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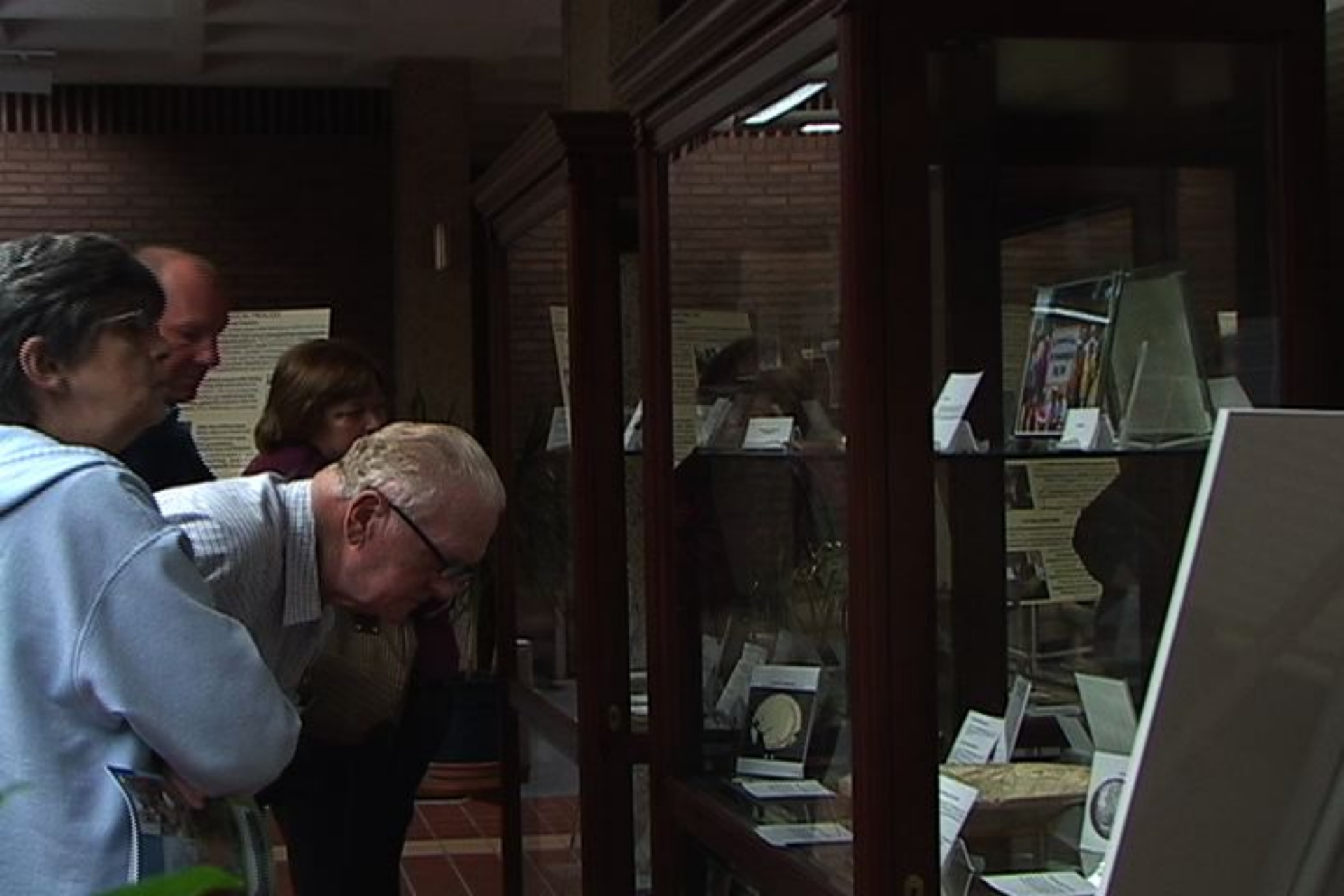
