

# VIDEO SCRIPT

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**TITLE: The First Hunters and Farmers**

**PREPARED FOR: "South Dakota Pathways" Series**

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**PRODUCER: Jim Sprecher**

**SCRIPT: 5 TRT: 13:47**

**DRAFT: FINAL Edited Version**

**DATE: March 20, 2003**

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1. Open

Open Music Up and Under Segue to:

Music Up Kevin Locke: The Flash of the Mirror Cut 7 "What's Wrong with my Friend". 00:50

Music Under

2. Various shots of Cave Hills petroglyphs.

Narrator – Pictures cut into stone are called petroglyphs. They show us people were living in South Dakota long ago. These petroglyphs, located in the northwest part of the state in Harding County, tell a story important to the people who made them. No one now knows exactly what the story is, but we can make some guesses.

3. MAP Cave Hills in NW SD.

4. Petroglyph designs and Mike Fosha ON CAMERA Cut 3 & 5.

Assistant State Archeologist Mike Fosha: Brief discussion of what certain petroglyph images might represent, and how they were created.

5. Art depicting paleo Indian culture, plus artifacts like pottery pieces, tools. Adrien piecing together bone fragments.

Narrator – Although the exact meaning of some petroglyphs will always be a mystery, sometimes scientists know a lot about the lives of early people. If enough objects people used in their daily lives are found, those things can be fit together like a puzzle that makes a picture of the past.

6. Digging at Mitchell.

Archaeologists are scientists who study objects from the past to learn how humans lived. They usually find these objects by digging underground.

**7. POP-UP FACT:  
"ARCHAEOLOGISTS CALL  
THESE OBJECTS**

MUSIC UP AND UNDER: Joseph Fire Crow: Cheyenne Nation Cut 11 "Young Wolves"

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**ARTIFACTS."**

8. View of the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village as it is today, dissolving to...

There is a place near Mitchell where archaeologists learn in great detail what life was like a thousand years ago.

9. ...interior of reconstructed lodge at Mitchell.

Imagine sleeping each night in a mud lodge with no windows and only a hole at the top of the ceiling to let smoke from the fire escape.

There are no beds except for the chief. Everyone else sleeps on the floor with bison skins to keep them warm. Each night, they drift off to sleep to the sounds of dogs howling and relatives snoring, since they live with ten or twelve family members—parents, brothers, sisters, plus aunts and uncles and cousins.

10. Close-up view of lodge walls.

The house is made of big cottonwood logs, thin willow branches, and mud.

11. The roof, and model depicting an entire village.

The roof is sod, which is grass and the soil where the grass roots are. The year is 1000 AD, and millions of people throughout the world live in dwellings like this.

12. Village model at site museum.

There are 400 or 500 people in the village, plus a few hundred dogs. The village is located on grassy land, along a creek. A fence has been built to keep bison and other big animals out of the village.

13. Aerial Shot Lake Mitchell.

**14. POP-UP FACT: "THE CREEK HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A MAN-MADE LAKE."**

15. Photos: Curtis Collection

There's always work to do: hunting animals and

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16. More photos: Curtis Collection

making pots from clay found at the creek, gathering seeds and berries...

**17. POP-UP FACT: BASIC PEMMICAN RECIPE: Berries, nuts, bison meat and fat ground together and dried.**

...to mix with bison meat and fat to make a food called pemmican.

18. Squash, beans, and corn. Limbo Shot.

And there is farm work to do. The people who lived here a thousand years ago grew some of the same crops that South Dakota farmers grow today: squash, beans, and corn.

19. Different kinds of corn.

Corn did not always look the way we think of it today. It used to be a wild plant. It took many years of human experimentation to make it the reliable crop we know now. Corn was first grown in Mexico, and it moved north over hundreds of years with people who planted it along rivers.

20. MAP: showing migration from Mexico

**21. POP-UP FACT: "THIS MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE IS CALLED 'MIGRATION.'" Over photo of Migration: Curtis Collection**

22. Corn being planted and field of growing corn.

Early people knew that when they found spots where corn would grow, their families would eat well most years. The Mitchell area was one of those spots, and the village probably lasted 50 or 75 years.

23. Fish swimming.

Like lots of later South Dakotans, these villagers fished. They didn't raise livestock, such as cows or pigs. They didn't have to. A thousand years ago the prairie was full of bison.

24. Bison herd running.

25. Photos drying meat, using various parts of buffalo.

When bison came to the creek for water, hunters would kill one or more. The villagers were

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Artifacts: Shoulder bone hoe

resourceful and in addition to eating the meat, they used absolutely every part of the bison to make what they needed for their daily lives—everything from hoes...

fish hooks,

to fish hooks...

needles.

to needles, all found at the Mitchell site.

