

Summer 2000 Archaeology & Public Education

Summer 2000 News and Publications

NEWS

The Archaeology Channel Promises a New Way of Delivering Curriculum Content

The Archaeological Legacy Institute (ALI), a new nonprofit organized in Oregon, intends to begin broadcasting archaeology videos over the Internet through The Archaeology Channel, possibly as early as June. Video streaming (viewing programs as they are delivered rather than as downloaded files) will take place at www.archaeologychannel.org, a website currently offering information about ALI's plans.

The Archaeology Channel is designed as a communications venue suited to a variety of purposes, such as an outlet for archaeologists wishing to share the results of current research with the public and colleagues around the world. Another important use is to deliver curriculum components, at minimum instructional videos but potentially other elements such as text, still pictures, and audio, to schoolrooms and student computers at home.

Discussions between ALI and the PEC exploring uses of The Archaeology Channel in curriculum planning and ideas for collaboration began at the SAA Conference in Philadelphia and are expected to continue. For more information, contact Richard M. (Rick) Pettigrew, Ph.D., phone: 541-345-5538, or check the website at www.archaeologychannel.org.

Iowa Public Television and Office of State Archaeologist Collaborate on Video Project

The Public Education Committee at the Office of the Iowa State Archaeologist (OSA) is currently collaborating in an Iowa Public Television (IPTV) project titled "My Community Connections." This combined Iowa Communication Network (ICN)/video project offers an engaging way for 5th-8th grade students to study Iowa history, in a series of interactive activities, through the investigation of their own communities, focusing on what makes where they live a unique and special place. The Public Education Committee at OSA is presenting the opening section, which focuses on the representation of communities via the archaeological record. A background on prehistoric communities will open the project with themes including the earliest settlement in Iowa, ways of making a living, transportation, technology, and architecture. This portion will provide the students with a clearer understanding of the 13,000-year time depth for Iowa communities.

A live electronic field trip from Living History Farms via the ICN will set the stage for students' own inquiries, ultimately leading to projects about their home communities. The project will address national education standards for grades 5-8 in language arts, social studies, U.S. history, science, and technology. Project planning and on-site filming at various locations across the state is already underway, with the live interactive ICN sessions at Living History Farms scheduled for September. Ultimately, the project will be committed to a video format and made available to Area Education Agencies across the state for future use. For further information, contact Shirley J. Schermer, Office of the State Archaeologist, 319-384-0740, email: shirley-schermer@uiowa.edu.

Alaskan Archaeologists Reach Six-graders with "Layer-Upon-Layer" Hands-on Activity

Over 500 Anchorage six-grade students got their hands dirty, doing an easy-to-assemble and fun archaeological activity during Alaska Outdoor Week, May 15-19.

Outdoor Week, an annual natural resource education program held at Campbell Creek Science Center, allows kids to get out of their classrooms and into the woods with scientists for a day every spring. The Layer-Upon-Layer activity consists of five clear plastic tubs, each filled with a sample "stratigraphic unit" (gravels, sand, soil, bones, and artifacts: lithic replicas and real historic implements). The kids observe and take notes on the contents of each tub and then interpret what they've found, culturally and stratigraphically, to the rest of the group.

Members of the Alaska Anthropological Association Public Education Committee staffed the activity over the course of Outdoor Week, which was sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management and the Anchorage School District. For more information, contact Becky Saleeby, email: Becky_Saleeby@nps.gov.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Archaeology Education Handbook Published by AltaMira Press

AltaMira Press is delighted to announce the publication of the Archaeology Education Handbook, sponsored by the Public Education Committee of the Society for American Archaeology and edited by Karolyn Smardz and Shelley Smith. The book is designed to give archaeologists an introduction to the process, prospects, and pitfalls of educating children about archaeology. The 28-chapter, 450-page book is subdivided into the following sections: Educational System and Educational Theory; Archaeologists Working with Educators; Issues in Teaching Archaeology; and Archaeology Education in the Real World. The handbook can be ordered for \$34.95 by calling 1-800-462-6420, or checking the website at www.altamirapress.com.

Timucua Indians Featured in University of Florida Book for Kids

The University of Florida Press has recently published *The Timucua Indians: A Native American Detective Story*. The illustrated and interactive book is geared to readers from ages 7 to 12 and explores the history and culture of 16th-century Florida. It includes 47 "detective directives" that invite kids to follow clues and conduct investigative activities, such as speaking Timucuan, planting a feast, or learning how the Timucuas hunted alligators. The book sells for \$9.95. For more information, check the press's website at www.upf.com or call 1-800-226-3822.

