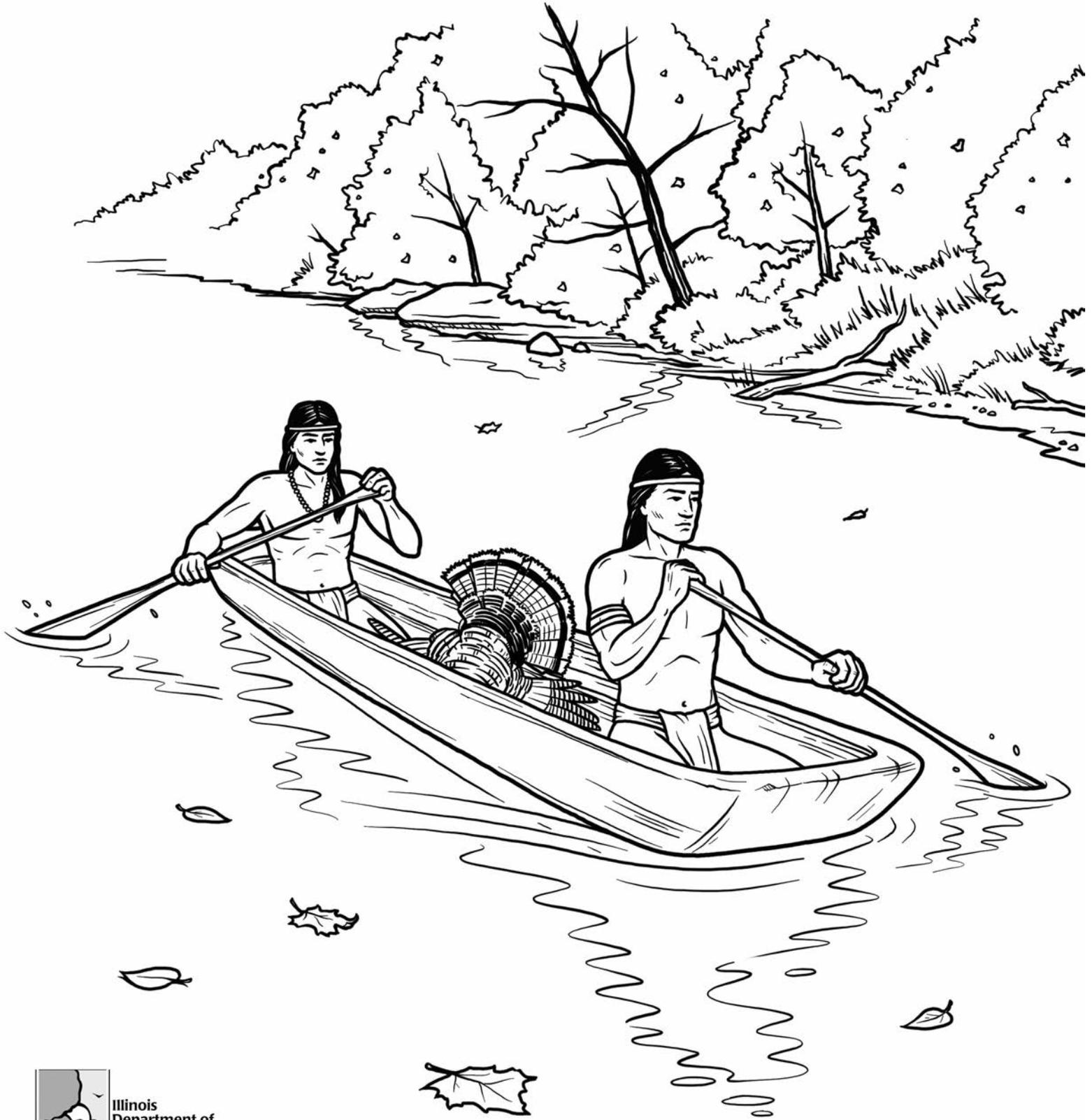




Native Americans and Nature in Illinois



Using this Activity Book – For the Educator

The *Native Americans and Nature in Illinois* activity book from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education is designed to supplement your curriculum in a variety of ways. The information and activities contained in this publication are targeted to grades **kindergarten through three**. For information about other resources available, visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education> and <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/publications> or contact the IDNR Division of Education at 217-524-4126 or dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov.

Targeted Grades: K – 3

Illustration Credits

The illustrations on pages 3-9 are adapted from artwork by Andy Buttram, courtesy of the Illinois State Museum. Illustrations of the white-tailed deer on page 11, and the pawpaw, sunflower and corn on page 12 are adapted from artwork provided by the Illinois State Museum. Illustrations on pages 16-18, other than the dried gourds and animal skin bag, are used courtesy of the Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program, University of Illinois. Illustrations on pages 19 and 20, other than the beaver pipe, are used courtesy of the Illinois State Museum. All other illustrations by Mr. C. Johnston.

