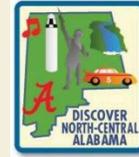


## Discover North-Central Alabama Outline



- I. Introductory
  - A. General Information over the Russell Cave Site and its Geological and Archaeological significance.
- II. Paleolithic
  - A. Story of the First Americans Journey
  - B. Geological processes made Russell Cave habitable
  - C. The transient bands and mega fauna
  - D. America's early craftsman: high quality and specialized tool kit
- III. Archaic Period
  - A. Story of new cultures and traditions: shift from broad Paleo to more localized cultures.
    - a) As seen in points adapted to new sedentary populations
  - B. Story of how human behavior adapts to the changing environment
    - a) A shift to sedentary lives and Russell Cave becomes a more permanent home
      - Reflected in features and artifacts (such as large mortar and pestles)
    - b) Burial sites begin to appear
    - c) Primary forest efficiency
      - Extremely efficient exploitation of river/forest develops
  - C. New technologies for a new way of life: The atlatl, pottery, needles, hooks, and baskets
  - D. Russell Cave-home of the Russell Cave point type
- IV. Woodland Period
  - A. Story of culture manipulating nature:
    - a) Cultivation, domestication, and small gardens
    - b) A slow shift away from gathering towards growing
  - B. The story of how new technology adapts to new behaviors
    - a) Pottery becomes more common: store/cook food
    - b) Bow and arrow replaces the atlatl
      - Increased reliance on deer hunting
  - C. Story of the importance of a growing trade network
    - a) Abundance of chert in cave's limestone-raw materials
    - b) Evidence of Copena Culture (middle woodland) traded with Hopewellians
    - c) Trade and cultivation/early agriculture allowed for socio-cultural and ceremonial developments
      - This may be inferred by multiple burials at Russell Cave



- D. Story of growing social centers, villages, and chiefdoms
  - a) Russell Cave becomes less of a permanent home
  - b) Gardening occurs at site, suggesting some level of permanent or semi-permanent occupation occurs during this period.
- V. Mississippian Period
  - A. The story of the end: the spread of the Mississippian way of life
    - a) Strong centralized chiefly states in Tennessee River Valley
    - b) Strong riverine subsistence pattern (agriculture/crop rotation)
  - B. Use of Russell Cave declines into “stop-point” for traders and hunters