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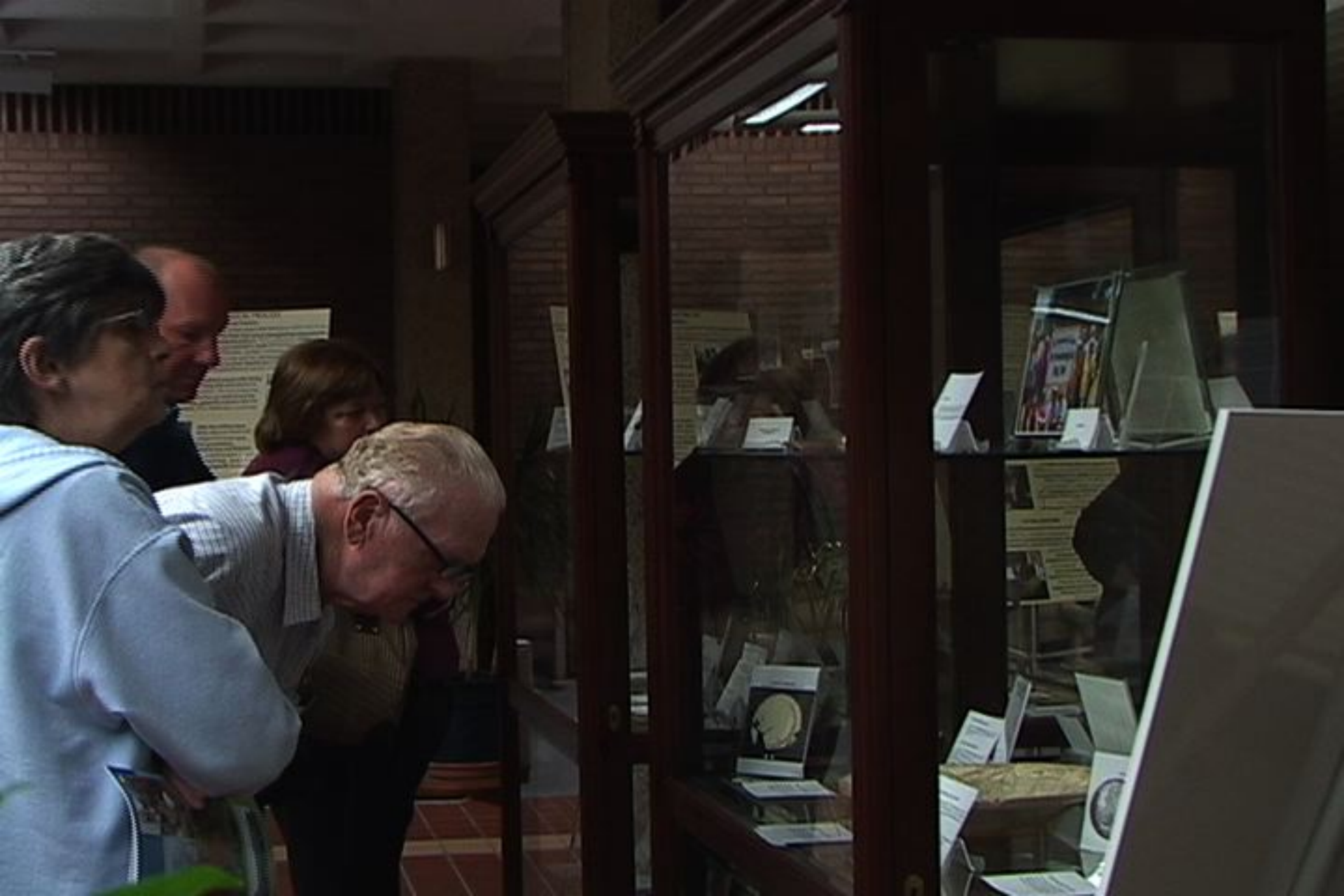
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