University of Iowa Press to Publish Overview of Iowa Archaeology

A new book, *Iowa's Archaeological Past*, by Lynn M. Alex (public archaeology coordinator for the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist) will be published by the University of Iowa Press in June. The core of this book—which includes many historic photographs and maps as well as numerous new maps and drawings and a generous selection of color photos—explores in detail what archaeologists have learned from studying the state's material remains and their contexts. For information, contact Shirley Schermer, Office of the State Archaeologist, phone: 319-384-0740; email: shirley-schermer@uiowa.edu.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOPS

Arizona State Museum Schedules Workshop for July

Experience the past with Project Archaeology: *Intrigue of the Past*, a workshop for teachers. The Tucson, Arizona, workshop will be held July 13-14, 2000, at the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona.

Project Archaeology: *Intrigue of the Past* is an interdisciplinary archaeology unit for grades four through seven. The teaching guide contains 28 lessons divided into three sections: Fundamental Concepts, the Process of Archaeology, and Issues in Archaeology. Each concept builds upon the foundations laid down by previous lessons. Specific subjects, skills, and strategies are listed at the onset of each lesson and there is a cross-reference list by skills and strategies at the end of the guide.

Teachers receive *Intrigue of the Past: A Teacher's Activity Guide for Fourth through Seventh Grades*, *Discovering Archaeology in Arizona*, and a packet of classroom resource materials. The workshop features hands-on experience with the lessons, a tour of a local archaeological site, and options for credit. Costs include a \$50 instructional fee and a \$25 materials fee (additional fee for credit). For more information or to register contact: Carol J. Ellick, Director of Public Programs, Statistical Research, Inc.; 520-721-4309; email: cjellick@sricrm.com.

Upcoming 2000 Project Archaeology Workshops Scheduled

ARIZONA:

July 13-14 - Arizona State Museum, Tucson

See article above for details.

INDIANA: July 25-27 - Indiana State Museum

July 26-27 - Falls of the Ohio State Park

Contact: Alicia Stewart, Indiana State Museum, phone: 317-233-9348; email: astewart@ismhs.org

UTAH: July 11-13 - Great Basin Environmental Education Center, Snow College, Ephram

August 2-3 - USU Anthropology Museum

For general information or to register, phone: 1-800-722-3988

KENTUCKY: July 20-21 - Kentucky History Center, Frankfort

What You Get: Intrigue of the Past, the curriculum workbook; Kentucky-specific resources like booklets, curriculum materials, resource guides, posters, and bookmarks.

For program details: Vicky Middleswarth, KY Historical Society, 502-564-1792 ext. 4425.

August 3-4 - Russell-McDowell Intermediate School, Flatwoods, Greenup County.

What You Get: Intrigue of the Past, the curriculum workbook; Kentucky-specific resources like booklets, curriculum materials, resource guides, posters, and bookmarks.

For program details: Gwynn Henderson, phone: 859-257-1919, email: aghend2@pop.uky.edu.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Tools for Teachers Found on New National Register Website

The National Park Service has redesigned their website on the National Register of Historic Places, which can be viewed at www.cr.nps.gov/nr/index.htm. The colorful and well-designed website offers information about the Register, how to list a property, technical assistance, research and travel. Of special interest to teachers is the education page, which provides lesson plans and tips on using historic properties in education.

Students can Explore Ancient Egypt on Website

Akhet Internet: The Horizon to the Past, a major website out of the United Kingdom, covers ancient Egypt in all its glory. Students can learn about the Art of the Afterlife, Grave Goods, Mythology, and Monuments and Tombs, or explore a Clickable Mummy. While studying about the rulers of Egypt, students also can learn more about day-to-day lives of the Egyptian people. The site is recommended for grade levels elementary to high school and can be viewed at www.akhet.co.uk/.

About.com Offers Diverse Website on Archaeology

About.com's archaeology website offers links to online archaeology resources, selected and organized by archaeologist K. Kris Hurst. Highlights include: a World Atlas of Archaeology, listing excavations, researchers, and information resources for over 150 countries; a Directory of Graduate Schools, listing current faculty and research areas; a guide to current and upcoming excavations; job listings for field and lab assistants; carefully selected Net links covering over 70 topics; and over 130 articles. Check out About.com at <http://archaeology.about.com/>.