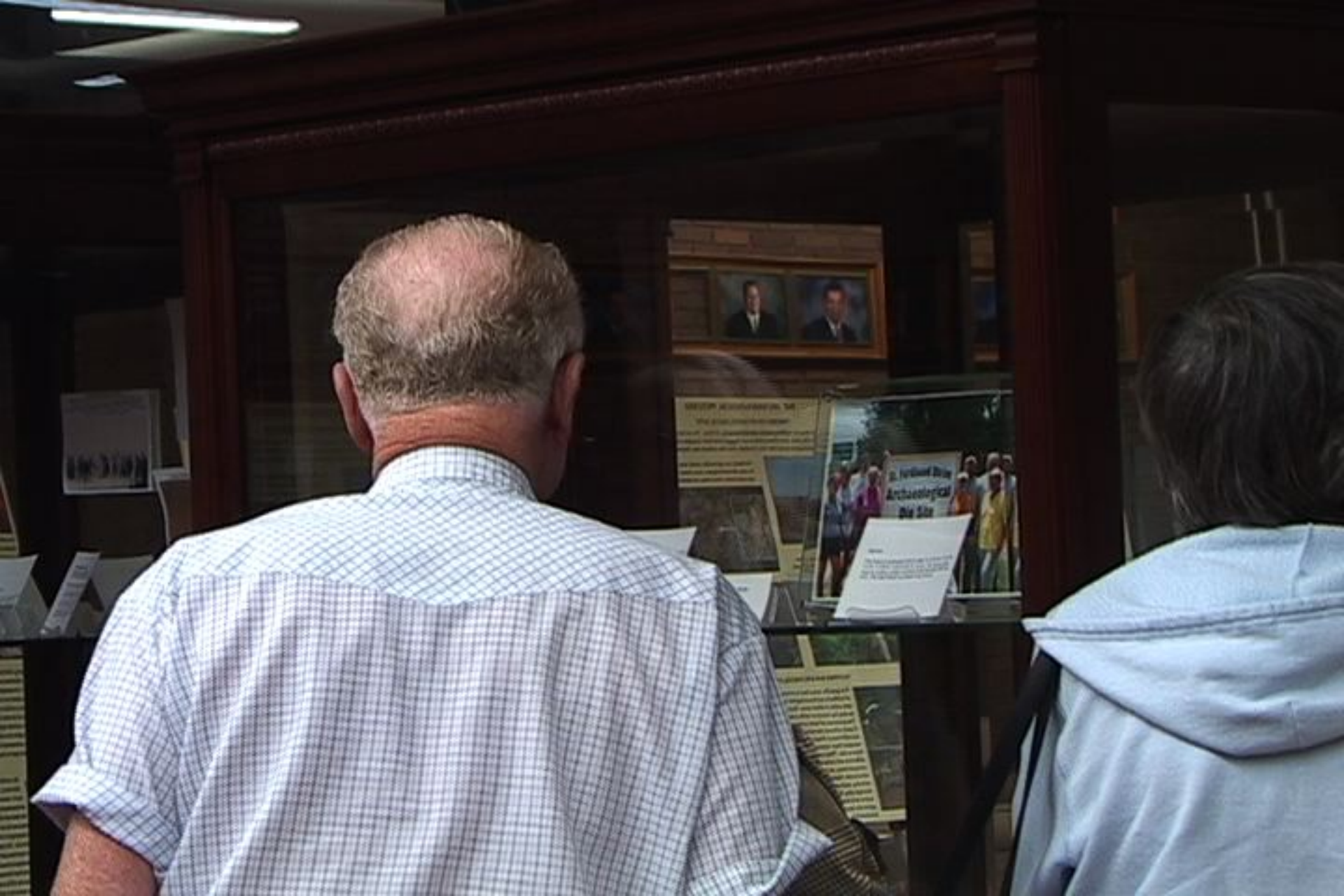