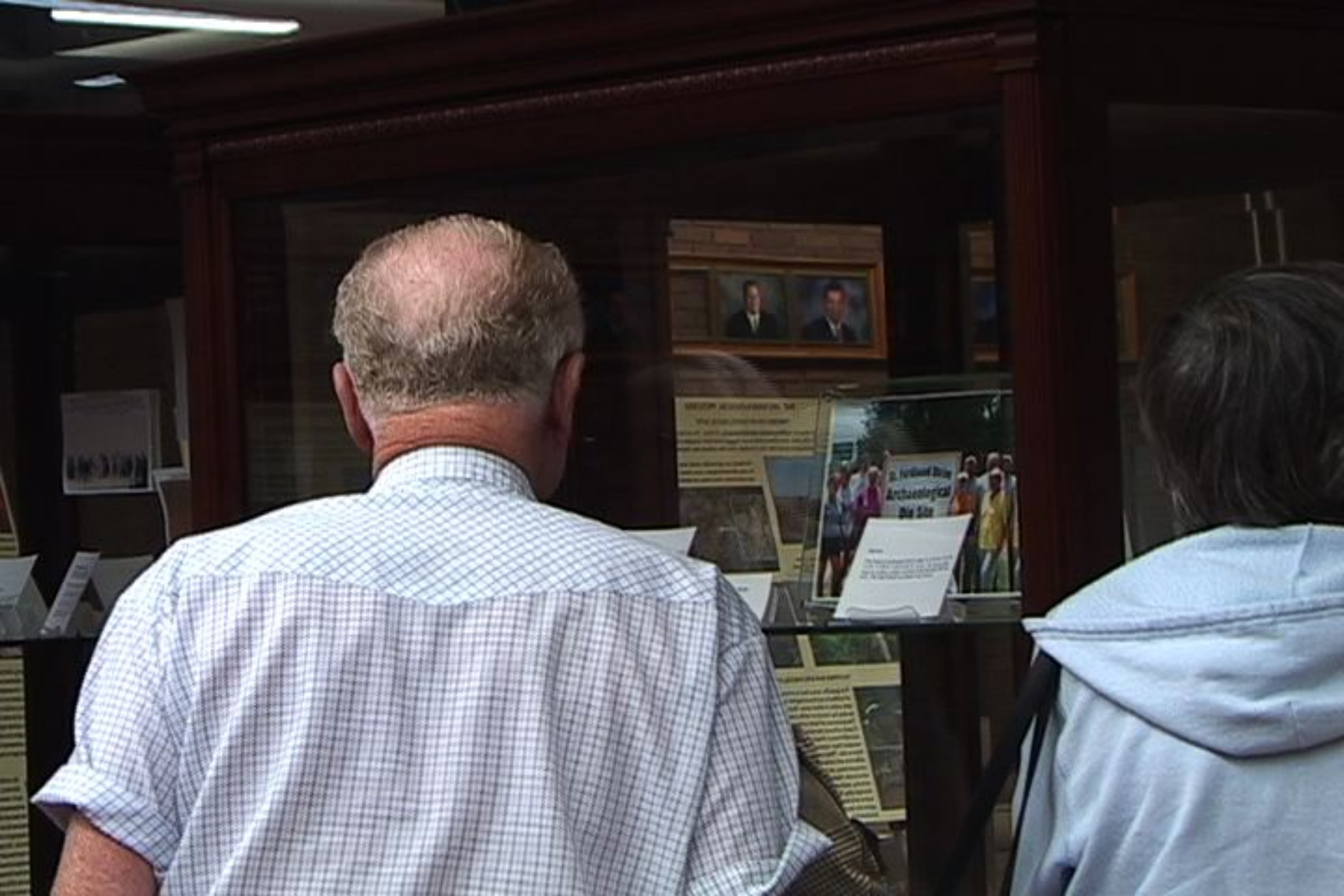
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## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROCESS