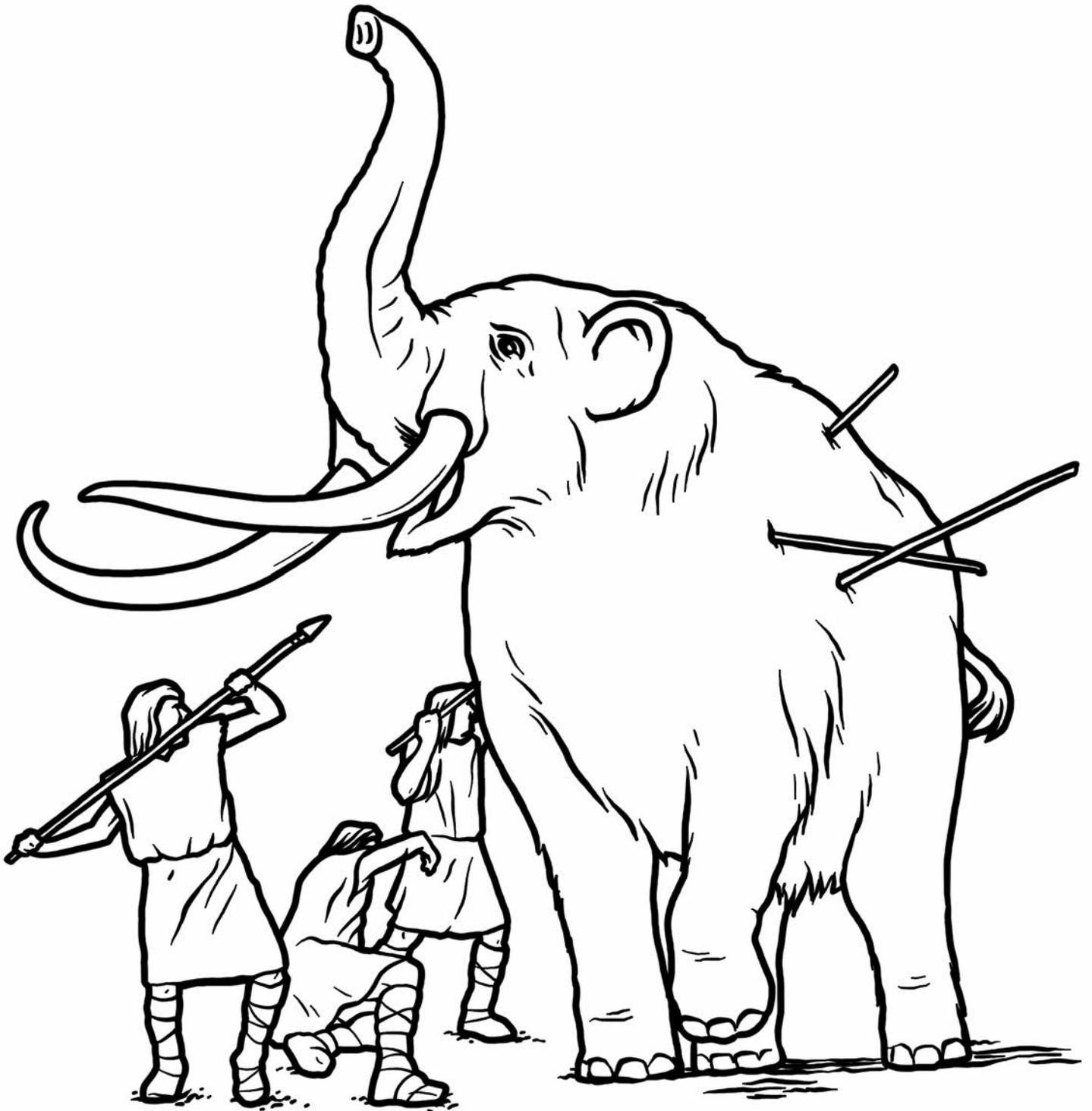
Assistance for this project provided by staff of the Dickson Mounds Museum.

Resources

- Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology and the Illinois Archaeological Survey. 2001. *Discover Illinois archaeology*. Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology and the Illinois Archaeological Survey, Springfield, Illinois. 28 pp.
- Illinois State Museum. 2004. *MuseumLink internet site*. <http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink>.
- Illinois State Museum. 2002. *Peoples of the past: four educational posters including facts and activities about Native Americans in Illinois*. Illinois State Museum Learning and Activity Book Series. Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois.
- Warren, Robert E. and John A. Walthall. 1998. "Illini Indians in the Illinois Country 1673-1832." Pages 4-8 in *The Living Museum*. Volume 60, Number 1. Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois.