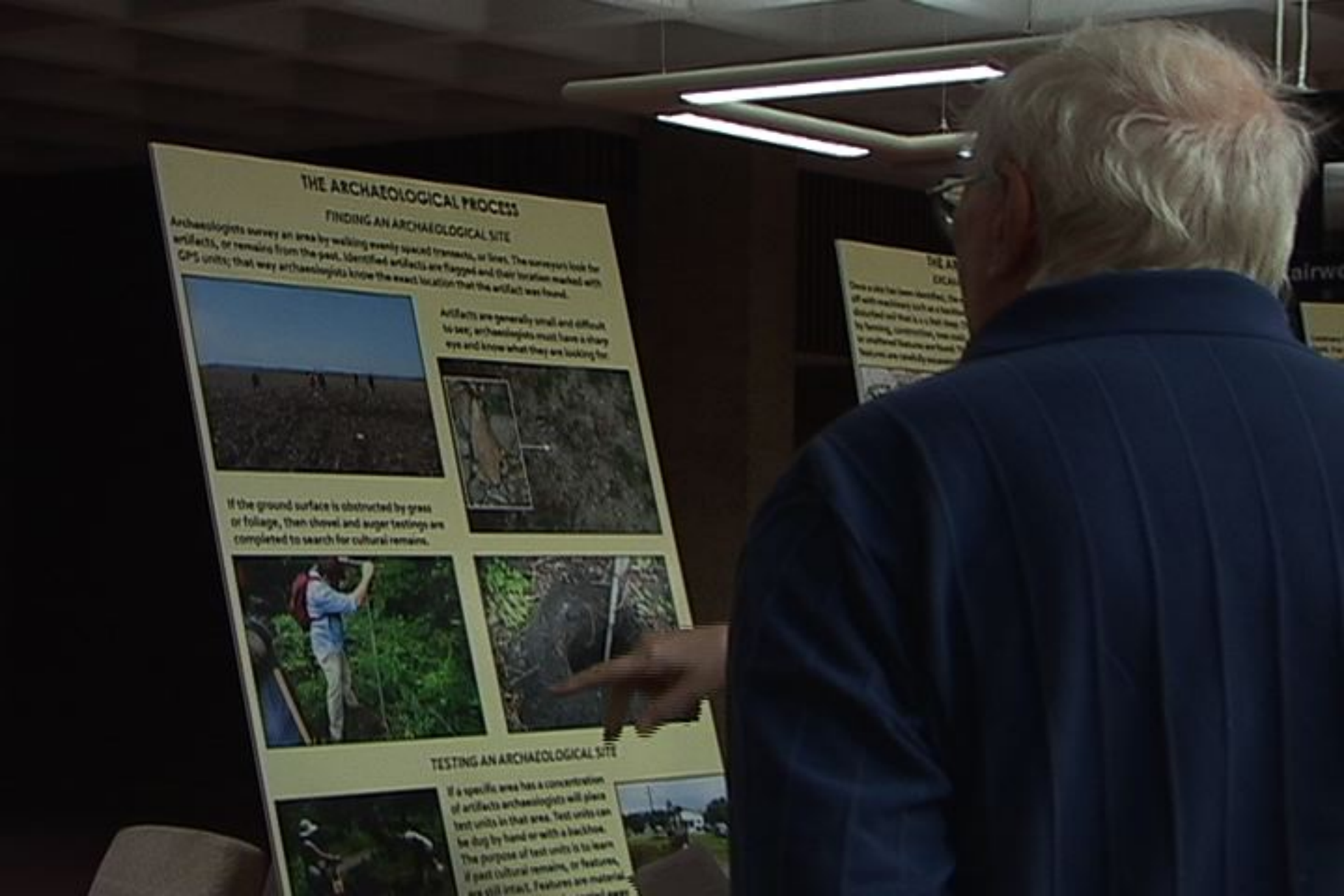
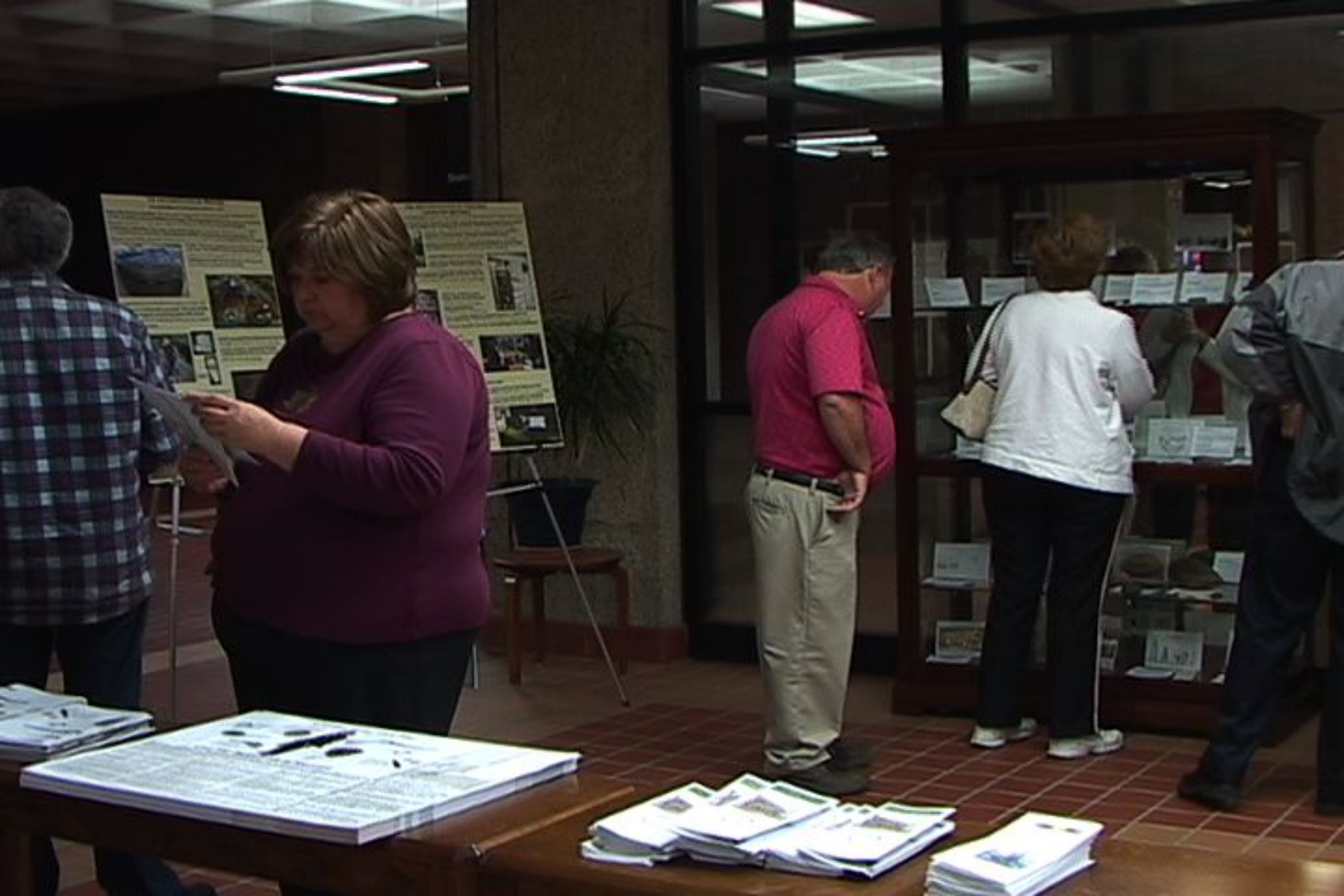





THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROCESS
FINDING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
Archaeologists survey an area by walking evenly spaced transects, or lines. The surveyors look for artifacts, or remains from the past. Identified artifacts are flagged and their location marked with GPS units; that way archaeologists know the 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,




Display Financed by the
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Display Prepared by the
Archaeological Research Center
of St. Louis, Inc.


St. Ferdinand Shrine
Archaeological
Dig Site
Marbles
Buttons

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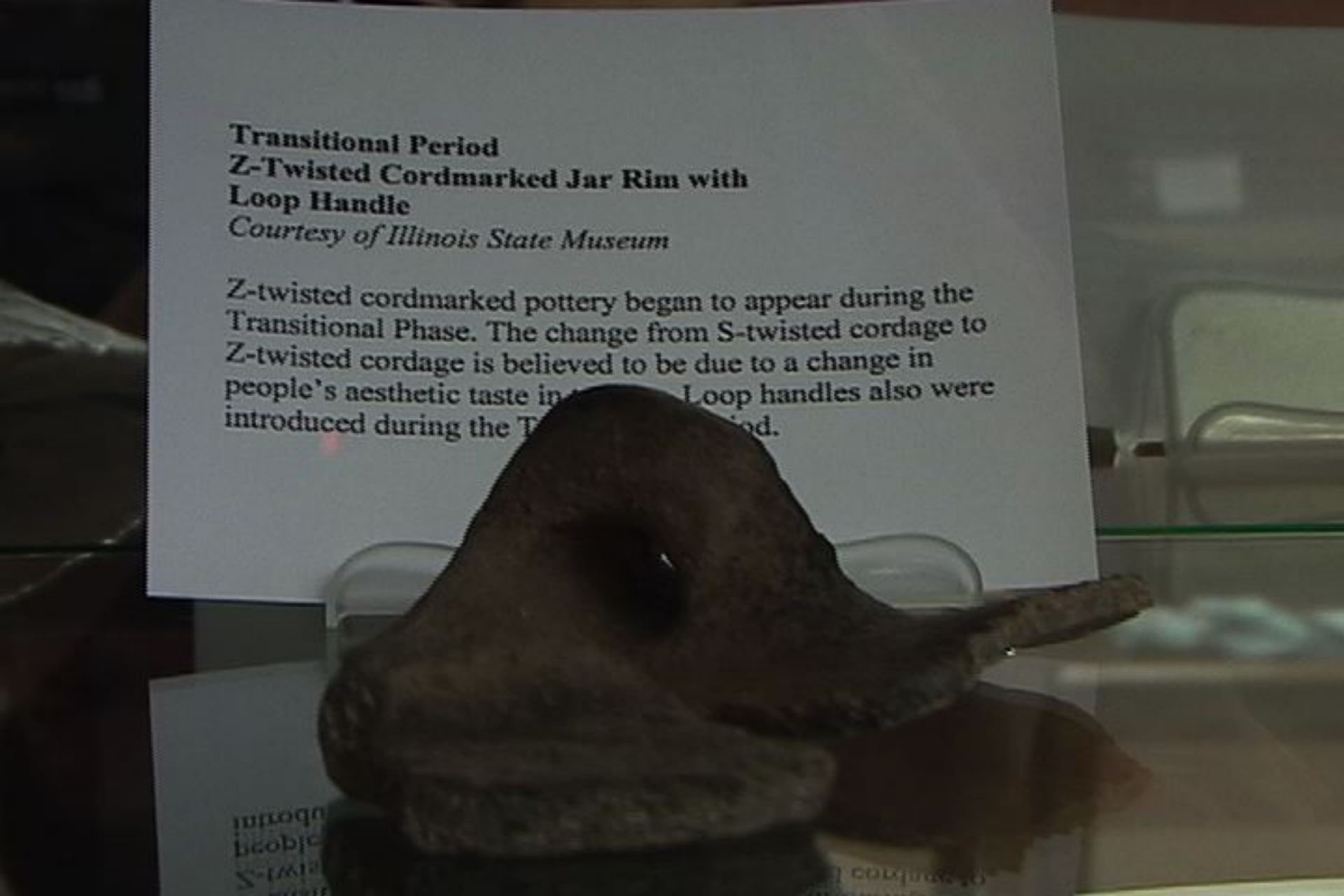
Common Transitional Phase Vessel Types,
image taken from *American Bottom Archaeology* edited by
Charles A. Bareis and James W. Porter (1993; pg. 135)


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
Loop handles also were
introduced during the T
od.

