



AZTLÁN IN THE MIDWEST
AND OTHER COUNTER-
NARRATIVES REVEALED

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Hampshire 1990

Pop Quiz ???



Pyramid of the Sun, Teotihuacan, Mexico

Cahokia, Illinois



Photo taken by Sandra M. Gonzales

Aztalan, Wisconsin



Photo taken by Sandra M. Gonzales

Good News/Bad News

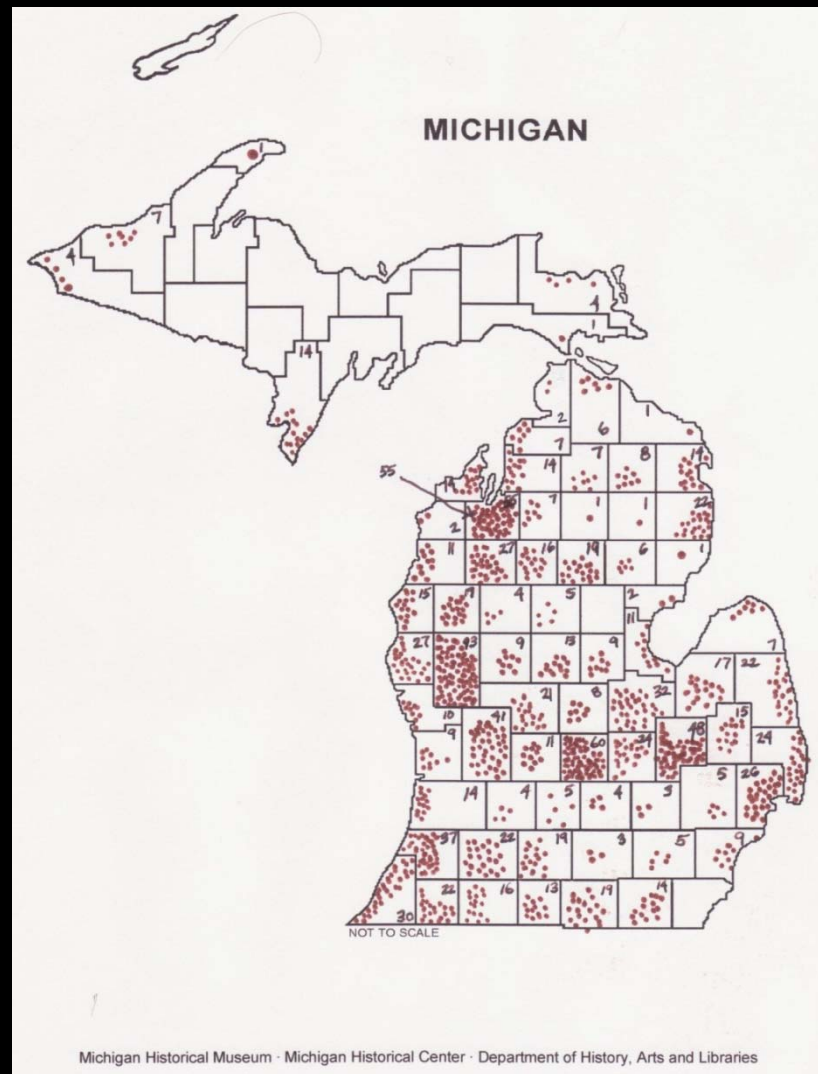
Good News: Many native people claim that there is a connection between the Midwest and Mesoamerica, which can be demonstrated through oral history/stories

Bad News: Not accepted by most archeologists/anthropologist as valid data.

Regardless of Proof: the mounds matter but why?

- **Stories Are Important!**

1068 Mounds in Michigan, almost all destroyed (Hinsdale 1931)



Michigan Map hand plotted by
Sandra M. Gonzales

Cahokia Mound



Monks Mound photo taken by Sandra M. Gonzales

Mound at Aztalan



Mound at Aztalan photo taken by Sandra M. Gonzales

Great Serpent Mound Peebles, Ohio



www.greatserpentmound.com



Richard A. Cooke/Corbis

The Mayan Connection

- <http://wwwfp.mccneb.edu/maya/purpose.htm>
- This project will begin with a comparative study of the ancient Mayan Civilization of the Yucatan and Central America and Nebraska's Winnebago or Ho-chunk people who lived in the states of Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Little information is available to share this knowledge of U.S. Native American heritage and the roots of Midwestern Native American people who appear to be descendents of the ancient Mayan civilization.

