

RIVERS, ROADS, AND I-75

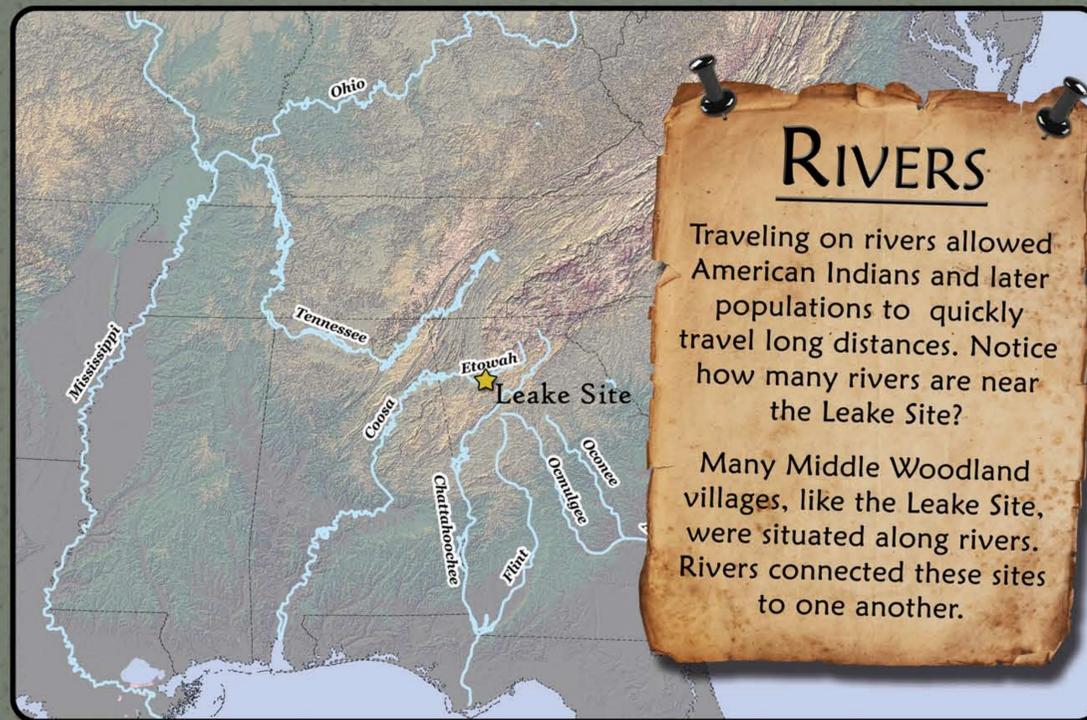
HOWEVER you traveled to the Leake Site, you've become part of an ancient tradition.

Travel and transportation played a big part in making the Leake Site an important location. Keep in mind that at the time this site was occupied, there were no roads. All travel was done either on foot or by water.

Not only were there likely well-traveled paths in the area, but the Leake Site was located along a natural corridor: the Great Valley. The Great Valley is a mountain range that runs north and south.

A potentially faster way to travel than by foot was on water. American Indians who lived at the Leake Site would have used dugout canoes to travel the various rivers near the Leake Site.

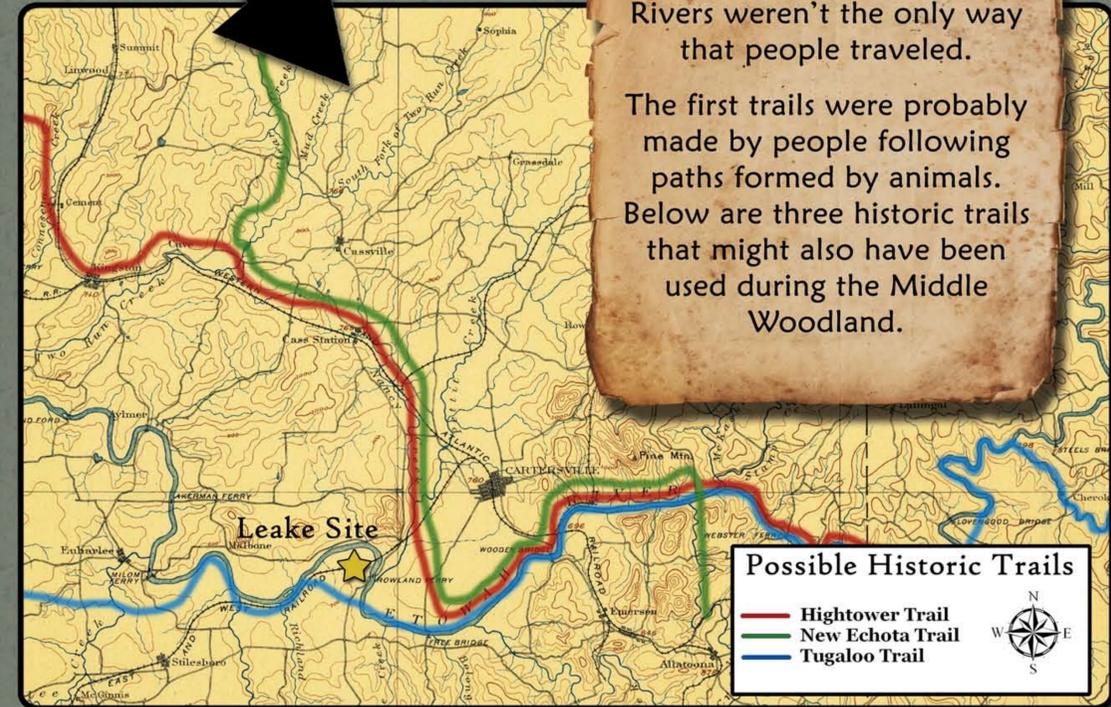
All these travel routes helped bring people to the Leake Site and modern routes are carrying on that tradition.