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-

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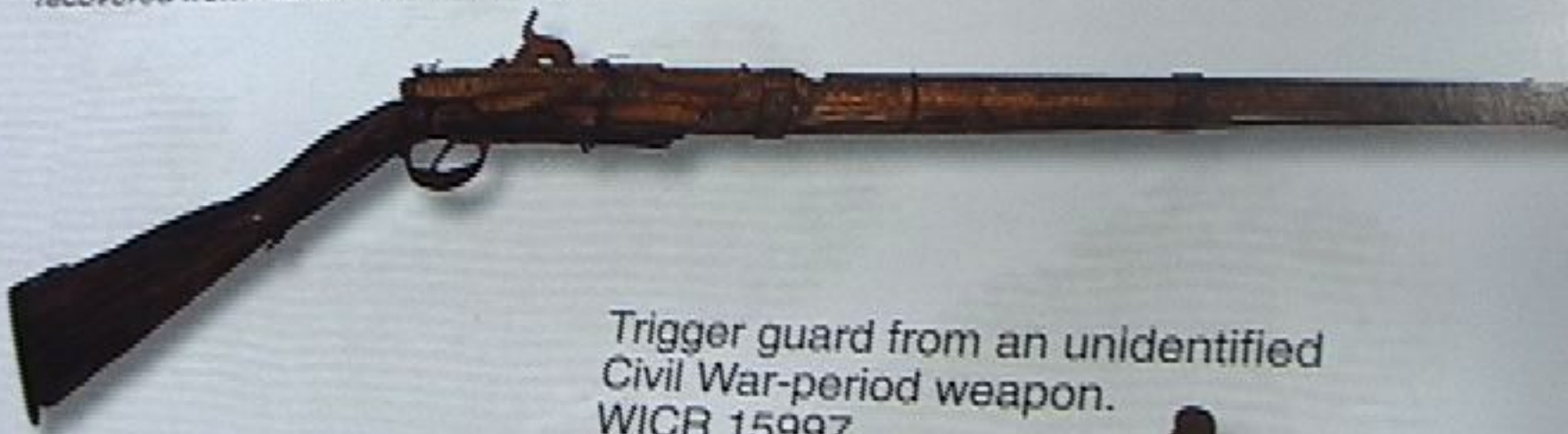
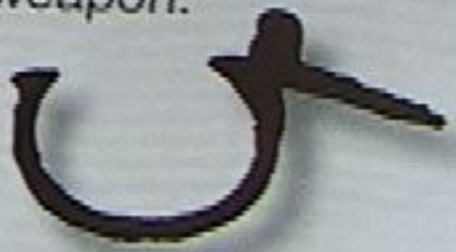
U.S. Breechloading percussion carbine, Model 1843 (Hall-North), .52 caliber, recovered from the Wilson's Creek battlefield. WICR 936.