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Native Americans first lived in Illinois about 12,000 years ago (10000 B.C.) during the Ice Age. The land was much different then than it is today. There were forests of spruce and pine trees. Animals like the woolly mammoth and mastodont lived here.

These Native Americans are called Clovis people. They were hunters. They lived in small family groups and moved around a lot. They hunted with sharpened stone points tied to spears. Both large and small animals were hunted.



After the Ice Age, Illinois became much warmer. New types of trees were able to grow. These trees, such as oaks and hickories, replaced the spruce and pine trees. Prairies developed, too. Many of the large animals that lived here in the Ice Age became extinct. New animals came here to live. Native Americans had to change their way of life.

The Native American people who lived in Illinois from about 10,000 years ago (8000 B.C.) until about 3,000 years ago (1000 B.C.) are called Archaic people. They hunted white-tailed deer, elk, bear, cottontail rabbit, wild turkey and many other animals. Plants were also part of their diet. Roots, berries and nuts were all important foods. These people learned how to grow crops for food and had dogs as pets. They often stayed in one place, usually along a river, for long periods of time.



The Woodland people were the first Native Americans in Illinois to make and use pottery. They lived in Illinois from about 1000 B.C. until about A.D. 1000. These people built homes made of plant materials. The homes were arranged in communities, often along a river. They did move to new locations, too. They hunted, fished, gathered plants and grew some crops. The bow and arrow were used to hunt game species. They had a system of trade for foods and materials with Native Americans in other parts of North America.



The native people of Illinois from about A.D. 1000 to about A.D. 1300 were called the Mississippians. These people lived in large towns. Many towns had walls of logs around them. They built earthen mounds. Houses were built on the mounds for use as temples or as homes for their leaders. Houses for all the people were well made and used for years. Because they lived in one place, the Mississippian people could plant large fields with crops, such as corn, beans and squash. Men made stone tools that were used for hunting, fishing, farming and trading with other groups. Pottery began to be decorated with sculpted animal heads along the rim.



The Late Prehistoric people lived in Illinois from A.D. 1300 to A.D. 1673. They lived in small villages. They were hunters and gatherers who did not farm as much as earlier peoples. They sometimes were involved in violence against other Native Americans. The population of Illinois decreased greatly at this time. Elk and bison became common on the prairies of Illinois. Both animals were used by the Late Prehistoric people in many ways. Toward the end of this time period, Europeans started coming to North America. They traded guns and other items to the Native Americans for furs.



Native Americans living in Illinois during the Colonial Period (A.D. 1673 through A.D. 1778) had direct contact with the European people who came to Illinois as explorers and fur buyers. These Native American people moved based on the seasons. They hunted, fished, gathered and grew crops, especially corn, watermelons, beans, squash and pumpkins. They hunted in groups. Bison were killed in the summer in a big group hunt. Guns and bows and arrows were the weapons used.



The American Period started in 1778, a time when many European settlers came to Illinois to live. At first, most of these people settled in southern Illinois, along the lower Illinois River and near Galena. For a while, the Native Americans lived as they always did. However, government officials made treaties with the Native Americans. The Native American peoples gave up their lands in return for trade goods, money and new lands west of the Mississippi River. Despite the treaties, many Native Americans did not wish to leave and had to be forced to move.

A Place in Time

Put the letter of each group of Native Americans in the correct place on the time line. Write one feature about each of the groups. Put your name in the correct space on the time line.

- A. Archaic people**
- B. American Period people**
- C. Mississippian people**
- D. Late Prehistoric people**

- E. Woodland people**
- F. Native Americans of the Colonial Period**
- G. Clovis people**

___ **10000 B.C.** _____

___ **8000 B.C.** _____

___ **1000 B.C.** _____

___ **A.D. 1000** _____

___ **A.D. 1300** _____

___ **A.D. 1673** _____

___ **A.D. 1778** _____

Today _____

Native Americans relied on nature for survival. They also made natural items a part of their culture. On the following pages, you'll learn more about how nature was important to Native Americans.

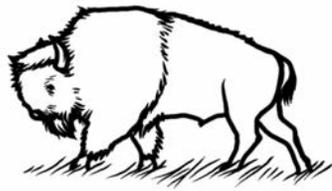
Food

Here are some examples of animals that Illinois Native Americans used for food at one time. Circle the animals that are no longer found in Illinois in the wild.

