Resources for further exploration…

Recent Research in Trempealeau: The Mississippian Initiative and the Trempealeau Archaeology (TAP) Excavations
Benden, Danielle M. and Robert F. Boszhardt

Pauketat, Timothy R., Robert F. Boszhardt, and Danielle M. Benden

Benden, Danielle M. and Robert F. Boszhardt

Boszhardt, Robert F., Danielle M. Benden, and Timothy R. Pauketat

Boszhardt, Robert F., Danielle M. Benden, and Timothy R. Pauketat

The Mississippian Civilization at Cahokia and its colonies (such as Trempealeau)
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site
http://cahokiamounds.org/explore/

This is an interactive website that provides information about the ancient city of Cahokia, including cultural changes through time. A short video describes Mississippian lifeways. The website also details the history of archaeology at Cahokia Mounds State Park.

Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) - Early Cultures: Pre-European Peoples of Wisconsin - Mississippian and Oneota Traditions
http://mvac.uwlax.edu/PreEuropeanPeople/mississippi_tradition.html

This section of MVAC's website describes the cultural traditions of Mississippian and Oneota people, including their subsistence and settlement practices, tools and pottery, as well as important hallmarks of change during this period of time.

Cahokia and the Hinterlands: Middle Mississippian Cultures of the Midwest
Edited by Thomas E. Emerson, 1999.

This book explores the interactions between Mississippians at Cahokia and its peripheral colonies in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. It also discusses the rise and fall of Cahokia.

This is one of the best overviews of Cahokia and its relationship to other hinterland sites.

**History of Archeology in the region…**

This article discusses the evidence for Mississippian people (and in particular an elite presence) at Trempealeau including red-slipped pottery and a multiple tiered platform mound complex atop Little Bluff. It suggests that Trempealeau was a contact point between the Northern Mississippi Valley and Cahokia.


This article explains petrography, a specialized geological analysis for scientifically testing where objects, like pottery, were made. The authors confirm that the ceramics found at Trempealeau were imported from Cahokia and suggest that Mississippians colonized Trempealeau earlier than was previously believed, before the cultural height of the Mississippian era (Stirling Phase) at Cahokia.


This is a useful book for both the layman and student of archaeology as it explains the geology and archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Valley and how ancient peoples of the region responded to their changing environment through time.


This is a 20th century historical account of the Trempealeau region that documents early Moundbuilders, European contact and the fur trade, and the modern 20th century wartime era.

**Natural and Man-made landscapes and Native people of Wisconsin…**
This paper discusses the changing relationship between Wisconsin Indians and their environment starting with European contact to the present.

MVAC website: Pre-European Peoples
http://mvac.uwlax.edu/PreEuropeanPeople/

This site provides an overview of Wisconsin’s archaeological history, from PaleoIndian through Oneota cultural traditions.

Dott, Robert and Attig, John

Roadside Geology is an exciting guide to the geological history of Wisconsin and how the rock formations visible today were formed.

Theler, James and Robert Boszhardt

This is a useful book for both the layman and student of archaeology as it explains the geology and archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Valley and how ancient peoples of the region responded to their changing environment through time.

Case, E. C.

This is a good introduction to the natural geological features and climate of Wisconsin.

Popular Reads about Cahokia and Mississippian... 
The Moundbuilders: Ancient Peoples of Eastern North America (Ancient Peoples and Places) by George R. Milner

Milner’s book explores the societal meanings and uses of mounds in ancient societies - as burials, elite residences and worship zones - while confirming that these monuments were built by Native Americans. Cahokia’s mounds are thoroughly discussed.


This book provides a nice description of Cahokia as we know it through archaeological research. Cahokia was a complex society with an elaborate sociopolitical and religious system, and Mississippians who lived there practiced human sacrifices and held elaborate feasts.


Pauketat discusses the development of the Mississippian capitol at Cahokia and its influence and spread up and down the Mississippi River.

A compilation of essays written by archaeologists and Native Americans about the Mississippian period. This book draws connections between the Mississippian civilization and native people today and describes the archaeological work that has been conducted at Cahokia and hinterland sites.


Young and Fowler describe the preciseness and planning of the largest pre-Columbian city in America and detail the struggles of archaeologists who have excavated it. They discuss the challenges of managing the site of Cahokia with modern construction and urban sprawl.


This is another nice historical overview of Cahokia.