Book Recommendations from the Living Archaeology Weekend Steering Committee

The Living Archaeology Weekend Steering Committee has prepared dozens of educational resources related directly to the LAW event, and these are available for free on our web site at www.livingarchaeologyweekend.com. Here are our suggestions for additional relevant publications on archaeology, Native American/American Indian culture and heritage, early pioneer history, and natural history. Selections for adults are followed by titles for young readers in the last section.

Books About Eastern Woodlands Archaeology

*In Small Things Forgotten: The Archaeology of Early American Life* by James Deetz
1977, Doubleday Publishing

Provides an excellent introduction to history, archaeology, and historical archaeology through case studies that use material culture to understand the lifeways of early Euro-Americans and African-Americans. Describes how the past can be seen most fully by studying the small things so often forgotten. Objects and artifacts such as doorways, grave-stones, musical instruments, and even sherds of pottery fill in the cracks between large historical events and depict the intricacies of daily life.

*Kentucky Archaeology* edited by R. Barry Lewis
1996, University Press of Kentucky

Presents the prehistoric and historic archaeology of Kentucky for the general reader, with accessible text, artifact drawings, maps, and site photographs. Contains chapters on archaeological research in Kentucky, Paleoindian hunter-gatherers, Archaic period peoples, Woodland gardeners, Late Prehistoric farmers, Historic period settlers, and the future of Kentucky’s archaeological record.

*Historical Archaeology in Kentucky* edited by Kim McBride and W. Stephen McBride
1995, Kentucky Heritage Council

Describes archaeological research on Kentucky’s historic period (post-1750) in 12 readable chapters, including what historical archaeology is, its history of development as a discipline, data collection and methods, and research topics and current projects studied by historical archaeologists in Kentucky. Contains many black-and-white illustrations, plus a guide to further reading and glossary.
The Rock Art of Eastern North America edited by Carol Diaz-Granados and James Duncan
2004, University of Alabama Press

Provides a nice introduction to rock art, which is long-lasting markings made on natural surfaces like boulders, bluffs, caves, rockshelters, even trees. Describes how rock art is similar to other types of material culture like pottery and tools, because it provides a record of human activity and belief systems in the past. Presents descriptions of petroglyph (rock carving), pictograph (rock painting), and dendroglyph (tree carving) sites recorded throughout the Eastern Woodlands of North America.

1999, University of North Carolina Press

Presents a fascinating, readable narrative of the state’s Native American past across a vast sweep of time, from the Paleo-Indian period more than 10,000 years ago, when the first immigrants to North America crossed a land bridge spanning the Bering Strait, through the arrival of European traders and settlers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Illustrates how archaeologists painstakingly reconstruct the past, in the absence of written records, from the fragmentary and fragile archaeological record.

Cherokee Archaeology: A Story of the Appalachian Summit by Bennie Keel
1987, University of Tennessee Press

Presents and examines a wealth of excavated material documenting the lives of the prehistoric peoples who once inhabited the Appalachian Summit, especially in North Carolina. Provides a vast amount of detailed archaeological evidence about the cultures of Cherokee ancestors.

Cherokee Prehistory: The Pisgah Phase in the Appalachian Summit Region by Roy Dickens
1976, University of Tennessee Press

Describes the Pisgah phase, the name that archaeologists give to artifacts representing peoples who lived in the Appalachian Summit area of Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina from about AD 1000-1500. Presents archaeological information about the Native peoples immediately preceding the emergence of identifiable Cherokee culture. Relates Pisgah peoples to the broader picture of Southeastern prehistory, and presents some interpretations of the human behavior behind the archaeological remains.
Prehistoric Native Americans and Ecological Change by Paul Delcourt and Hazel Delcourt
2008, Cambridge University Press

Tackles the controversy between ecologists and archaeologists over the role of prehistoric Native Americans as agents of ecological change. Uses ecological and archaeological data from Eastern North America to show that post-glacial human ecosystems were complex adaptive systems involving human-environment interactions on multiple spatial and time scales. Considers implications for biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration today.

