

# ***Osage Indians in the Ozarks Discovery Box and Guidebook Index (April 2011)***

## **Introduction**

## **Index/Contents**

Discovery Box and Guidebook Index  
Brief Historical Overview of Native Americans in the Ozarks

## **Information**

Osage in the Ozarks Artifact Guide  
Osage in the Ozarks Notable People, Places, and Events  
Osage in the Ozarks Vocabulary  
Osage in the Ozarks Background Information

## **Activities**

Osage Stories Presentation CD and script  
Lesson Resources CD  
Osage, Homesteaders and You! Activities:  
    Osage, Homesteaders and You! Lesson Plan  
    Osage, Homesteaders and You! Worksheets  
Exploring Oral Tradition Activities:  
    Exploring Oral Tradition: The Children of the Middle Waters Lesson Plan  
    Exploring Oral Tradition: The Children of the Middle Waters Worksheets

## **Illustrations**

Photo of Osage Stomp Dancers  
Photo of George Blackbird

## **Discovery Box Survey Forms**

## Osage in the Ozarks Artifact Guide

**1. Buffalo (American Bison) horn:** At one time, Northwest Arkansas was covered with herds of buffalo. Buffalo were prized by the Native Americans for their meat, skins, bone, and horn. Many parts of the buffalo could be used for a variety of life's necessities. Meat and internal organs were used for food, skins for clothing and blankets, bones and horns for tools, and even the brains for tanning hides.



**2. Corn:** Archaeologists have dated the cultivation of corn, or maize, in this area to more than 1,100 years ago. Corn was an important staple in the diets of Native Americans. The Osage lived in permanent dwellings part of the time and planted crops such as corn. The rest of the year they moved to hunting shelters and hunted deer, buffalo, elk, bear, and other animals.



**3. Deer antler:** Deer were a common food source for many Osage people, who used the Ozarks as their hunting territory. As with buffalo, deer are thought to have moved into this area between 6,300 and 3,600 years ago. Inhabitants hunted deer, using them for many of the same purposes as buffalo. Osage wore clothing made of deer skin. Men wore loin cloths, leggings, and robes. Women wore dresses and leggings.



**4. Gourd:** Gourds served many purposes for Native Americans in the Ozarks. Varying in size and shape some of the more common uses were food containers, drinking vessels, and rattles.



**5. Mussel shell:** Mussel shells were used for a variety of things. Three common uses were to make beads, to grind mussel shell as a temper for pottery, and, of course, the meat of the mussel was a source of food. In addition to mussels as a food source, area rivers and streams also provided an abundance of fish and other animals such as crawdads and turtles.



**6. Trade beads:** Beads made of stone, clay, and shells were used for decoration and also trade. The colorful glass beads often associated with Native American items did not come into use until Europeans brought them for trade.



**7. Sassafras root:** Native Americans used many varieties of plants and herbs for medicinal purposes. Infusions made from the bark of sassafras roots were taken to treat diarrhea, rheumatism, measles, and scarlet fever. An infusion of the roots was used as a blood purifier. Today, sassafras root is the main ingredient in Root Beer.

