Adena Mounds, Earthworks and Technology

Mounds
Only a fraction of the Adena people that lived in the Bluegrass were buried below or within mounds. They may have been important members of Adena extended families or lineage/clans. Or, they may have held important social positions in their communities, like lineage/clan leader, diplomat, healer, or shaman. They were adult men and women of all ages.

Earthworks
Adena people created impressive earthworks with only digging sticks, baskets, and human muscle. Adena earthworks and the structures beneath them were ritual sites that enclosed sacred or spiritually significant spaces. They were situated on the landscape where neighboring groups interacted.

Technology
Adena people made use of plant fibers and sinew to make twine, cord, and yarn, which they turned into bags, foot gear, and clothing. Animal skins and furs were also utilized for the same purpose. They used herbal medicines to treat tooth, stomach and head aches; as well as fevers. They also made pottery tempered with limestone, that they occasionally decorated with geometric designs.