### FINDING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Archaeologists survey an area by walking evenly spaced transects, or lines. The surveyors look for artifacts, or remains from the past. Identified artifacts are flagged and their location marked with GPS units; that way archaeologists know the exact location that the artifact was found.



Artifacts are generally small and difficult to see; archaeologists must have a sharp eye and know what they are looking for.



If the ground surface is obstructed by grass or foliage, then shovel and auger testings are completed to search for cultural remains.



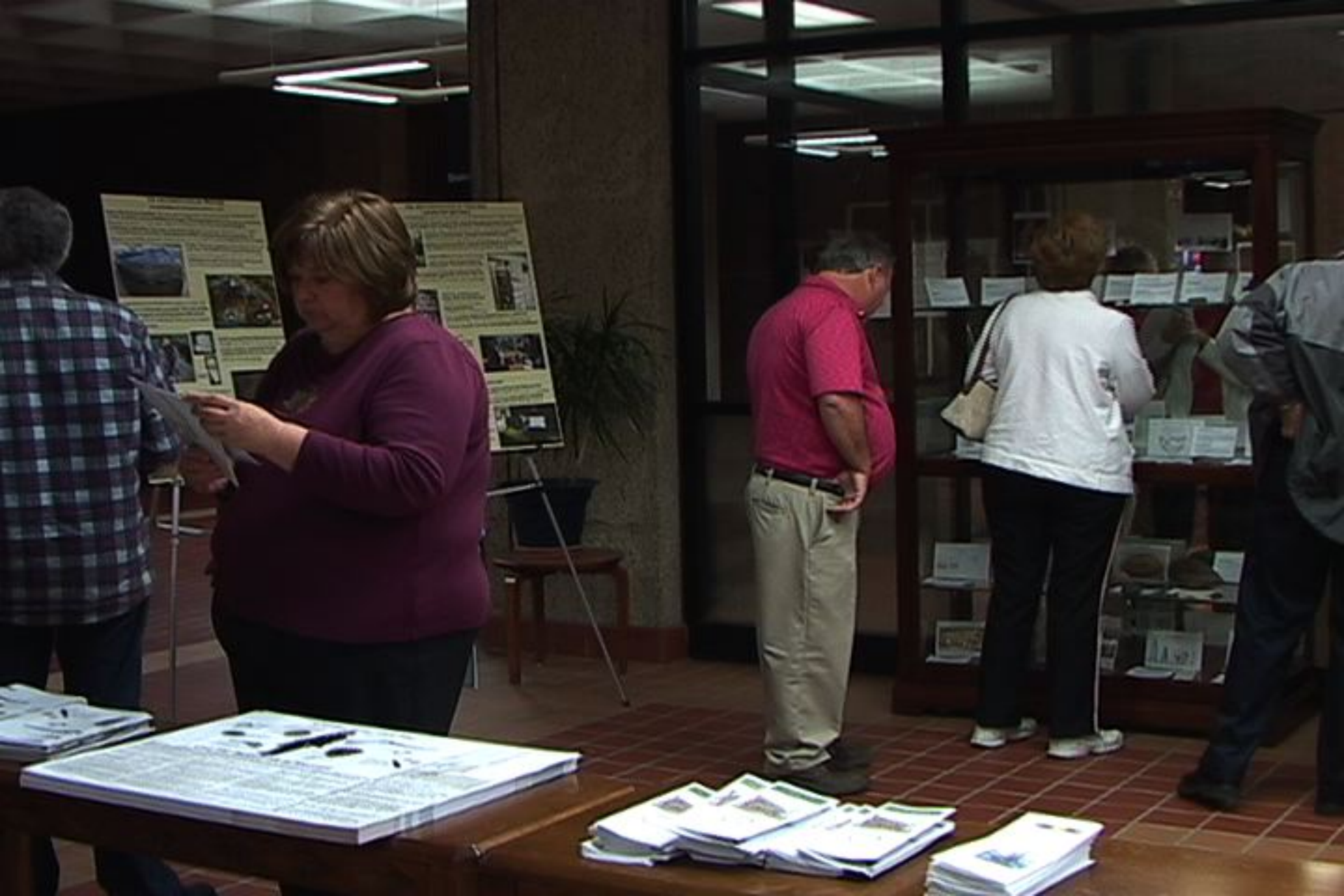
### TESTING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

If a specific area has a concentration of artifacts archaeologists will place test units in that area. Test units can be dug by hand or with a backhoe. The purpose of test units is to learn if past cultural remains, or features, are still intact. Features are material



### THE AN EXCAV

Once a site has been identified, the  
off with machinery such as backhoes  
excavated and that is a full step  
by tamping, compressing, back-filling  
or unaltered features are found. The  
features are usually by excavation









Display Financed by the  
U.S. Department of Interior,  
National Park Service,  
Administered by the  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources,  
State Historic Preservation Office,  
and the City of Florissant  
Display Prepared by the  
Archaeological Research Center  
of St. Louis, Inc.