Books and Booklets About Kentucky Prehistory

Rock Art of Kentucky by Fred Coy, Thomas Fuller, Larry Meadows, and James Swauger
1997, University Press of Kentucky

Describes in words, line drawings, and black-and-white photographs 72 of Kentucky’s petroglyphs (rock carvings) and pictographs (rock paintings). Includes rock art sites from across Kentucky, though most are in the eastern Kentucky mountains. Considers when the rock art was made, by whom, and its possible functions.

Paleoindian and Archaic Research in Kentucky edited by Charles Hockensmith, David Pollack, and Tom Sanders
1988, Kentucky Heritage Council

Includes 11 papers on chronology, stone tool analyses, settlement patterns, ritual behavior, subsistence, and other topics. Features a statewide overview of the Archaic period, which provides a well-needed context for studies dealing with this period of Kentucky’s past.

Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers: Kentucky’s First Pioneers by Leon Lane, Eric Schlarb, and A. Gwynn Henderson
1998, Kentucky Archaeological Survey

Focuses exclusively on Paleoindian and Early Archaic lifeways. Draws on research carried out across Kentucky but focuses on the mountainous portions of Cumberland and Clinton counties. Presents a new explanation for how the earliest native peoples colonized and settled in what is now called Kentucky.
Mute Stones Speak: Archaic Lifeways of the Escarpment Region in Jackson County, Kentucky
by William Sharp and A. Gwynn Henderson
1997, Kentucky Archaeological Survey

Describes the lifeways of hunters and gatherers who lived in eastern Kentucky 8,000 years ago, based on studies of the Burnt Road site and other sites in the region. Discusses how archaeologists learn about the past from the artifacts people left behind. Addresses the issues of archaeological site protection and preservation.

Forests, Forest Fires, and Their Makers: The Story of Cliff Palace Pond, Jackson County, Kentucky
by Paul Delcourt, Hazel Delcourt, Cecil Ison, William Sharp, and A. Gwynn Henderson
1999, Kentucky Archaeological Survey

Tells the 10,000-year-long environmental and human story of Keener Point Knob, based on research by paleoecologists, archaeologists, and fire ecologists at a small ridgetop pond and nearby rockshelters. Describes past changes in forest vegetation brought about by changes in climate and through prehistoric peoples’ use of fire to manipulate the forest as they turned to a gardening way of life.

Slack Farm and the Caborn-Welborn People by David Pollack, Cheryl Ann Munson, and A. Gwynn Henderson
1996, Kentucky Archaeological Survey

Discusses the lifeways of the prehistoric Caborn-Welborn people, a village farming society that lived in western Kentucky from about AD 1400-1700. Describes the illegal looting of the Slack Farm site, which destroyed hundreds of human burials, and what was learned as a result of the salvage excavations that followed.

The Prehistoric Farmers of Boone County, Kentucky by A. Gwynn Henderson
2006, Kentucky Archaeological Survey

Discusses the lifeways of the Fort Ancient people (AD 1000-1750), including houses, village layout, foodways, technology, trade, health, social and political organization, and religious beliefs. Features information recovered from investigations of a Fort Ancient village disturbed by the construction of a basement in Petersburg, Kentucky.
Books About Kentucky History

**Kentucky Encyclopedia** edited by John E. Kleber  
1993, University Press of Kentucky

Includes 2,000-plus entries by more than 500 writers on all topics about the Commonwealth and spanning the time from prehistoric settlement to today’s headlines, recording Kentuckians’ achievements in art, architecture, business, education, politics, religion, science, and sports. A good starting point is the archaeology entry. Available online for libraries and other subscribers; see [www.kyenc.com](http://www.kyenc.com) for information.

**History of Kentucky** by Thomas D. Clark  
1992, Jesse Stuart Foundation

Describes Kentucky in the context of the broader national picture, including historic period settlement, frontier society, statehood, agricultural and industrial development, slavery, education, arts and crafts, military conflicts, and politics. New edition of original 1937 publication. A standard college history text that includes bibliographical references and an index.

