

## GATEWAY COMMUNITY

LONG before Atlanta became the "Gateway to the South," the Leake Site was an American Indian gateway community.

What is a "gateway community"? In archaeology it's an easily and naturally accessible place that's located in an area where different items are being produced.

Based on the different objects that have been found there, archaeologists believe that the Leake Site linked the Southeast with the Midwest.



Copper Cutout

A major characteristic of the Middle Woodland period is widespread and long distance interaction. It was during this period that American Indians traveled and traded throughout eastern North America. The Leake Site's location made it a convenient gathering place. Not only were there abundant natural resources but the many rivers and trails nearby made it fairly easy to get to this area.



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**SWIFT CREEK POTTERY**  
Archaeologists tested the clay from this piece of pottery and discovered that it was made at the Mann Site in southern Indiana!

**PRISMATIC BLADES**  
These razor-sharp stone tools may have been used to prepare animal hides. The colorful stone that these blades were made from can only be found in Ohio.

**COPPER**  
Copper often came from the Great Lakes region and was made into objects of adornment, such as breastplates, beads, and gorgets. This mineral was also commonly found in burials.

**GRAPHITE**  
Graphite was another mineral used by American Indians for its pigment.

**GALENA**  
Because this mineral is often found in burials, archaeologists believe it was highly valued by American Indians. This piece has been modified into a triangular prism.

**SHARK TOOTH**  
Some objects, like shark teeth and sea shells, came from coastal areas. How did they make it further inland?

**HUMAN EFFIGIES**  
Effigies, like these clay figures, are found at many Middle Woodland Sites and archaeologists consider them to be evidence of widespread interaction.

**Leake Site**

**Mann Site**