



Module 2 Talking Points

- An **effigy mound** is a raised pile of earth built in the shape of a stylized animal, symbol, human, or other figure.
- The area that is today Baraboo once had many effigy mounds. In fact there were once over 100 mounds in the Baraboo area. Many of them were effigy mounds.
- There are many different shapes of effigy mounds that have been recorded. Some represent birds. Others represent land animals. Some represent mythical animals and some represent geometric shapes.
- Baraboo was not the only place where there were effigy mounds.
- There were once over 900 mounds in Sauk County, approximately 230 were in the shape of animals.
- Effigy mounds are found all across southern Wisconsin and just across the border into Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.
- This is the only place in the world that mounds like this exist.
- The mounds were used primarily for burial purposes.
- Why were they built in those shapes? We are not sure although some possibilities are that the shapes represent the clans of the people buried inside.
- One of the most famous mounds in the world is the Man Mound northeast of Baraboo at Man Mound Park on Man Mound Road.
- Out of the thousands of effigy mounds that were constructed, only a very few mounds were built in the shape of a human being.
- The Man Mound near Baraboo is believed to be the last ancient mound on earth shaped like a man.
- The Man Mound was originally 214 feet long.
- Unfortunately a road was built through the legs in the mid-1800s and the feet were destroyed by farming.
- As the city of Baraboo grew, the effigy mounds were plowed up or leveled to plant gardens and build houses.
- Most people did not realize how special the mounds were or didn't care about their importance.
- Today, all remaining mounds are protected by state law and cannot be disturbed.