Introduction and Summary

The Cahokia mound group is a prehistoric mound complex located in Illinois. It consists of more than 100 mounds, some of which include buildings. The mound group was constructed between c. 600 and 1300 CE, and its construction started around AD 600.

This mound complex is notable for its cultural significance and the advanced knowledge of its builders. The mound group was abandoned by the 13th century, and its purpose and function are still debated among scholars.

Mound B: Stage 4 Summit

Mound B is a rectangular mound that was built in stages (Figs. 6, 7). The surface layers of the third and fourth stages were burned in 2012. We observed the mound's upper surface during a stratigraphic excavation in the center of the summit. This trench was 1 m wide and 2.2 m long. It included the Stage 4 surface and provided a detailed stratigraphic sequence of the surface that had already been exposed.

This summit was covered with multiple layers of soil, some of which were burnt areas. Each such area has been found to have different patterns of firing, suggesting that the veneers were not laid down at once, but accumulated over time as part of the complex history of summit use and renewal (Fig. 6).

Among the various features found on each floor of these mounds, we found charcoal from posts, small pits containing distinctively colored clay or charcoal, as well as burnt and unburnt pits that were probably used for cooking. The summit of Mound B was covered with thin, burnt areas, and these features were found on its flanks. These summits, which are associated with summit activities, were found on their flanks.

Mound A: Stage 1 and 2 Summits

Mound A is a rectangular mound that was built in stages (Figs. 8, 9). It was built in four stages, and its purpose and function are still debated among scholars. The mound was abandoned by the 13th century, and its purpose and function are still debated among scholars.

The mound was covered with thin, burnt areas, and these features were found on its flanks. The mound was burned and contained postholes, which have been labeled as wooden structures on any of its summits, although our excavations are not yet complete.

Whether these were part of a circular building or a residential occupation on the mound is still unclear. Whether the refuse came from public feasts or a residential occupation on the mound is still unclear.

Notes

1. The 2011 excavation excavations were funded by the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

2. Coles Creek Site in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. Portions of the Coles Creek Phase have a similar chronology to the Cahokia Phase, and these features are found in the central region of the Eastern Woodlands, which includes Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

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