**St. Ferdinand Shrine  
Archaeological  
Dig Site**

**Marbles**

**Buttons**

One button is a  
words "CORP"  
from an artillery  
1821. The other

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Common Transitional Phase Vessel Types,  
image taken from *American Bottom Archaeology* edited by  
Charles A. Bareis and James W. Porter (1993; pg. 135)





**Transitional Period**  
**Z-Twisted Cordmarked Jar Rim with**  
**Loop Handle**

*Courtesy of Illinois State Museum*

Z-twisted cordmarked pottery began to appear during the Transitional Phase. The change from S-twisted cordage to Z-twisted cordage is believed to be due to a change in people's aesthetic taste in pottery. Loop handles also were introduced during the Transitional Period.

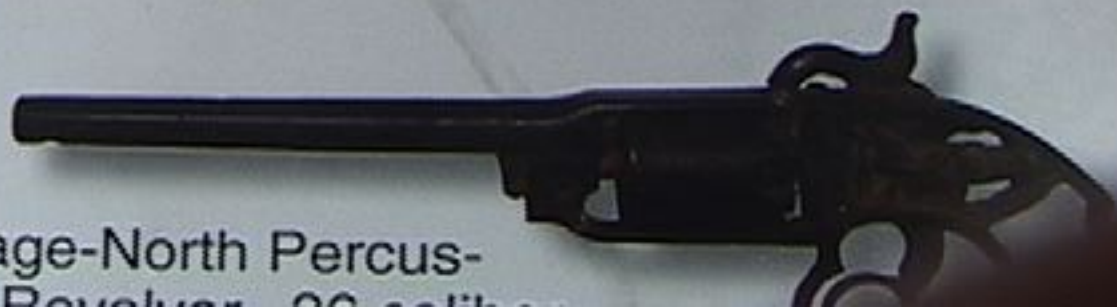




from a  
boot or shoe,  
used to provide  
traction and to  
minimize wear  
on leather heels.  
WICR 32245.



U.S. oval belt plate of  
stamped sheet brass with  
a lead-filled back, used on  
a soldier's waist belt.  
WICR 32142.



Savage-North Percus-  
sion Revolver, 26 caliber





Heel plate or rim  
from a soldier's  
boot or shoe,  
used to provide  
traction and to  
minimize wear  
on leather heels.  
WICR 32245.

U.S. Eagle shoulder belt plate, made of thin stamped brass with a lead-filled back, used on the leather shoulder belt that held a soldier's cartridge box. WICR 32130.

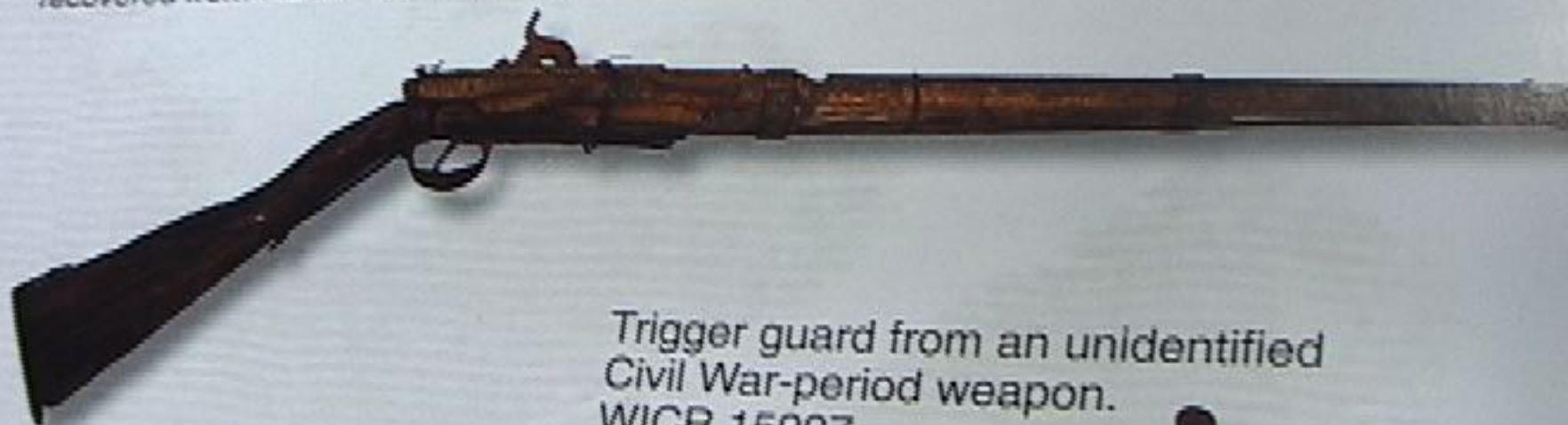


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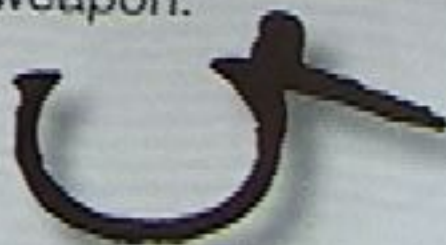