26. Archaeodome, and workers inside digging.

How do archaeologists find these objects? At Mitchell there is a structure called an archaeodome built over two spots where homes once were. The archaeodome allows workers to dig year-round.

Music Up and Under: Sissy Goodhouse. The third Circle Cut 6 "I'm Going Home".

27. Adrien Hannus, with cover shots of digging.

(Dr. L. Adrien Hannus describing how time-consuming and detailed the work is, how most everything is found in small pieces. If there's time, he might relate how about a million-and-a-half artifacts have been found there, and he might tell how half of a tool was once found at one house site, and the other half at another house site.)

28. Paper tossed into trash basket—dissolving to a cache pit. Archaeologists digging.

Narrator – Imagine—what would someone find out about you if he or she looked through your trash? Archaeologists love digging through the remains of early people's trash, because what those people threw away helps archaeologists know what people did.

29. Cut-aways at Mitchell site museum which illustrate the lifespan of a cache pit.

Early people at Mitchell used cache pits—holes dug in the ground inside the lodges—for storing food. Then they began throwing trash into the pit

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30. Pottery shards, decorative  
"buttons."

as food got old and rotten, and dug a new hole for keeping food. So there were always several pits in each home.

Looking through cache pits tells archaeologists what villagers' pottery looked like, what they wore to look their best, what they prepared for supper.

Music Out

Music Up and Under: DeWolfe. Living World Vol 2 Cut 7  
"Antartica"

31. Walking grass shot, Curtis photo  
of Brush cutters.

Was the village deserted because crops failed, or because the bison left? Probably not.

32. Curtis photos: Mandan walking,  
Bull boat on Missouri,

More likely, the people ran out of trees for firewood, and for building new lodges. So they moved away in search of trees, and probably ended up a hundred or so miles west, along the Missouri River.

33. Mandan earth lodges.

Because the homes at Mitchell looked like much later homes built by the American Indian people called the Mandan, archaeologists think these early villagers were the great-great-great-great grandparents of the Mandan.

34. Pottery.

Imagine...this piece of pottery found at Mitchell is a thousand years old.

35. Petroglyphs.

And this Cave Hills petroglyph is also about a thousand years old.

A thousand years sounds like a long time. But to archaeologists a thousand years isn't long.

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36. Lakota Medicine Man praying.

Some American Indian religions say people have lived and hunted all across what is now South Dakota since the beginning of time.

Music Out

Music Up and Under DeWolve Living World Vol 1 Cut 7 "Arctic Seas"

37. CU ice and water to indicate glaciation

Some scientists and historians say people first set foot on North America during two time periods, between ten and fifty thousand years ago. Temperatures were extremely cold and a lot of the earth's water was frozen in big chunks of ice called glaciers. All that frozen water made the seas lower, exposing some of the land that had been covered by water, and creating a land bridge between Asia and North America.

38. MAP showing land bridge

39. MAP with animation showing southward movement.

If those scientists and historians are correct, the first people to live in America walked across the land bridge into Alaska, and then made their way south.

40. FX shot Heavy snow, with images of Indian hunters layered in to mimic Mammoth hunters

No one can say when the first of these people would have reached South Dakota. But when they did, they hunted a great animal that provided even more meat than the bison...

41. Artwork Mammoth

...the mammoth.

42. Johnson watercolors of Mammoth Killing and butchering at the Lange Ferguson Site.

These shaggy, elephant-like beasts are all gone now. They started dying out about eleven thousand years ago, probably because the weather turned too cool for them. At about the same time—eleven thousand years ago—people were hunting them at a spot near Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Mammoth bones have been found with stone spear points the hunters used, and archaeologists have found mammoth bones

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43. Adrien On Camera, and cover shots.

there that people shaped into tools.

Dr. L. Adrien Hannus: describing details of the 11,000 year-old dig, and how it represents the earliest evidence found so far about people in South Dakota.

44. Petroglyphs.

Narrator: Petroglyphs...

45. Mitchell site.

...old home sites...

46. Cache pit.

...thousand year-old trash...

47. Spearheads and tools.

...stone spear points and tools made of bone. All these have helped archaeologists see a story that lasted thousands of years, as people changed from mammoth hunters and gatherers of plants and berries...

48. Bison and Mitchell model showing farming people.

to bison hunters and farmers who had crops of corn and beans.

49. Photos from Curtis Collection

It's a story that teaches us how people have a great ability to make changes and survive...

50. Mammoth.

whether they're hunting mammoths...

51. Planting corn.

farming near Mitchell a thousand years ago...

52. Modern farming.

or farming near Mitchell today.

53. Close.

Closing music UP and HOLD.

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