

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION/THESIS/RESEARCH PAPER/CREATIVE PROJECT (please choose only one type of project): The Significance of Bear Canine Artifacts in Hopewell Context

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This study has presented a comprehensive overview of the context and significance of real and effigy bear canine artifacts in Hopewell context. The evidence suggests that burials with bear canine artifacts and additional grave goods in an extended position contained high status individuals. These burials contained the remains of males or male children, with status differences evident in both burial position and quantity of grave goods. Bear canine artifacts found in bon-contexts were primarily found in “ceremonial caches”. The inclusion of bear canine artifacts in such caches is indicative of their spiritual importance in Hopewell culture. Modification, including drilling, splitting and piercing of bear canine artifacts occurred in all five regions where these artifacts were found.