

# Pennsylvania Archaeology Month

OCTOBER 2001



◀ Students experiment with hide-scraping and net making at City Island.

Instructor and students experiment with stone tool replication at City Island. ▶



## Save the PAST for the FUTURE

Archaeologists gain insights into the technologies and construction methods used by prehistoric Native Americans through experimentation and replication of material objects. This process, termed "experimental archaeology," is an integral component of Pennsylvania's annual Archaeology Month program at City Island in Harrisburg. Here, grade school students and the general public participate in a wide variety of hands-on activities using the tools and methods of early Native Americans. Since 1995 participants have reconstructed a thousand year-old Clemson Island hamlet replete with house, cooking and storage pits, and wooden dugout canoes. Using information from ongoing research, they have fashioned stone tools, fishing nets, pottery, cordage, textiles, and basketry. Through this process of "learning by doing," we gain a new understanding and respect for the many achievements of these Native people.

Individuals with disabilities who need special assistance or accommodation to participate in the program should call (717) 782-6946. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired who wish to contact a hearing person via Text Telephone may use the PA Relay Center at (800) 654-5864.

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