Native Americans have lived in what is now Louisiana for at least 10,000 years. They adapted to major climate and social changes with modifications in tools and ornaments made of wood and other plant materials, as well as stones, bone, shell, and clay. Aspects of social life and religion were also reflected in the form and decoration of both utilitarian and ceremonial artifacts. The evidence of these changes is largely preserved, but the most durable materials remain in the form of mounds and the activity of Louisiana’s first settlers.

Another goal of interpreting the prehistory of this part of the world is to explain the evidence for the influence of the mound-building peoples of the Southeast on the ancient inhabitants of Louisiana. This exhibit is designed to provide a glimpse of the prehistoric past in Louisiana. It is composed of examples of the durable objects used in everyday life, along with some information on the origins (i.e., everything from contexts to the archaeological evidence) of the mound-building peoples. The locations of mounds highlight the sacred landscapes that gave rise to their burial mounds in the past.

Ancient Mounds and Artifacts
Durable Reflections of Transitory Societies

Legend
- Ancient Mound Markers
- Ancient Mounds Trail

Blowup of Map on Introduction Panel