



Teacher Guide
Indians of Southeast Texas
90 minute Discovery Outreach
Grade : 4-7

Museum of the Gulf Coast

Description

Discover the world of the early Indians of Southeast Texas their life (pottery, tools, etc) and the value of storytelling within their culture. Using on artifacts from Museum collections, students will learn how archeologist use the artifacts to understand the daily life of the Atakapa and Karankawa Indians

Before Your Program/How to Set Up Your Room

- Teacher needs to be present at all times.
- Review the vocabulary with the students
- Student's desks should be cleared. For the game portion of the program they will need to be have partners.
- Please provide at least one clear table at the head of the classroom

Texas TEKS

Native American History

- Grade 4: 113.15 a(1),(2), (3);
- Grade 5: 113.16 a(1),(2),(3);b(1)
- Grade 6: 113.18 a(1)(2),(3),(5); 2(a), 2(b), 15
- Grade 7: 113.19 a(1), (2); b(1), b(2)

Concepts/Goals

- Students will recognize various tools used in the life of Paleo Indians
- Students will recognize various artifacts from Atakapa Indians and how they used them in everyday life
- Students will various types of stories (how/what to do, explanation)
- Students will see the connection between the stories and the life of the Indians of Southeast Texas

Vocabulary

Mammoth-The Columbian Mammoth is the mammoth that was found in the Southeast Texas region. It entered North America via the Bering Land Bridge. The range was from Alaska, and the Yukon across the mid-western United States south into Mexico and Central America. It was a huge animal standing 14-feet at the shoulder and weighing 8-10 tons. The Columbian mammoth could consume about 700 pounds of vegetation a day.

Fossils- are the preserved remains or traces of animals, plants, and other organisms from the remote past.

Atlatl- was used by the Paleo Indians to hunt the mammoth

Projectile Points- Projectile points are tips fastened to the ends of spears, darts, and arrow shafts. Arrow points are the smallest projectile points and are, as the name suggests, attached to arrow shafts. Dart points are larger than arrow points, fastened to a wooden shaft, and propelled with a spear thrower or atlatl. Spear points are generally larger than dart points and are hafted to longer shafts that were thrown by hand at the intended target.

Archeology- The scientists who study archeology are called archeologist. Archeologists study the life and culture of ancient peoples

Paleontology-is the study of the history of life. Scientists who study paleontology are called paleontologists. Paleontologists use fossils to try to figure out three main things: Identify the origin of the fossil, find out what the environment the animal/plant lived in, and what can the fossil tell us about the history of the earth

Extension Activity

Native American Signs and Symbols

Native American symbols offer us a complete and reverent language of life, nature, and spirit. This language is unmatched in its depth and power. This language derives its power from the fact that American Indians viewed all things - whether seen or touched - living or inanimate - as possessors of a spirit. Further, they recognize that everything in the universe holds a deeper meaning. As a result, all objects and beings deserve one's attention and respect. Therefore, Native American symbol meanings are an integral part of the Indian life. Native American symbols bring concepts to mind that surpass words. These pictographs convey profound beliefs and perceptions. The Native American Indian, as a whole, is constantly aware of its relationship with Mother Earth and her creatures. The spiritual goal of the Native American is to live in harmony with the universe. As such, every-day use of signs, symbols, fetishes, animal totems, and emblems is just as commonplace, as using these tools in celebrations and ceremonies. Depending upon the Native culture (nation, tribe, geographic region), symbols can hold a variety of meaning. Because the Native way is largely a holistic way of life, symbols are often used to represent inclusion, totality and a broad picture of organic life. For instance, a symbol of an animal not only represents that animal, but its role in the universe, its environment, its unique language and its message to all other living things.

Using the symbols provided, have the students tell a story.

Talking Stick

Many Native Americans used the talking stick in tribal council meetings. According to Native American tradition, holding the talking stick allowed the council members to share their "sacred point of view." The leaders responsible for calling the meeting were required to make their own talking stick. During meetings only the person holding the talking stick was allowed to speak unless a question was asked directly of another member. In some Native American groups, an answer feather was also used and only persons given the answer feather were allowed to respond. Talking sticks weren't just used in tribal councils but were also used when teaching children, during pow wows and during storytelling. Listening is was an important skill in the Native American tradition. From age three onward children were taught to listen so that information was not repeatedly unnecessarily and questions were not asked that had already been answered. The materials used where not random but meant something.