

Tulane University

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# **INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY**

ANTH 334

F2008

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## **MYTHS AND MOUNDBUILDERS**

(shown in class on 9/12/2008)

When Europeans first began exploring and colonizing North America, there were thousands of sites with earthen mounds, many of which are still visible today. Some of these mounds date to the second millennium A.D., some to the first millennium A.D., and through recent excavations, archaeologists now know that some earthen mounds are as much as 4000 or 5000 years old. Some archaeological sites have one mound, some have many; some mounds are conical, some are square with flat tops; and some mounds are very large, others more modest. As you watch this documentary film today, think about the differences in the ways that earthen mounds are understood by antiquarians of the 1800s and early 1900s, on the one hand, and by scientific archaeologists of the modern era, on the other. Consider what research questions, and what hypotheses, you might be interested in exploring by conducting archaeological fieldwork at mound sites such as these. Also consider what kinds of fieldwork you could do to develop answers to your proposed research questions.

## **UNGRADED HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

On this sheet of paper, please write at least one research question that could be considered through archaeological research on Native American mounds in eastern North America. Frame your research question either as a question, or as a hypothesis.

Please bring this sheet to class with you on Monday, 9/15/2008.