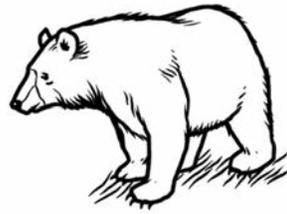
Animals



wild turkey



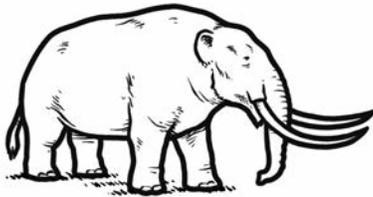
bison



bear



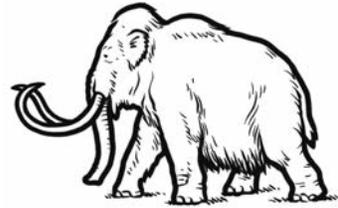
elk



mastodont



ground sloth



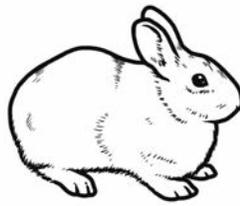
mammoth



squirrel



white-tailed deer



cottontail rabbit



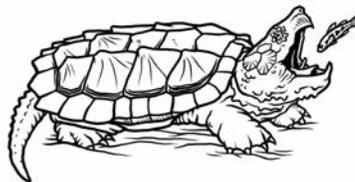
opossum



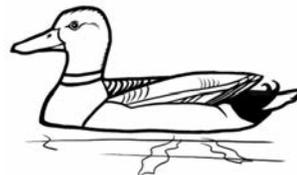
muskrat



beaver



snapping turtle



mallard duck



raccoon



mussel



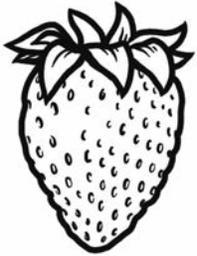
catfish



bullfrog

Food

Many plants and their parts or products were eaten by Native Americans. You can see some of them on this page. Circle the ones that you have eaten.



strawberry



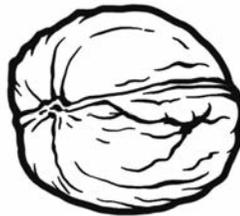
pecans



beans



dewberry



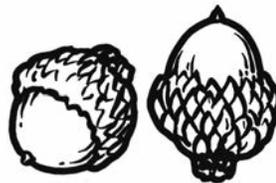
hickory nut



pawpaw



blackberry



acorn



sunflower



raspberry



corn



grapes



walnut



squash



gourd

Food

Native Americans hunted, fished, gathered and grew foods to eat. Place the following Native American foods in the correct category.

pumpkin

Hunted

white-tailed deer

catfish

Fished

squirrel

walnut

Gathered

largemouth bass

corn

Grew

blackberry

Clothing

Before the arrival of European traders and settlers, Native Americans used all natural materials to make their clothes. Making clothes took a lot of work. Everything had to be gathered and then prepared in some way before it could be used. Even the tools used to gather plants, shoot the animals, prepare the hide and sew the clothes had to be made. After the arrival of European traders and settlers, cloth, metal buttons and other items were available for the Native Americans to use in clothing.

Place these events in the proper order. Start by putting a "1" in the blank next to the first item that should happen.

_____ **dry plants**

_____ **weave plant fiber
into yarn**

_____ **separate plants into
fibers**

_____ **weave yarn into fabric
for clothes**

_____ **gather plants**

Number these items from one to six in the order that they would have taken place.