**Our Kentucky: A Study of the Bluegrass State** edited by James C. Klotter  
2000, University Press of Kentucky

Focuses on history, though specialists in other fields contribute chapters that provide a comprehensive description of Kentucky’s people and their past, present, and future. Includes chapters on the ancient past in Kentucky, historic architecture, and folk arts. Originally published in 1992 in conjunction with Kentucky’s bicentennial observations. New expanded edition updates the scholarship for high school students and general readers.

**Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers** by Ronald D. Eller  
1982, University of Tennessee Press

Describes industrialization and social change in Appalachia, early capitalists, the timber industry, the coal industry, and the impacts of modernization. Focuses on Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina from 1880-1930. Demonstrates that Appalachia was not static during this time of national development, but was actively engaged in economic and social trends of the time.
Millstone Quarries of Powell County, Kentucky by Charles D. Hockensmith
2009, McFarland and Company

Provides an archaeological and historical study of six millstone quarries in Powell County, an important millstone producer for Kentucky where millstone quarries are well-preserved and documented. Describes the importance of milling in pioneer Kentucky, from grinding grains to make the bread served at every meal to sawing the boards used to construct houses and other buildings. Features dozens of photographs and tables, two maps, and seven appendices.

Books About Cultural Resources Preservation

Protecting the Past by George S. Smith and John Ehrenhard
1991, CRC Press

Addresses the need to preserve our rich archaeological heritage, focusing on archaeology and the public, archaeology and the law, archaeological site destruction, protecting archaeological sites through education, archaeological site protection programs, and the future of protecting the past. Available online at www.nps.gov/seac/protectg.htm.

2006, University of Arizona Press

Considers the impact of the 1906 Antiquities Act, one of the most important pieces of conservation legislation in American history. Reflects on what the Act accomplished, reminds professionals and the general public of its continuing importance, and looks ahead to its continuing implementation in the 21st century.

Saving Places That Matter by Thomas F. King
2007, Left Coast Press

Explains to preservationists and other community activists the National Historic Preservation Act, including the National Register of Historic Places and Section 106, and how it can be used to protect special places in your community. Describes the scope of the law, how it is often misinterpreted or ignored by government agencies and developers, and how to use its provisions to force others to pay attention to your preservation priorities.
Books About Native History

**Native American Gardening: Stories, Projects, and Recipes for Families** by Michael Caduto and Joseph Bruchac
1996, Fulcrum Publishing

Presents stories about the cycle of life as viewed through Native gardening. Uses tribal tales from across the country as inspiration to provide practical information about seed preservation, planting and maintaining the garden, reaping, and cooking the harvest.

**Ancestral Appetites** by Kristen Gremillion
2011, Cambridge University Press

Explores the relationship between prehistoric people and food – what they ate, why they ate it, and how researchers have pieced together the story of past foodways from material traces. Considers how humans adjust feeding behavior and food technology to meet the demands of a wide range of environments through a combination of social and experiential learning. Demonstrates how evolutionary processes have shaped and diversified the human diet over time.

**Plants of the Cherokee** by William H. Banks
2004, Great Smoky Mountains Association

Describes research from the 1950s with Cherokee elders and others who continued the old ways of using wild plants for a wide variety of medicines, foods, crafts, dyes, and other purposes. Includes over 300 plant species. Focuses on the Great Smoky Mountains and southern Appalachia.

**Weaving New Worlds: Southeastern Cherokee Women and Their Basketry** by Sarah H. Hill
1997, University of North Carolina Press

Presents a tribal history of Cherokee women, the ecological and social obstacles facing basket weavers and other artisans, and the pressures of society, mainly tourism, on their crafts. Describes the variety of materials (primarily cane, oak, honeysuckle, and maple) used in Cherokee basketry through the centuries. Considers recent changes in ornamentation and novelty juxtaposed against the persistence of the old forms and designs.
Myths of the Cherokee by James Mooney
1900, Courier Dover Publications

Presents 126 Cherokee myths – including sacred stories, animal myths, local legends, wonder stories, historical traditions, and miscellaneous myths and legends – as told by tribal members in North Carolina at the turn of the 20th century. Includes “How the World Was Made,” “Origin of Strawberries,” “The Bride From the South,” “How the Turkey Got His Beard,” and “The First Fire.” Provides extensive background information on Cherokee history, notes on the myths, and parallels between Cherokee and other myths.