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



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.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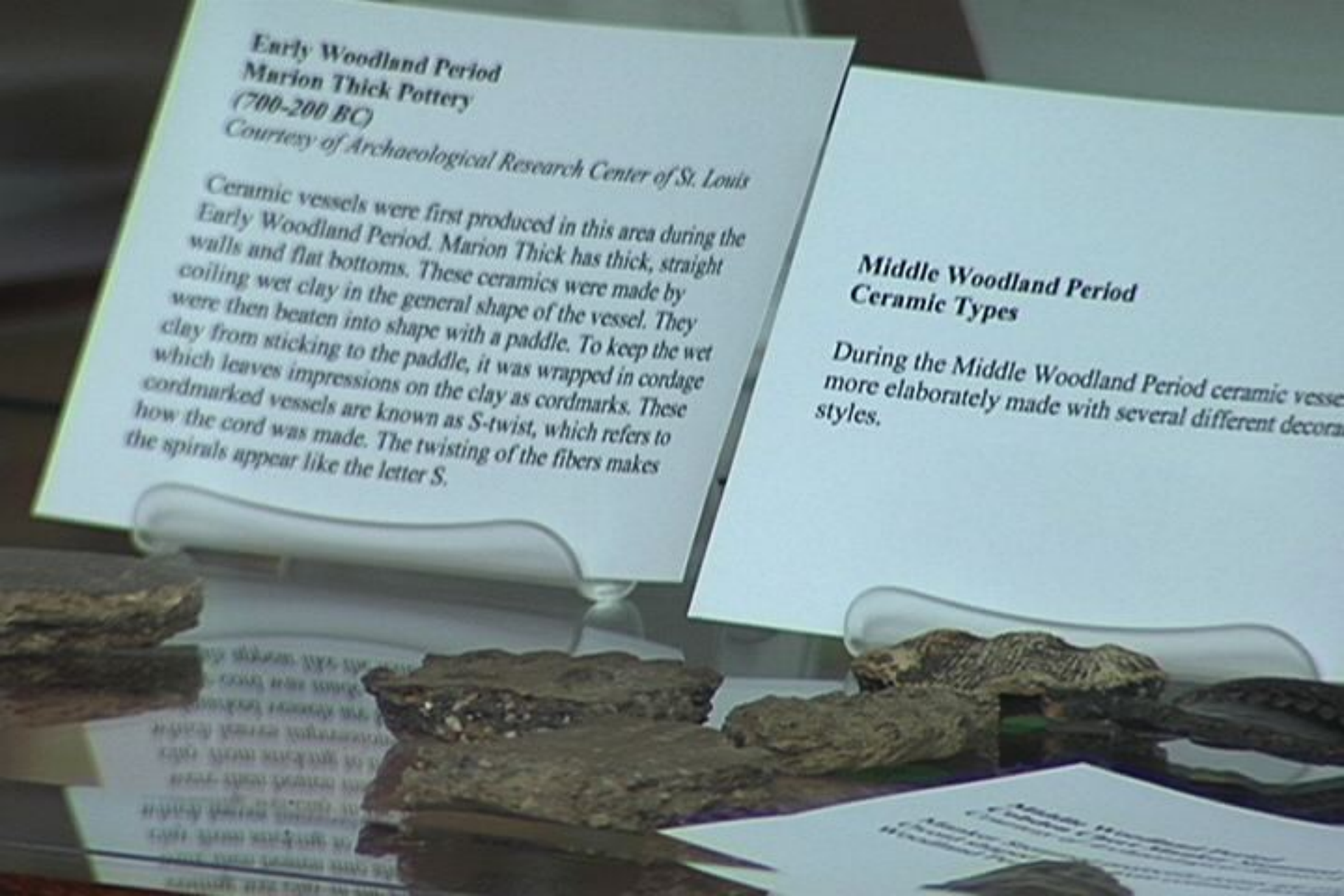
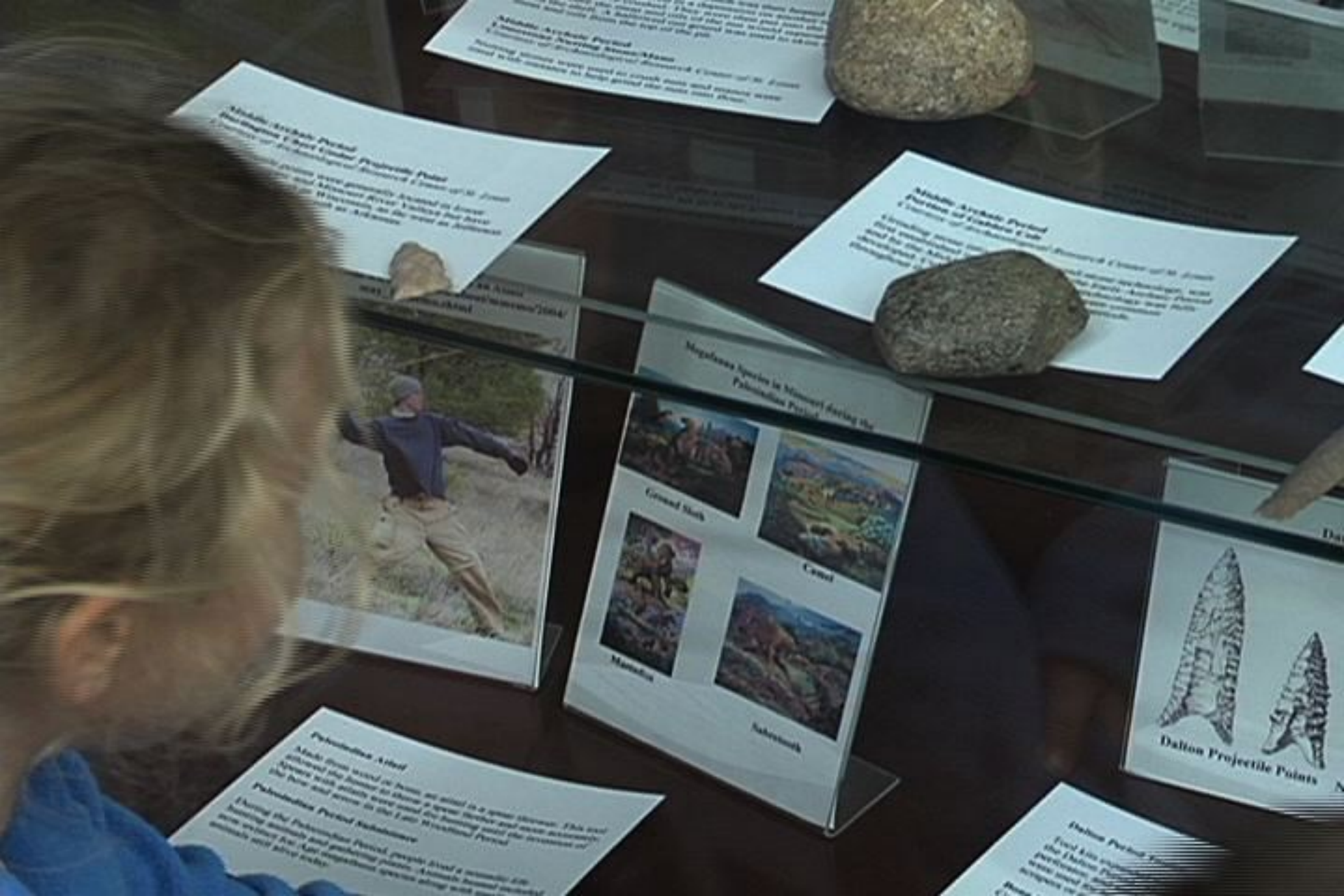
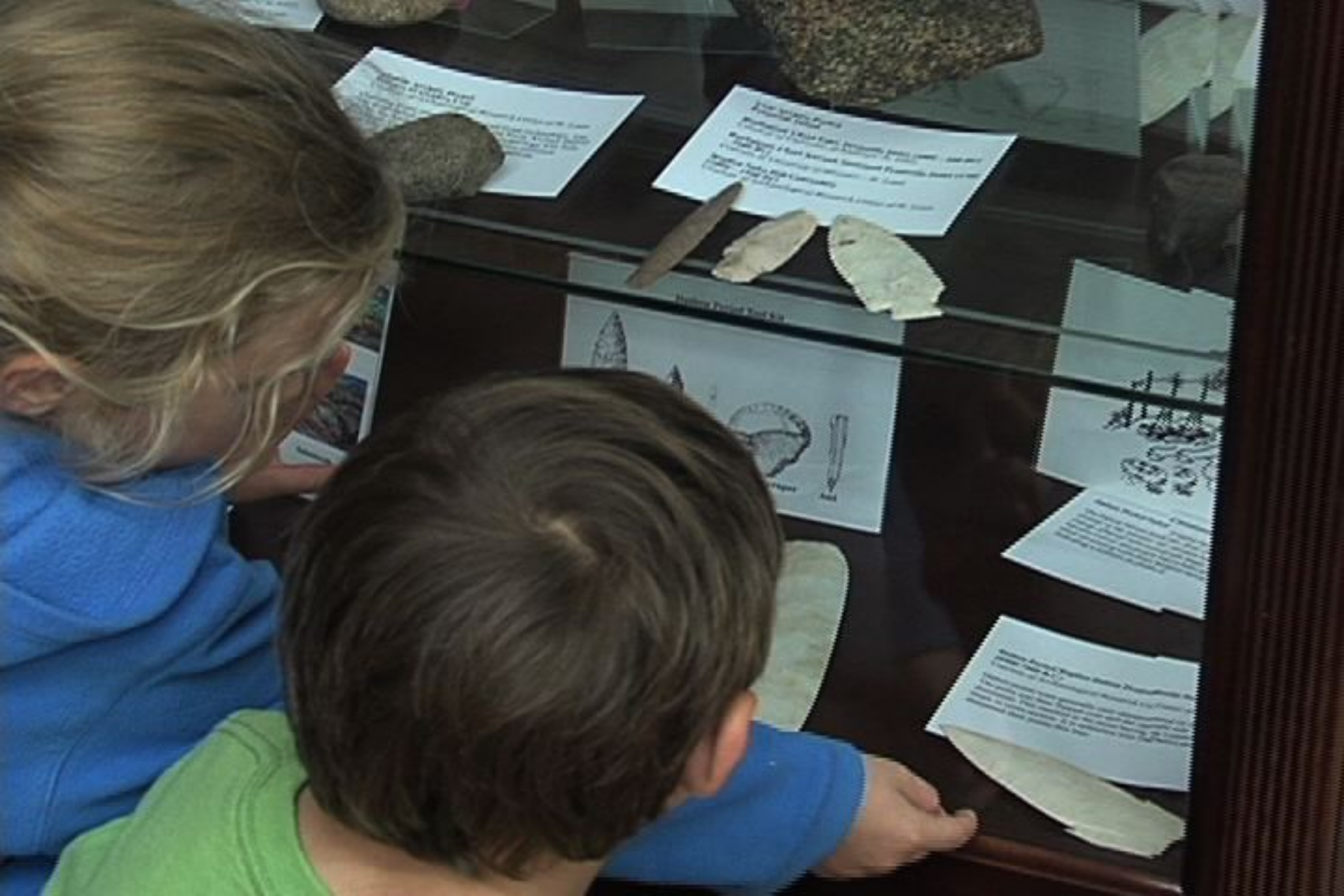
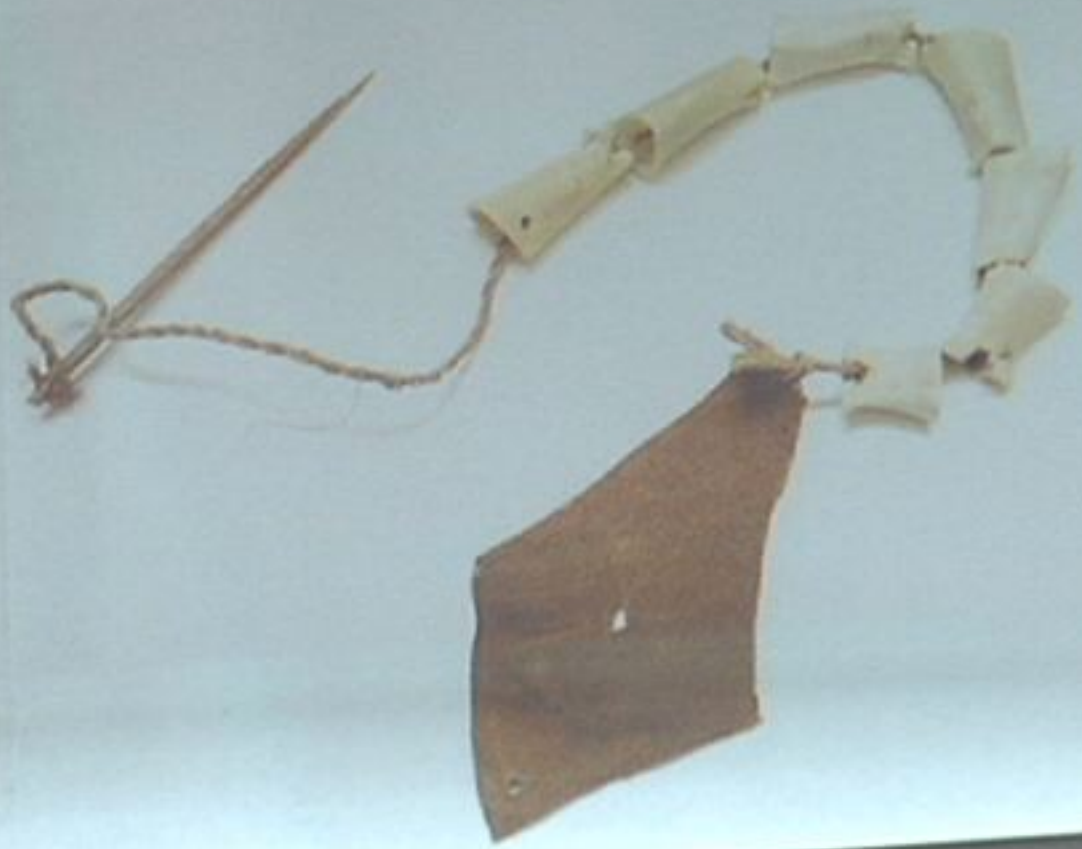