prepare deer skin _____

go hunting _____

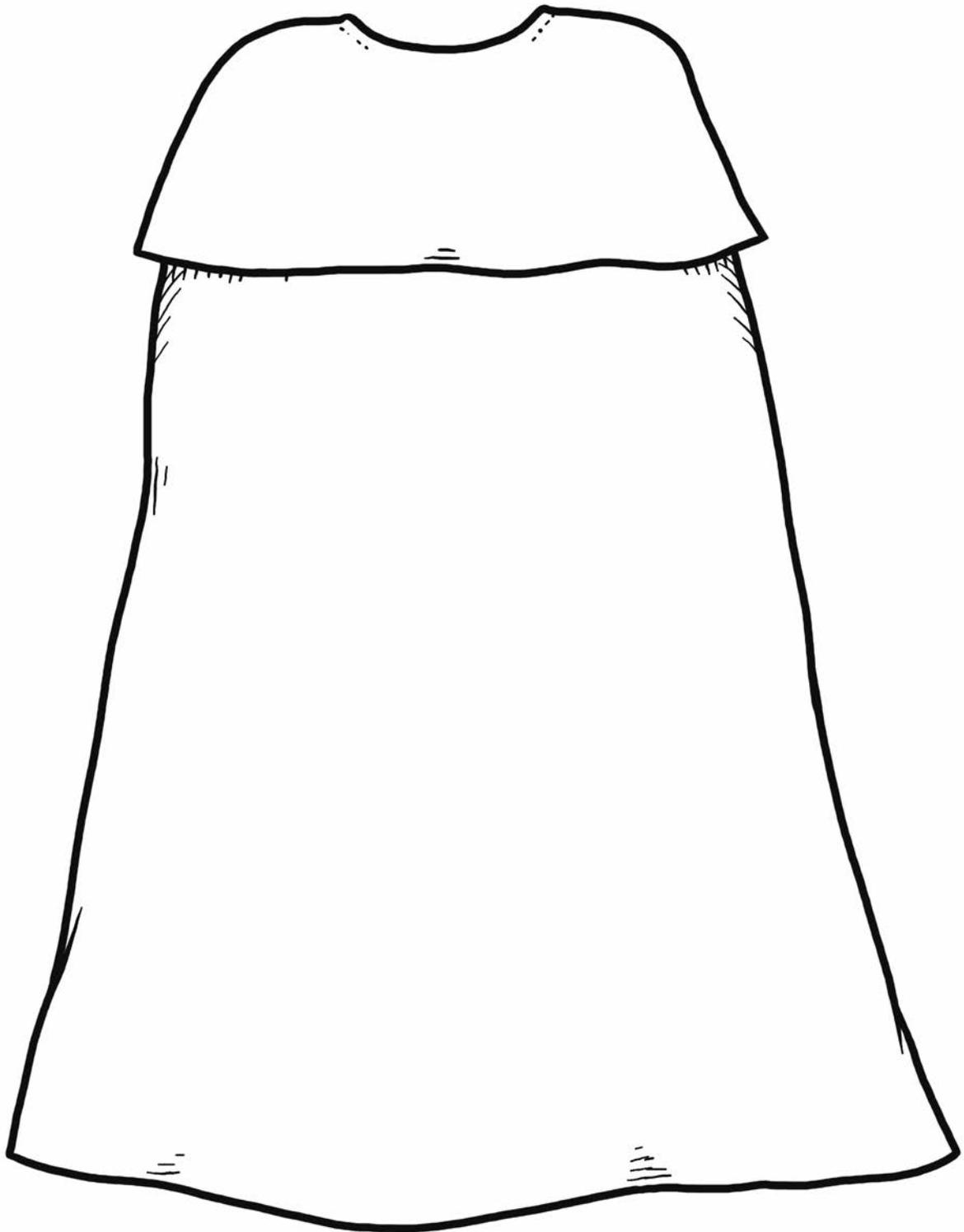
cut out pieces _____

skin deer _____

kill deer _____

**sew together to make
clothing or moccasins** _____

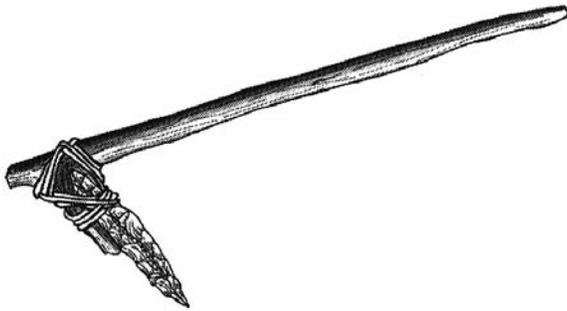
At special events, certain people were able to wear woven fabric capes decorated with feathers and shells. Draw feathers and shells to decorate this cape.



Tools

Native Americans were experts at making tools from stone, bone, shells and other items. They used materials that could be found near them. Sometimes they traded with other tribes for materials that were needed but were not available locally.

For each item shown, tell what it is made from (stone, bone, plant, skin) and what it was used for.