Cherokees of the Old South: A People in Transition by Harry Thompson Malone
2010, University of Georgia Press

Traces the history of the Cherokee, beginning with their native social and political establishments and moving to their assimilation into “white civilization.” Discusses the work of missionaries; changes in social customs, government, education, and language; and the bilingual newspaper The Cherokee Phoenix. Explains how the Cherokee developed their own hybrid culture in the mountainous areas of the South by fusing generations-old traditions with Euro-American ways.

The Worlds the Shawnees Made: Migration and Violence in Early America by Stephen Warren
2014, University of North Carolina Press

Illustrates how Shawnees made a life for themselves at the crossroads of empires and competing tribes, embracing mobility and often moving willingly toward violent borderlands. Describes Shawnee migrations across eastern North America and how they used their knowledge to foster notions of pan-Indian identity that shaped relations between Native Americans and settlers in the revolutionary era and beyond.

The Other Trail of Tears: The Removal of the Ohio Indians by Mary Stockwell
2015, Westholme Publishing

Describes how the Delaware, Seneca, Shawnee, Ottawa, Wyandot (Huron), and other tribes were forced to leave their homes in the Ohio Country to Kansas and Oklahoma during the first half of the 19th century. Describes how the region’s historic tribes struggled following the death of Tecumseh and the unraveling of his tribal confederacy. Chronicles the tribes’ interactions with settlers and U.S. agents.
Books For Young Readers

Historical Fiction Books

The First Americans by James Adovasio and Jake Page
2003, Random House Publishing

Describes archaeological, skeletal, genetic, and linguistic evidence about the first migrations into the Americas, focusing on research at Meadowcroft Rockshelter, a pre-Clovis site in Pennsylvania. Challenges the “Clovis First” theory about the peopling of the Americas. Makes the latest findings accessible to general readers and students with candor and humor.

Journey to the Sun: A Novel of Prehistoric North America by Earnest Schusky
2001, Rutledge Publishing

Tells the story of a Ute woman’s journey to and from the City of the Sun near the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. Describes her wonder at prehistoric urban Cahokia, revealing details of this amazing prehistoric site that was the epitome of Mississippian culture. Illustrates the diversity of Native American cultures and languages.

Creekside: A Archaeological Novel by Kelli Carmean
2010, University of Alabama Press

Interweaves two stories from two time periods. Describes the work of archaeologist Meg Harrington and her students, who seek to protect the legacy of the past before it is lost during construction of a new subdivision. Tells the story of three generations of pioneers who lived along this creek, leaving behind artifacts discovered and interpreted by the archaeologists.

Books About Natural History

The Unforeseen Wilderness: Kentucky’s Red River Gorge by Wendell Berry
2006, Counterpoint Press

Considers the 26,000 acres of untamed river, rock formations, historical sites, unusual vegetation, and wildlife of the Red River Gorge from the perspective of a poet and essayist. Reveals the Gorge’s corners and crevices, its ridges and rapids. Urges readers to know more about the Gorge and to venture there.
Books For Young Readers

**American Indians of the Southeast** by Michael Johnson
2002, Osprey Publishing

Provides excellent pictures of what American Indians in the Southeastern U.S. looked like through time, with each colorful illustration backed by historical information that assures the accuracy of the artist’s rendering. Published as a part of the Men-At-Arms Series.

**American Woodland Indians** by Michael Johnson
2000, Osprey Publishing

Provides excellent pictures of what American Woodland Indians looked like through time, with each colorful illustration backed by historical information that assures the accuracy of the artist’s rendering. Published as a part of the Men-At-Arms Series.

