

## WATERWAYS

How did American Indians use the Etowah River differently than you and I?

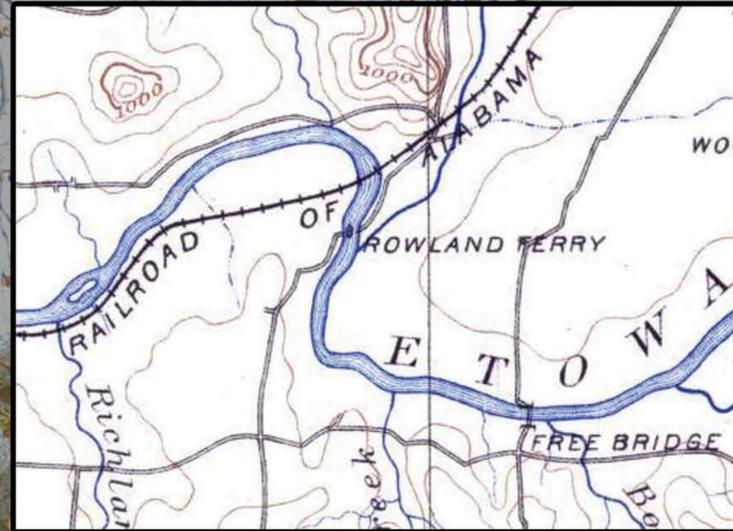
It's no accident that the Leake Site is located so close to the Etowah River. Before indoor plumbing, water had to be brought to wherever it was needed. Isn't it easier to carry water if the source is nearby?

American Indians used the rivers for much more than water, though. The Etowah River provided food products and an avenue for transportation. Think of it as a grocery store and highway wrapped in one! Archaeologists also know that American Indians made baskets from reeds that grew along the rivers and made pottery along the banks as well. What else might the Etowah River have been used for by the people who lived at the Leake Site?

Using rivers to travel on was important because it allowed American Indians to travel long distances much faster than walking.

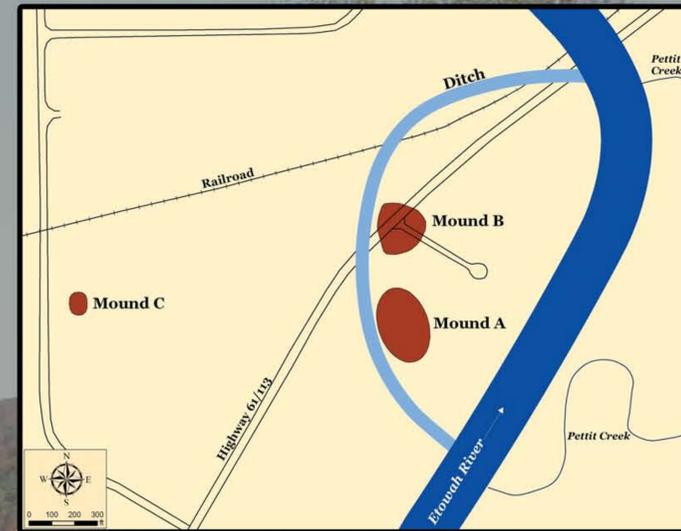


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The Etowah River could be travelled on, but at times it also had to be crossed. This could be a problem for American Indians as well as people who lived later.

The old Dallas-Rockmart road crossed the Etowah River on the "Rowland Ferry" and the railroad crossed over a bridge.



Archaeologists have discovered what appears to be a ditch that surrounded two of the mounds at the Leake Site.

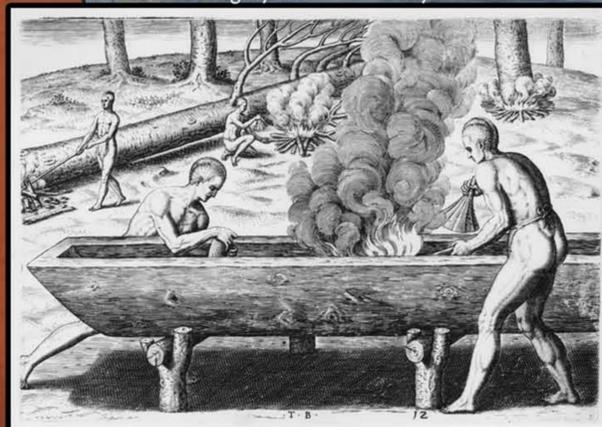
Although it may look like a moat, it was probably a religious symbol or a way to separate different social groups.



This stone "V" is an American Indian fish trap, called a weir. As fish swam into the larger opening they would get funneled to the narrow end where people would be waiting with baskets to catch them.



1590 drawing by Theodor de Bry.



### Dugout Canoes

The American Indians who lived at the Leake Site would have traveled on the rivers using dugout canoes. This kind of boat was made by burning the top of a log and then scraping out the burned part.