hoe



spear point



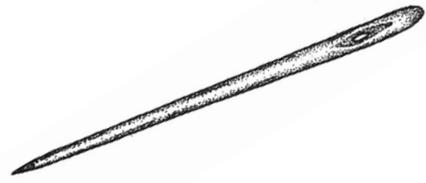
knife



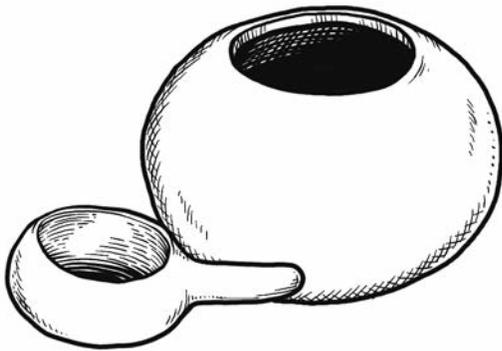
fish hook



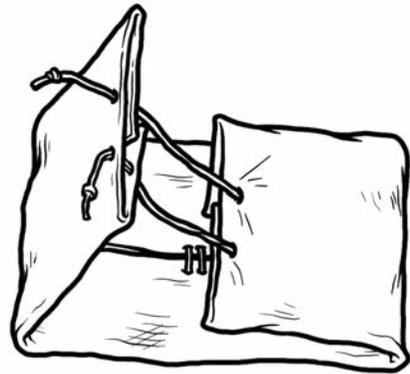
arrow shaft



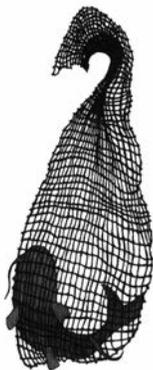
needle



dried gourds



animal skin bag



fiber net

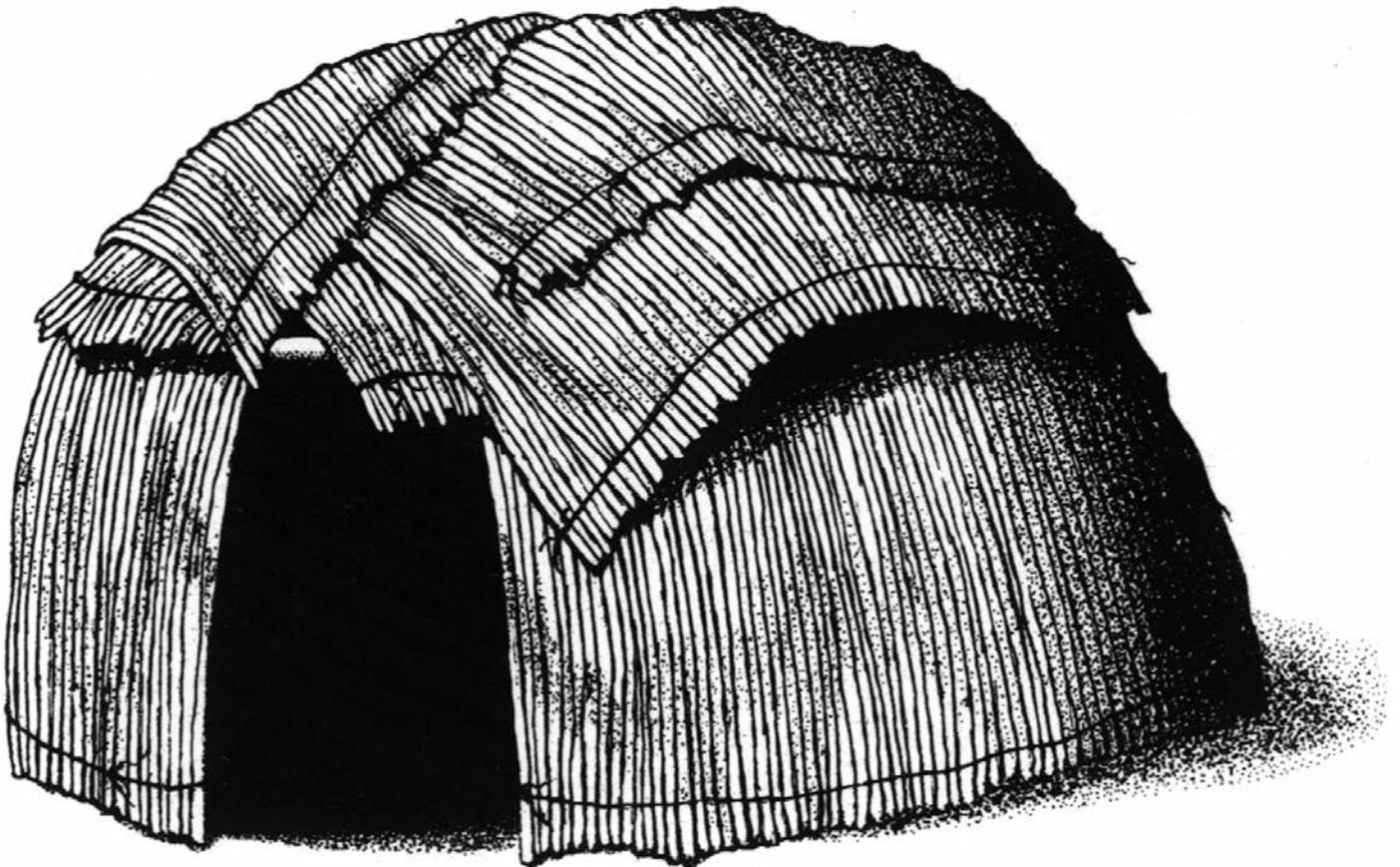


woven basket

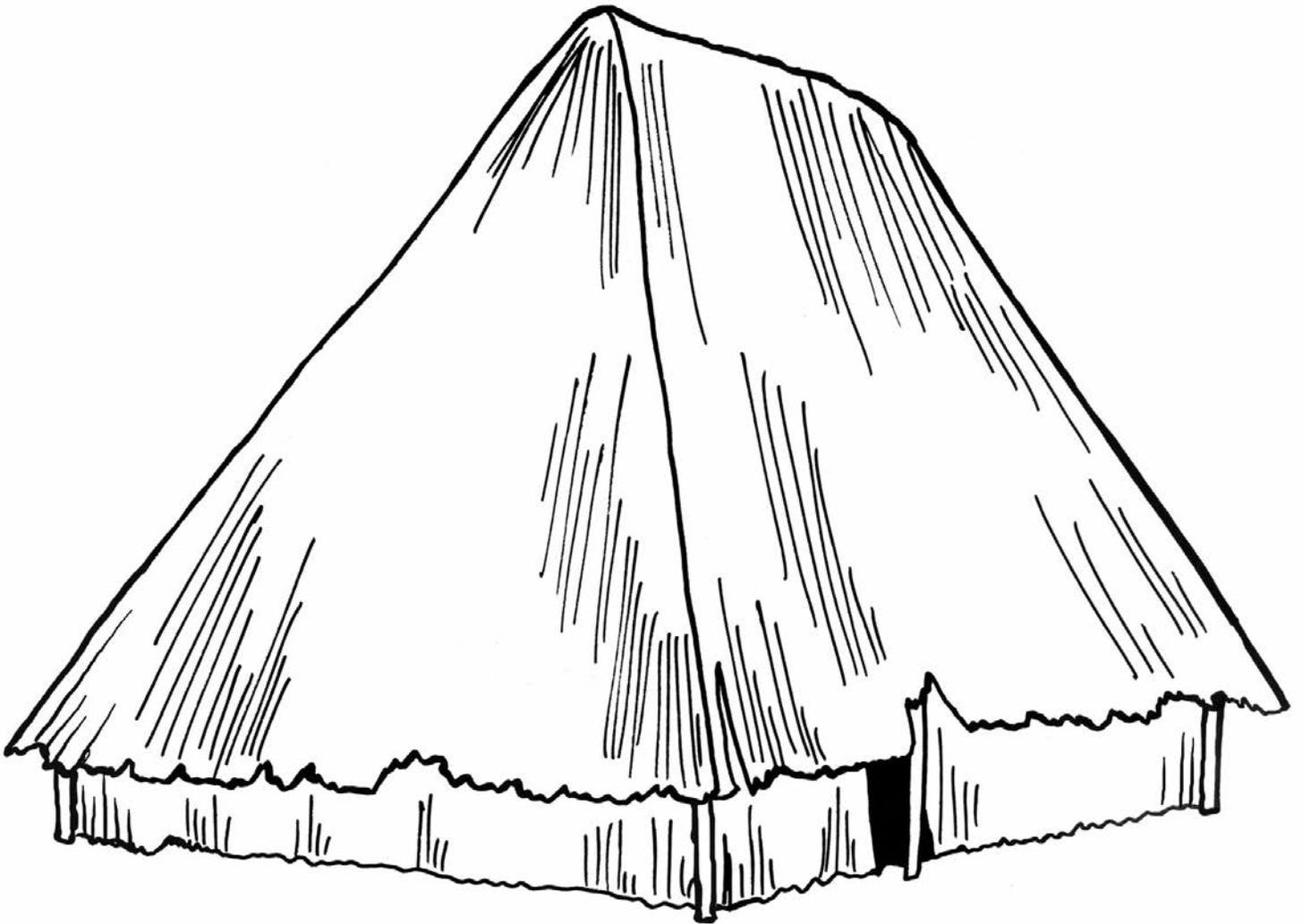
Houses

Some Native Americans moved around a lot as they searched for animals to hunt. They needed to move their homes with them. Other tribes lived in one place for a long time. They had bigger homes that were made to last a long time. Either way, the materials used to build them were natural items growing in the area.

- A.** This home was made of animal skins, wooden poles, branches and other plant parts. It was covered with mats made of cattail leaves and/or bulrushes.



B. This large home had a frame of logs and sticks covered by mud. Bundles of grasses (thatch) were placed all over the outside.

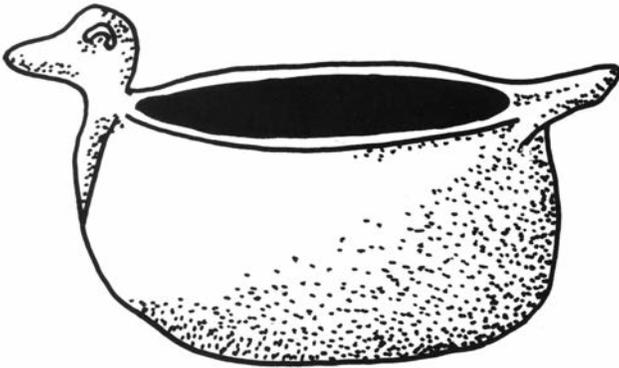


1. Which home would be easier to move? **A** or **B**
2. Why do you think most of these homes were built in areas along rivers?

