

MOUNDS AND MOUNDBUILDING

THE American Indians who lived at the Leake Site built three mounds. Look around, can you identify them?

Most of the mounds at the Leake Site cannot be seen anymore because roads and buildings have been built over them.

Mounds are known to have been used over time as sacred places for rituals, places for burials (kind of like the pyramids), and places on which structures like houses and temples were built. Mounds changed through time and conical, round, and square mounds have all been found.

Mounds were usually built in stages and might take hundreds of years to be "finished." None of the mounds at the Leake Site were probably taller than twenty feet but some could be much bigger. The temple mound at the Kolomoki Mounds site is 57-feet high!



Image Courtesy Kolomoki Mounds State Historic Park

Mounds were created by filling up and dumping out basket-upon-basket of soil.

By excavating mounds, archaeologists know that they were built in stages, and not all at one time.

Archaeologists believe that visitors and travellers helped build the mounds at the Leake Site. A mixture of local and non-local artifacts have been found in one of the mounds.



Courtesy of Georgia Archives, RG 50-2-33, mmg21-1986

Not every mound was made of earth. The Shaw Mound, pictured here, was made of stones and located near the Leake Site.



Image courtesy Kolomoki Mounds Historic Site

MYTH OF THE MOUNDBUILDERS

If you were an early explorer who didn't know much about American Indians, what would you think if you stumbled across a huge, earthen mound?

At that time some argued that an ancient, "moundbuilding" race had constructed them, while others believed they were built by Egyptians, Israelites, or Vikings!

Now we know that American Indians were the "moundbuilders," but for a long time people couldn't - and wouldn't - believe it.



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