RIVERS

Traveling on rivers allowed American Indians and later populations to quickly travel long distances. Notice how many rivers are near the Leake Site?

Many Middle Woodland villages, like the Leake Site, were situated along rivers. Rivers connected these sites to one another.



TRAILS

Rivers weren't the only way that people traveled.

The first trails were probably made by people following paths formed by animals. Below are three historic trails that might also have been used during the Middle Woodland.

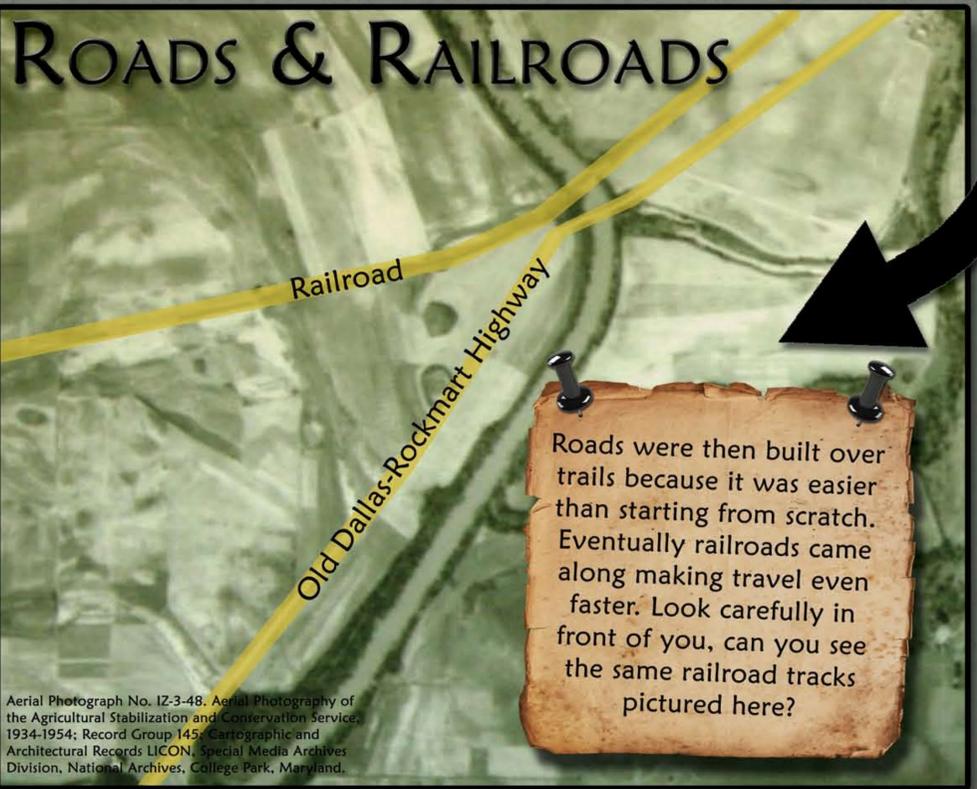
Possible Historic Trails

- Hightower Trail
- New Echota Trail
- Tugaloo Trail



I-75

We still use rivers and trails today, but now most long-distance travel is done on interstates like I-75.



ROADS & RAILROADS

Roads were then built over trails because it was easier than starting from scratch. Eventually railroads came along making travel even faster. Look carefully in front of you, can you see the same railroad tracks pictured here?

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