Culture

Natural items were important to Native Americans in all of their daily tasks. They honored these items, especially animals, by including them in their artwork, stories, ceremonies, songs and even special earthen mounds that they built.

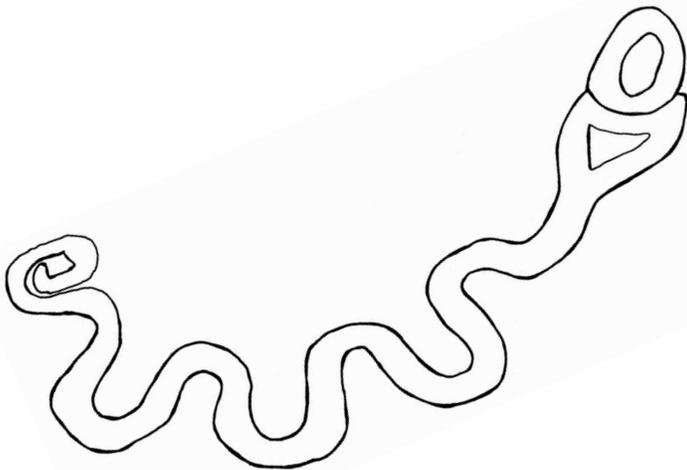
Fill in the blanks in the sentences.



This pottery bowl was made with a _____ head shaped along the rim.



This carved pipe was made in the shape of a _____.



This earthen mound was built in the shape of a _____.



The carving on this shell is in the shape of a _____.

Trade and Transportation

Native Americans traveled from place to place most of the time by walking. They built canoes from trees, though. The canoes could take them far away faster than walking. They could trade their goods, like salt, corn and stone tools, for materials from other tribes.



What are these Native Americans using their canoe to do?

Decorations

Native Americans wore decorations made from a variety of natural materials. They had items to wear each day and some for special events. They also decorated their clothes.

Draw a line from the item in Column I to the item that it came from in Column II.

Column I

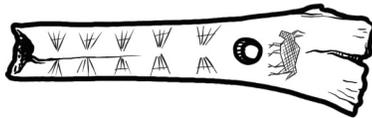
feather
on pipe



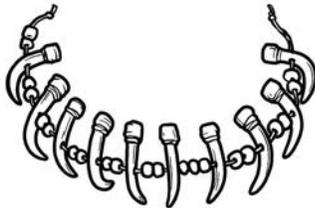
crinoid
bead
necklace



carved
animal
bone



animal
claw
necklace



pearls
on a
shirt



porcupine
quills on
moccasins



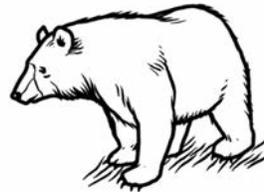
Column II



porcupine



bald eagle



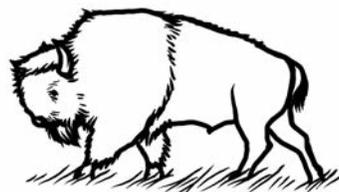
bear



mussel



crinoid
beads



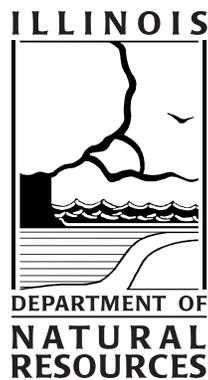
bison

What Do You Know?

Write three sentences telling how nature was important to Native Americans in Illinois.

Answers

- Page 10:** G, A, E, C, D, F, B: Answers will vary. See the text on pages 3-9.
Page 11: bison, bear, elk, mastodont, ground sloth, mammoth
Page 12: Answers will vary.
Page 13: Hunted - white-tailed deer, squirrel; Fished - catfish, largemouth bass; Gathered - walnut, blackberry; Grew - pumpkin, corn
Page 14: 2, 4, 3, 5, 1; 4, 1, 5, 3, 2, 6
Pages 16-17: hoe - stone, used to prepare soil for growing crops; spear point - stone, used to kill animals; knife - stone or bone, cutting; fish hook - bone, catch fish; arrow shaft - plant, attach to arrow point and used to kill animals; needle - bone, sewing; dried gourds - plant, containers; animal skin bag - skin, containers; fiber net - plants, catch fish; woven basket - plants, storage
Page 19: A: The materials needed to build them were along the river. There was a lot of food along the river, too, and a water supply.
Page 20: ducks; beaver; snake; spider
Page 21: They are hauling their wild turkey harvest back to their village.
Page 22: feather - bald eagle; crinoid bead necklace - crinoid beads; carved animal bone - bison; animal claw necklace - bear; pearls on a shirt - mussel; porcupine quills on moccasins - porcupine
Page 23: Answers will vary.



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