# f the Civil War

U.S. Breechloading percussion carbine, Model 1843 (Hall-North), .52 caliber,  
recovered from the Wilson's Creek battlefield. WICR 936.



Trigger guard from an unidentified  
Civil War-period weapon.  
WICR 15997.



The image shows three bullet fragments and a screwdriver handle. One fragment is a .58 caliber bullet with a distinct cannelure. Another is a .69 caliber Minie ball, which is a conical bullet with a hollow base. The third is a smaller, irregular fragment. The screwdriver handle is dark, possibly black, and has a curved, hook-like shape at one end.

Unfired .58 caliber  
and fired .69 caliber  
"Minie" balls or bullets,  
and a .58 caliber screw-  
driver (musket tool), used to  
disassemble the soldier's weapon.  
WICR 15555, 15421, 16126.





























**Early Woodland Period  
Marion Thick Pottery  
(700-200 BC)**

*Courtesy of Archaeological Research Center of St. Louis*

Ceramic vessels were first produced in this area during the Early Woodland Period. Marion Thick has thick, straight walls and flat bottoms. These ceramics were made by coiling wet clay in the general shape of the vessel. They were then beaten into shape with a paddle. To keep the wet clay from sticking to the paddle, it was wrapped in cordage which leaves impressions on the clay as cordmarks. These cordmarked vessels are known as S-twist, which refers to how the cord was made. The twisting of the fibers makes the spirals appear like the letter S.

**Middle Woodland Period  
Ceramic Types**

During the Middle Woodland Period ceramic vessels were more elaborately made with several different decorative styles.







**Middle Archaic Period**  
 The Middle Archaic Period is characterized by a variety of stone tools, including projectile points, knives, and scrapers. These tools were used for hunting and food preparation. The Middle Archaic Period is also known for its distinctive pottery, which is often decorated with geometric patterns.

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**Megafauna Species in Missouri during the Paleoindian Period**

 Ground Sloth	 Camel
 Mammoth	 Saber-tooth



**Paleoindian A-Hall**  
 Much stone used in tools is found in a gray limestone. This was used to make tools and weapons. A small amount of stone is also found in the Hall and some in the Hall.

**Paleoindian Period Subculture**  
 During the Paleolithic Period, people lived a nomadic life. They hunted animals and gathered plants. A small amount of stone is also found in the Hall and some in the Hall.

**Dalton Projectile Points**  
 The Dalton Projectile Points are a type of stone tool used for hunting. They are characterized by their distinctive barbs and are found in various locations in the Southeastern United States.



**Stone Age**  
The Stone Age is a period of time in human history when the primary tool was made of stone. It is divided into three periods: the Paleolithic, the Mesolithic, and the Neolithic.

