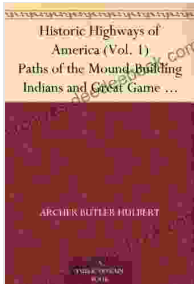


Historic Highways of America: Paths of the Mound Building Indians and Great Explorers



Historic Highways of America (Vol. 1) Paths of the Mound-Building Indians and Great Game Animals

by Archer Butler Hulbert

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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The vast expanse of the American landscape bears witness to the rich tapestry of history that has unfolded upon its soil. From the earliest indigenous inhabitants to the arrival of European settlers, a network of ancient trails and highways crisscrossed the continent, serving as vital arteries for trade, communication, and exploration. Among these historic thoroughfares, two stand out as particularly significant: the paths of the Mound Building Indians and the trails blazed by great explorers.

Paths of the Mound Building Indians

The Mound Builders, a complex and enigmatic group of Native Americans, flourished in the eastern United States from approximately 1000 BCE to 1500 CE. Known for their sophisticated agricultural practices and elaborate

earthwork constructions, they left behind an enduring legacy of monumental mounds that dot the landscape from the Mississippi River Valley to the Gulf Coast.

The Mound Building Indians developed an extensive network of trails that connected their settlements, facilitated trade, and served as ceremonial routes. These paths often followed natural waterways, such as rivers and streams, and radiated outward from major mound centers like Cahokia in Illinois and Moundville in Alabama.

One of the most well-known Mound Builder trails is the Great Obsidian Trail, which stretched from the Wyoming obsidian quarries to the Gulf Coast. Obsidian, a volcanic glass highly prized for its sharpness, was transported along this trail to be used for tools, weapons, and jewelry.

Another significant trail was the Natchez Trace, which connected the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. This trail was used by Native Americans for centuries before becoming an important trade route for European settlers. Today, the Natchez Trace Parkway preserves a portion of this historic trail, offering visitors a glimpse into the past.

Trails of the Great Explorers

As European explorers ventured into the interior of North America, they encountered a land already laced with a network of Native American trails. These paths, often winding and treacherous, provided a vital means of navigation through the vast and unforgiving wilderness.

One of the most famous explorers to follow these trails was Hernando de Soto, a Spanish conquistador who led an expedition in search of gold and

glory in the 16th century. De Soto's expedition crossed the southeastern United States, following Native American trails from Florida to present-day Arkansas.

Another notable explorer was Lewis and Clark, who led an expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase in the early 19th century. Their expedition relied heavily on Native American guides and trails, which enabled them to traverse the rugged terrain of the Rocky Mountains and reach the Pacific Ocean.

The trails blazed by great explorers played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of the United States. They provided access to new lands, facilitated trade, and opened up the vast interior of the continent for settlement and expansion.

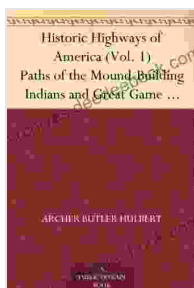
Preserving Our Historic Legacy

The historic highways of America are a testament to the ingenuity and resilience of the people who have inhabited this land. These trails and roads have served as vital arteries for trade, communication, and exploration, connecting people and cultures across vast distances.

Preserving these historic thoroughfares is of paramount importance for safeguarding our cultural heritage and connecting us to the past. By protecting and restoring these trails, we honor the legacy of the Mound Building Indians and great explorers who came before us, and ensure that their stories continue to inspire generations to come.

The Historic Highways of America, both the paths of the Mound Building Indians and the trails of great explorers, represent an invaluable part of our

nation's history. These ancient routes tell the story of human ingenuity, perseverance, and the indomitable spirit of exploration. By preserving and honoring these historic highways, we pay homage to those who came before us and ensure that their legacy continues to shape the future of America.

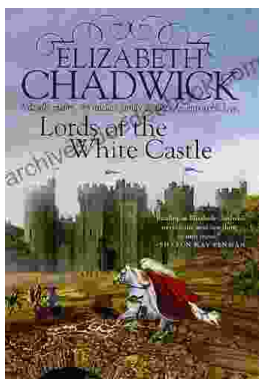


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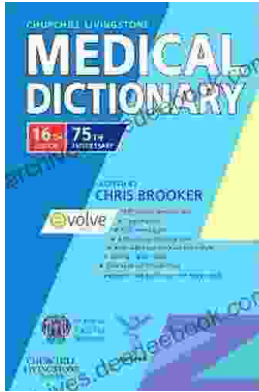
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