

HOPEWELL INTERACTION SPHERE

HUNDREDS of years ago, American Indians were traveling and trading all the way from Canada to Florida.

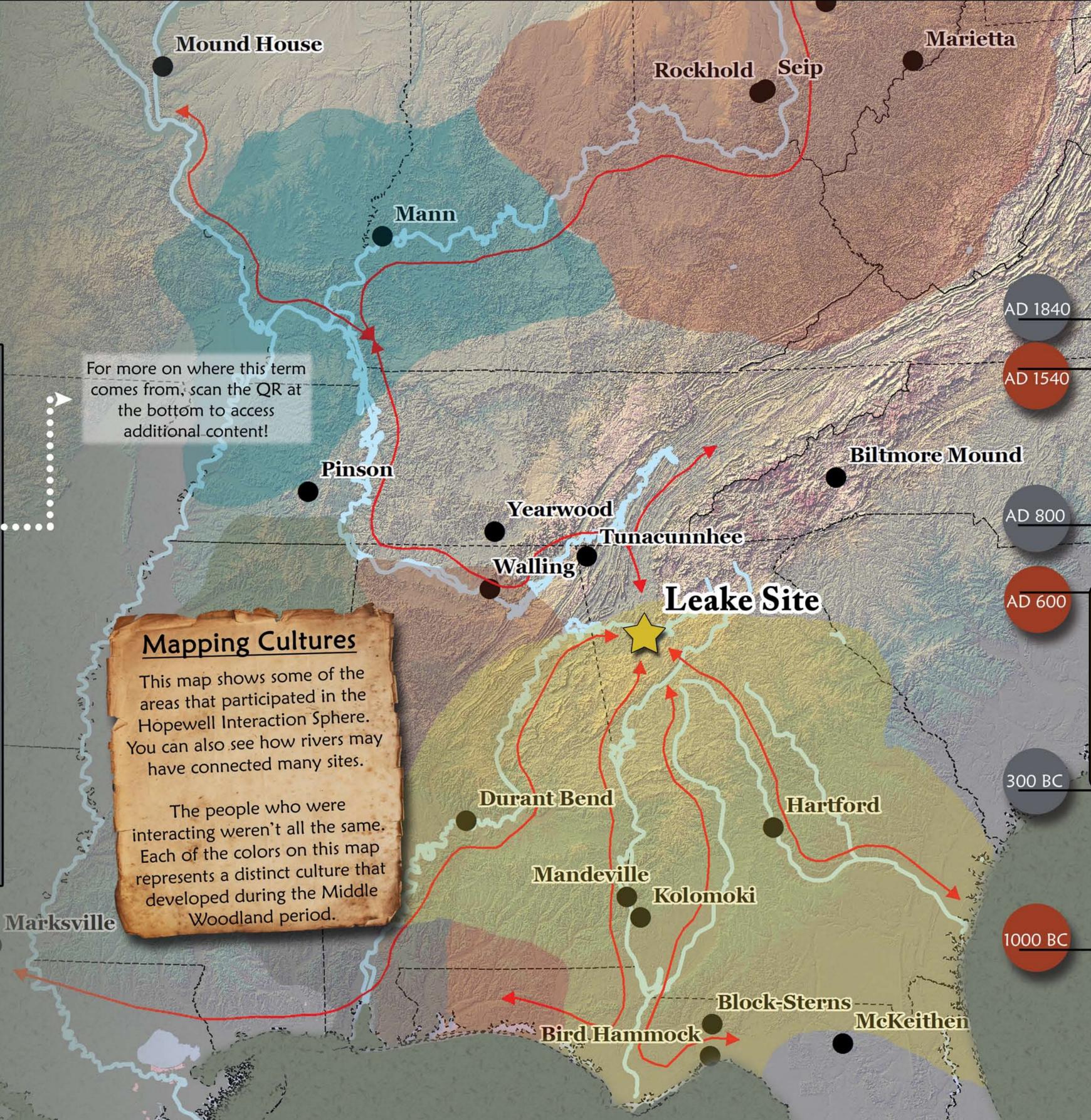
If you were an archaeologist excavating a Middle Woodland site in Ohio, and you found a seashell from the Gulf Coast, wouldn't you wonder how that shell got there? The answer lies in a Middle Woodland exchange network known as the *Hopewell Interaction Sphere*.

Similar objects and materials have been found by archaeologists at excavations throughout eastern North America. Archaeologists discovered that these similarities are the result of widespread interaction among American Indians. Objects and materials were transported by these people to often distant locations.

Beliefs and traditions about things like burial customs and mound building were also shared and often affected what objects were traded. For reasons that remain unclear, widespread interaction decreased by the end of the Middle Woodland period.

For more on where this term comes from, scan the QR at the bottom to access additional content!

Mapping Cultures
 This map shows some of the areas that participated in the Hopewell Interaction Sphere. You can also see how rivers may have connected many sites.
 The people who were interacting weren't all the same. Each of the colors on this map represents a distinct culture that developed during the Middle Woodland period.



- AD 1840
- AD 1540
- AD 800
- AD 600
- 300 BC
- 1000 BC

HISTORIC PERIOD

1500 - Leake Site briefly reoccupied
MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD

LATE WOODLAND PERIOD

MIDDLE WOODLAND PERIOD
 The Leake Site was primarily occupied during the same timespan that the Hopewell Interaction Sphere was active.

EARLY WOODLAND PERIOD



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