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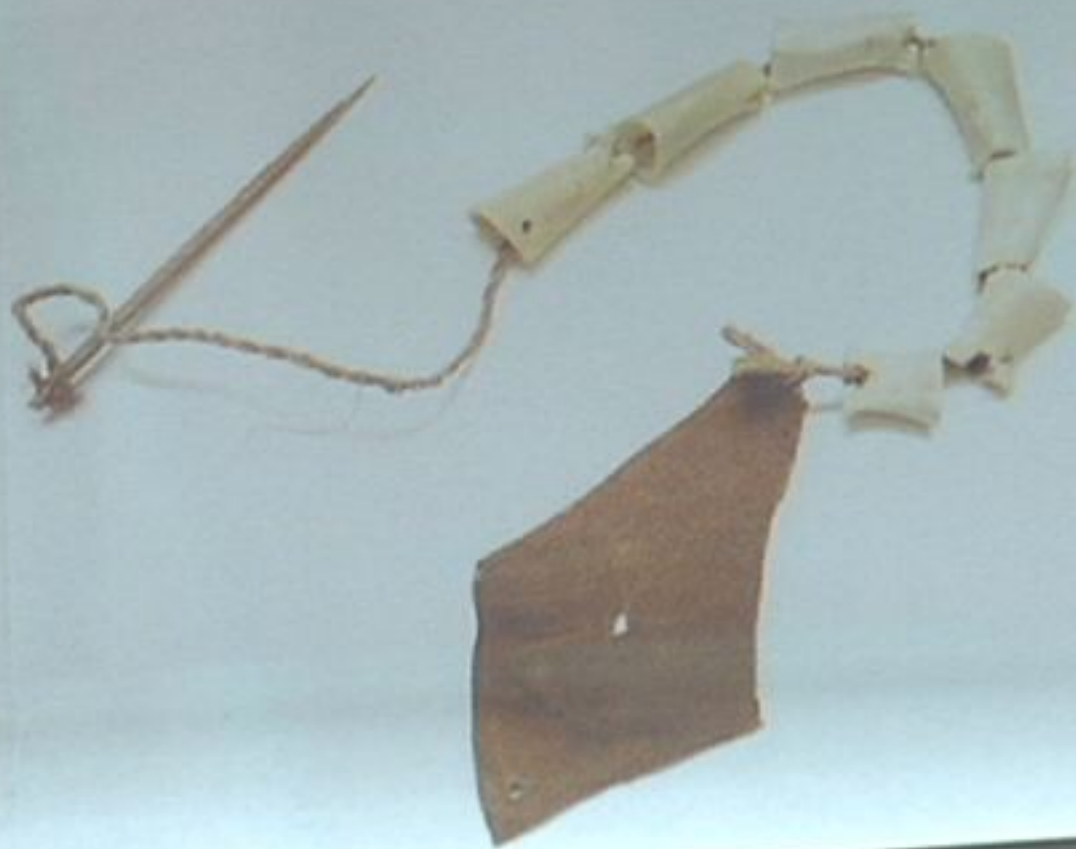
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**Historic Native American Cup and Pin Game**





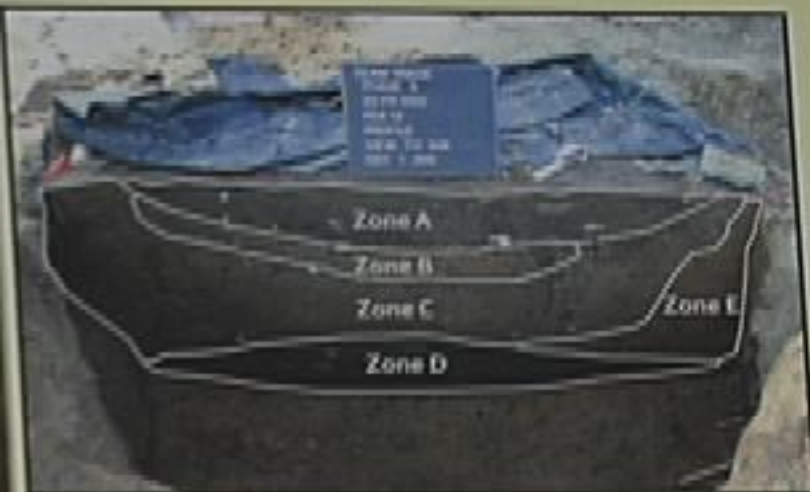
Typical Way of Hunting Mastodon:



## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROCESS

### EXCAVATING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Once a site has been identified, the entire site is exposed by taking the top layer of disturbed soil off with machinery such as a backhoe or a scraper. All archaeological sites in this area are covered by disturbed soil that is 1-2 feet deep. Objects and features in this zone have been disrupted by farming, construction, tree roots, and animals digging in the ground. Below this zone, intact or unaltered features are found. These features and their contents tell a story of past lives. All features are carefully excavated. Small features are cut in half to reveal the different zones, or layers of soils. The zones suggest how the feature was used over time. The profiles of the bisected features are mapped and photographed, with each zone noted. Information on each zone's soil color and type and the artifacts it contains are recorded.



Large features are divided into a grid, or units, and each unit is individually excavated. The units profile walls are mapped and photographed with special attention given to individual zones and the artifacts