**In the Three Sisters Garden: Native American Stories and Seasonal Activities for the Curious Child** by JoAnne Dennee
1995, Kendall Hunt Publishing

Introduces children to gardening through the characters of Sister Corn, Sister Squash, and Sister Bean. Focuses on two distinct year-long adventures that explore the ancient wisdoms of the land, each of which is a unique journey through the four seasons. Includes Earth-friendly gardening methods, history, stories, and hands-on activities.

**Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children** by Michael Caduto and Joseph Bruchac
1997, Fulcrum Publishing

Teaches children respect and stewardship for the Earth and all living things. Provides hands-on activities that will inspire children to understand and appreciate Native American cultures and the Earth.
Keetoowah History Activities: Activities for Children to Learn about Keetoowah Cherokee History and Culture
2006, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma

Describes various aspects of Keetoowah culture and history, including the origin legend, clans, ancestral homelands, houses, wampum belts, language and syllabary, and influential individuals of the tribe. Includes activities tied to the book content. Available for free download at ukb-nsn.gov/documents/history/childrenshistorybook.pdf.

Itse Selu: Cherokee Harvest Festival by Daniel Pennington
1994, Charlesbridge

Tells the story of the daily lives of two Cherokee children, Little Wolfe and Skye, focusing on Cherokee Green Corn (or Harvest) Festival ceremonies and stories. Prepared by Cherokee, archaeologists, and historians. Includes beautiful illustrations of native technology, dress, and houses that are faithful to historical and archaeological research, as well as Cherokee syllabary and Cherokee vocabulary words, throughout.

Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun: A Cherokee Story by Geri Keams
1997, Cooper Square Publishing

Tells the story of Possum and Buzzard failing in their attempts to steal a piece of the sun, and Grandmother Spider succeeding in bringing light to the animals on her side of the world. Includes a Coyote character that comes from the Western Cherokee after the nineteenth century Indian removal.

And Still the Turtle Watched by Sheila MacGill-Callahan
1998, Dial Books for Young Readers

Provides a perfect reading accompaniment for grade school students as they explore issues of indigenous symbolism, vandalism of cultural resources, and the protection of these resources. Tells the story of a turtle, which was shaped by Delaware Indians from stone on a bluff overlooking a river, as it watches the passing of native to European cultures on the landscape, and as it endures vandalism and survives through preservation.
Cricket Sings: A Novel of Pre-Columbian Cahokia by Kathleen King
1983, Ohio University Press

Tells the story of an aging medicine woman living in Cahokia near present-day St. Louis, the largest Mississippian period (AD 900-1500) settlement in the Eastern Woodlands. Appropriate for the study of Indians in Kentucky, since native peoples in western Kentucky practiced a Mississippian way of life.

Kentuckians Before Boone by A. Gwynn Henderson
1992, University Press of Kentucky

Describes the lives of a Native American family in central Kentucky throughout the year 1585. Focuses on grinding corn, making cooking pots, and building homes in the summer village; attending a funeral and mourning feast in the autumn; and processing nuts, making arrows, hunting, and butchering animals at the winter camp. Emphasizes the ways that readers’ lives and experiences in many ways parallel those of this family from Kentucky’s not-so-distant past.

Native Americans: The People and How They Lived by Eloise Potter and John Funderburg
1986, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences

Provides information and illustrations on prehistoric and historic cultures of North Carolina. Germaine to the study of Kentucky’s native peoples in central and eastern Kentucky, given the parallels in prehistoric cultural development.

Archaeologists Dig for Clues by Kate Duke
1997, Harper-Collins Children’s Books

Discusses the purposes, techniques, and findings of archaeology through a story about children participating in an archaeologist-led excavation at a 6,000-year-old Archaic village in the Midwest. Introduces archaeology to children.

The Misadventures of Sandy Trowels: The Mystery of the Wizard Oil by Sarah Hohe and Rose Gualtieri
2013, Florida Public Archaeology Network

Tells the story of Sandy Trowels and her dog, who find a historic glass bottle along the river in Fort Lauderdale. Describes how Sandy considers the bottle’s possible uses, learns about local history through the artifact, and records the bottle as an archaeologist would.