Who Were the Mysterious Yuchi?

*It is the largest, most compact town I ever saw The walls of the houses
are constructed of a wooden frame, then lathed and plastered inside and
out with a reddish clay or mortar . . . and are neatly covered or roofed with
cypress bark or shingles The town appeared to be populous and
thriving, full of youth and young children. - William Bartram, July 1776*



YUCHI ~ TOWN

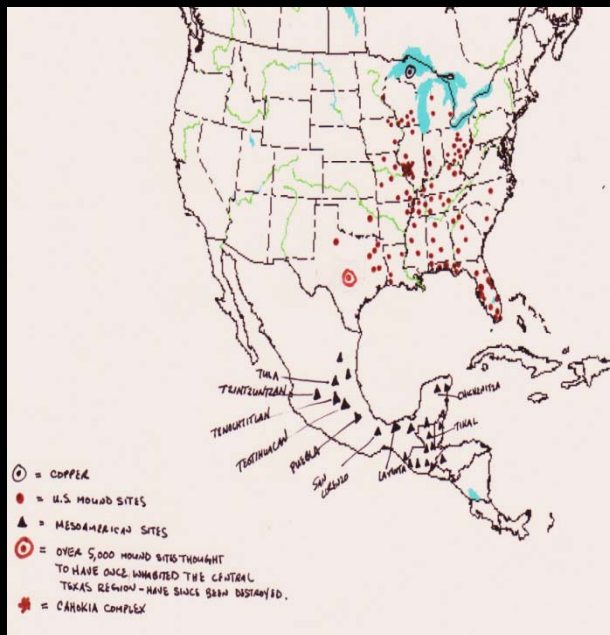
The site of Yuchi Town is one of many important historic resources in Georgia and Alabama that Fort Benning protects for future generations.

U.S. Army Military Center, Fort Benning, Georgia, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Management Division
Technical Assistance: Interagency Archeological Services Division, National Park Service

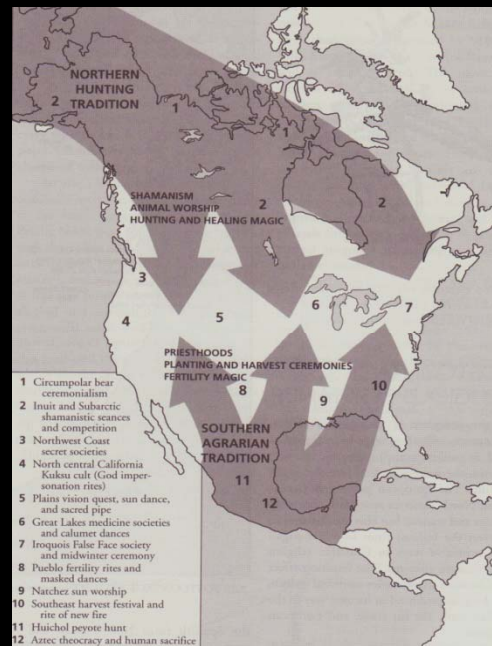
www.yuchi.org

- Satellite Culture of the Mayans
- Mound-builders
- Island-hopped through Caribbean to Florida, settling in Tennessee, Kentucky & Illinois
- Multilingual
- Highly Mobile
- Used boats

Pre-Columbian Peoples Moved Back and Forth Across the Americas



Mound Dispersement plotted by Sandra M. Gonzales



Religious Dispersement, Waldman & Braun



Migrant Stream Map, www.pbs.org

Implications for Chicano Studies in Midwest

- Challenge to meta-narrative suggesting double immigrant status, first to country then to region.
- Current migratory movements have followed same cyclical patterns as our ancestors – we are not new to region, we are returning home.
- Establishes that Chicano and Native American history in the region is deeply intertwined.
- Signals a return to the stories of our elders to find the history we can't find in books, need to re-connect with alternative epistemologies