

Who Fed Cahokia?

An Analysis of the D. Hitchens Site.



Erin Marks.

Introduction

- SIUE field school in Summer 2006 at the D. Hitchens site.

- Did D. Hitchens provision Cahokia with maize?



Introduction

- To do this I analyzed:

- floral samples.
- lithic artifacts.
- ceramic artifacts.
- features.
- site layout
- FAI-270 American Bottom.



Background



- Wakeland soil perfect for agriculture.
- Cahokia Creek.
- Upland farmsteads provisioned Cahokia with maize.
- Subterranean storage suggests resistance to enforced provisions.

Methods



Features 3, 8, 9, 10



Feature 3

- Mississippian Storage Pit.
- Length: 124cm.
- Width: 108cm.
- Depth: 43.5cm.
- Volume: 387.1 liters.



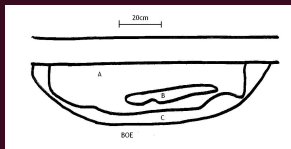
Feature 8

- Mississippian Processing Pit.
- Length: 1m.
- Width: 85cm.
- Depth: 23cm.
- Volume: 79.7 liters.



Feature 10

- Mississippian Processing Pit.
- Length: 90cm.
- Width: 112cm.
- Depth: 23cm.
- Volume: 159.1 liters.



Feature 9

- Circular Post Structure.
- Length: 3.08m.
- Width: 2.78m.
- Area: 8.56 m².



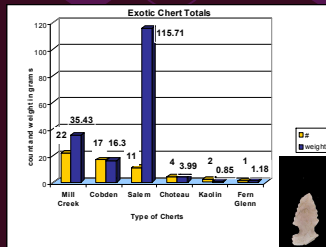
Ceramic Analysis

- Diagnostic Artifacts.
- Grit-temper–Late Woodland
- Shell-temper–Mississippian
- Small amount found.
 - Jars and bowls found.
- Pottery looks to be Emergent Mississippian or Mississippian in form with grit temper.

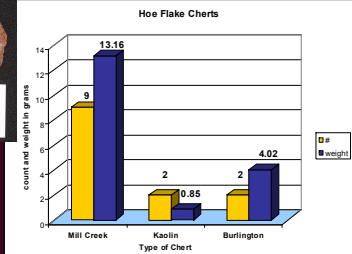
Ceramic Analysis

- All features had more grit temper pottery than shell temper pottery.
- Shell temper (or lack thereof):
 - Grit-tempered pottery in Mississippian forms represents cultural lag or resistance to Cahokia.

Lithic Analysis

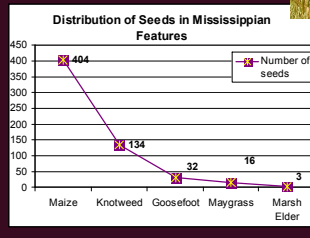


Hoe Flakes



Paleoethnobotanical Analysis

- “Core complex of plants”:



Present Conclusions

- Temporarily inhabited farmstead.
- Circular post structure used to shelter farmers and hunters.
- Definite relationship with Cahokia.
- Ceramics use grit temper.
 - Cultural lag or resistance to Cahokia

The End.



- Congratulations to all 2007 graduates!!

Acknowledgments

- I am immensely grateful for the help and support of the Undergraduate Research Academy, specifically to Cindy Scarsdale or getting me anything I needed, and this project would not have been possible without the financial support of that organization as well.
- This project would not have possible, realized, or completed without the inspiration, wisdom and patience of Dr. Julie Holt.
- I must thank Dr. John Kally, Dave Klotzmeier, Brad Koldehoff, Marina Montez-Ellis, and Marge Schroeder for lending their expertise to this project.
- Some of the credit must go to the students who participated on the field school: Lori Belknap, Linda Coats, Gregory Guntren, Lacey Heflin, Nicolas Jalbert, Brian Kumpf, Sarah Linhart, Kye Miller, Valerie Starr, Patrick Sullivan with a special thanks Miranda Yancey for her time and patience working on the ceramic analysis.
- I must also thank my family for supporting me studying a subject of which they have no prior knowledge.
- I owe a special thanks to my sister, Hannah Marks, for redoing math figures as many times as I asked.
- I owe my sanity to my boyfriend and best friend, Gregory Guntren, for letting me bounce all my ideas off his brilliant and undoubtedly tired mind and for supporting me while I completed this project.