

# CHAPTER 3

## PRE-EUROPEAN ARKANSAS

The flood of Noah's day buried many species of animals with such speed and force that the specimens were sealed from air and preserved from decay. \*Man and large animals probably climbed to the highest point available before being overcome. These specimens, therefore, are found in the layers of strata nearest the surface. Evidences of many different civilizations living after the flood have been uncovered.

Archaeologists have discovered traces of advanced civilizations living in the place called Arkansas perhaps before the year 1000 AD. This was called the Burial Mound Period because the possessions of these early Americans were buried in mounds along with their bodies.

Seeds have been found which indicate that certain agricultural crops were grown in these early days. Cultivation of corn, squash, beans, pumpkins, and sunflowers seemed to be very common among several of the early Native American groups.

\* Consider reading material in which creation scientists have exposed the fallacy of evolution. (Institute in Creation Research, Box 2667, El Cajon, California, 92021)



ANCIENT ARKANSAS BURIAL MOUNDS

Mounds of dirt, often covered with trees, contain artifacts of people who lived in Arkansas many centuries ago. They contain spearpoints, stone axes and other tools for cutting wood. Some of the tools are made from bone. Pottery is also found in these mounds.

An example of the mounds may be seen at Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park, located about 16 miles southeast of North Little Rock near Scott. Many of the artifacts that can be seen there came from the Ouachita Mountain area. Some archaeologists believe these five mounds were constructed in about 600 to 950 AD.

During the 1930's, workers discovered man-made hills in the Poteau River Valley. The huge mounds of dirt contain artifacts of people who lived along the Arkansas-Oklahoma boundary many centuries ago. These archaeological finds were ceremonial pyramids and burial temples constructed of rot-resistant cedar logs covered with tons of earth. They are called Spiro Mounds.

Evolutionists often try to use science to provide evidence for their philosophy. They describe a "cave man to modern man" scenario with people gradually increasing in abilities. In their concept, the "cave man" had no technology. The words "cave man" and "pre-historic" are not accurate terms. Cave men are simply men who live in caves.



Genesis describes the beginning of history. Adam, the first man, had physical abilities that were perfect. An example is his naming all the animals. This required a superior mental capacity. Tubal-Cain, only seven generations from Adam, is another example of one with advanced technical skills. He is said to be a "worker of brass and iron." Today that skill is called "metallurgy."

The people who lived in Arkansas in the pre-1500's were more advanced than many of the Indians living in the area when Europeans came on the scene. These earlier people had technical skills in the making of pottery, cloth, and copper utensils that were not possessed by later generations of Indians.

Archaeologists have labeled 1000-1500 AD the "Temple Mound Period." Temple Mounds are larger than other burial mounds. These burial mounds contain some artifacts of religious worship. Many of these mounds have been found along the Mississippi, Arkansas, St. Francis, White, Red, and Ouachita Rivers. Evidences of permanent villages of twenty acres or more have been discovered. Strongly constructed houses and a ceremonial pyramid were commonly a part of these villages. One village, located on the St. Francis River, had a moat running around the entire edge of the village. Traces of corn, sunflowers, and squash were found in the remains.

Some of the people who lived in early Arkansas were wandering hunters. They traveled in a regular route in search of subsistence, camping each season on a familiar creek or river bank or near springs of water. Rock ledges and protective caves were popular sites. Successive encampments at these sites left an accumulation of debris. Flood waters and wind-driven soil covered these camp sites.

After analyzing these sites, scientists have concluded that the hunters possibly used spears and spearthrowers to kill game. Their diet was supplemented with fish, nuts, berries, and other vegetation. Containers made from tree bark and fabric bags lined with pitch for waterproofing and preservation were used. Arrows found in the top layers of an Ozark cave indicate the adoption of the bow. Fragments of pottery, notched net sinkers, bone fishhooks, animal bones, and horns have also been found. Antlers, adapted for use as crude agricultural implements, and corn grain add to the evidence that a form of civilization existed.