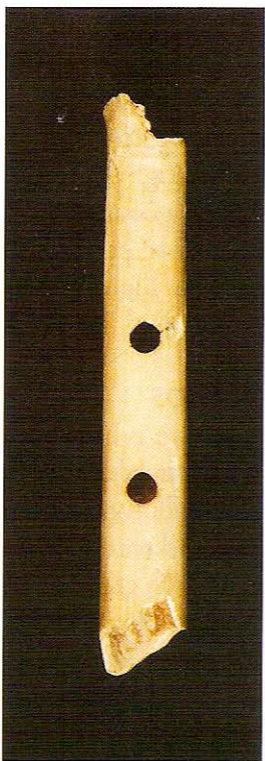


And it still plays!

More than 6,000 years ago, people gathered near Cherokee in northwest Iowa, perhaps to celebrate a successful buffalo hunt. One of those people played a flute fashioned from the bone of a bird leg. Somehow that flute was left behind when the hunter-gatherers moved on.

Amazingly, it survived all those centuries to be rediscovered in 1973. One of just a few examples of preserved musical instruments of this age in the United States, the bird bone flute is on display at the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City. "The flute gives us a little peek into our past," says State Archaeologist John Doershuk. "It tells us music was important to people in archaic times just as it is to us today." — *C.B.*



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