

## Recent Research in Trempealeau: The Mississippian Colony

Lifeways	Farmers and hunter/gatherers
Time	A.D. 1000-1100
Climate	Similar to the climate today.
Environment	Similar to today.
Settlement type and House structure	Rectangular mounds built to elevate the elite above the commoners and used for practicing religious activities. Villages consisting of rectangular house structures made of wood and covered with a thatch roof. Religious mound complex atop Little Bluff with residential areas below, in what is now the modern Village of Trempealeau.
Food	Beginning of farming corn and beans. Continued reliance on fish, waterfowl, deer, and the available plants and animals in the region.
Tools	Bow and arrows with small notched and un-notched triangular points, knives, scrapers, drills, stone hoes, hammerstones, expedient flake tools
Ceramics	Pottery tempered with shell, limestone, and grog (crushed up pottery), that have either distinctive red-slipped (painted), white or tan-slipped, black burnished, or plain surfaces. In Trempealeau, there is some evidence of pottery that originates in the Lower Mississippi River Valley (what is now the states of Louisiana and Mississippi). Large cooking pots and Mississippian “fineware” are present at Trempealeau, with the majority of the ceramics being finely-made small bowls and jars usually associated with elite populations and feasting or religious activities.
Religion/Rituals	Mississippians practiced religious ceremonies and built their rectangular platform mounds to align to the cycles of the sun and possibly the moon. A ritual site with evidence of a perpetual fire and three platform mounds was discovered atop Little Bluff in Trempealeau.
Social/Political	Stratified, hierarchical society made of commoners and elites. Society ruled by a chief.
Connections to other cultures	The Mississippians at Trempealeau brought all of their tools and pottery from Cahokia when they colonized the region. Evidence of interaction is minimal with the contemporary Woodland natives that lived nearby in the Perrot State Park region.