Early Woodland Period
Marion Thick Pottery
(700-200 BC)
Courtesy of Archaeological Research Center of St. Louis
Ceramic vessels were first produced in this area during the Early Woodland Period. Marion Thick has thick, straight walls and flat bottoms. These ceramics were made by coiling wet clay in the 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 vesse
more elaborately made with several different decora
styles.


Ground Sloth
Camel
Mastodon
Sabretooth
Dalton Projectile Points



Historic Native American Cup and Pin Game

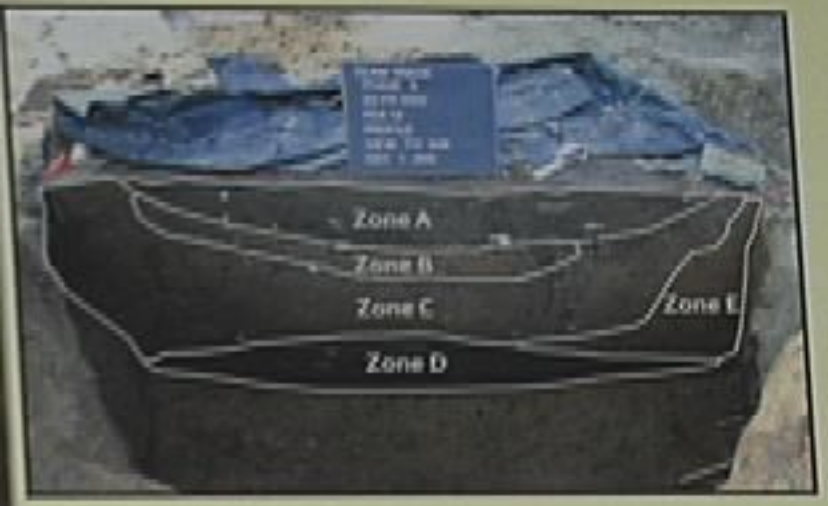



Typical Way of Hunting Mastodon:

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