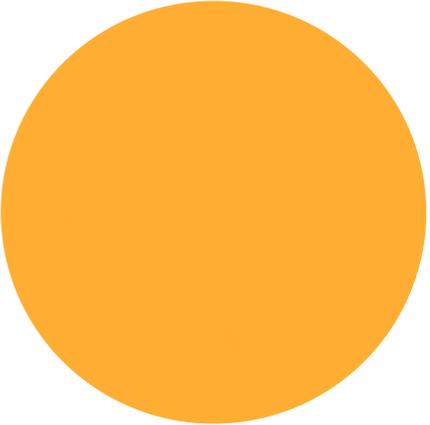




EDUCATIONAL, EXPERIENTIAL, AND THEMATIC CONNECTIONS



△ EXHIBIT TOPIC

Paleoindian Era (>16K bp – 9K bp)

The exhibit will be about current and emerging research on the people of Texas' Paleoindian era. The exhibit is focused on the process of telling these stories through both STEM methodologies and traditional knowledge. North American and South American sites may be mentioned, as necessary, for context. However, as much as possible, the exhibit will highlight sites and discoveries within Texas and those investigated by the Texas Department of Transportation.



EDUCATIONAL, EXPERIENTIAL, AND THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

△ EXPERIENTIAL GOALS

Encourage Interactivity and Critical Thinking

- Provide meaningful, interactive experiences.
- Expose audiences to scientific techniques and technologies used to answer questions about Paleoindians.
- Engage audiences in the process, not only the conclusions, of analysis.
- Connect with cross-curricular TEKS standards³ for scientific thinking and analysis as well as social studies.
- Use evidence, imagination, and empathy to tell the stories of Paleoindians.
- Illustrate multiple and evolving interpretations.
- Explore ethics and values of mitigation, documentation, and preservation.

Inspire Awe, Wonder, and Excitement

- Provide authentic experiences with Texas artifacts and discoveries.
- Highlight striking differences of Ice Age Texas coastlines, environment, and animals.
- Visualize depth of time.
- Acknowledge mystery of what we still don't know.
- Showcase cutting-edge research.

Create a Sense of Meaningful, Human Connection

- Include traditional knowledge and modern voices of American Indians.
- Portray essential, shared human experiences.
- Illustrate the collaborative, interdisciplinary nature of research.
- Expose students to careers through diverse, college-age role models.



EDUCATIONAL, EXPERIENTIAL, AND THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

△ OVERARCHING THEMES: THEME 1

The Paleoindians migrated to the Americas during the last great Ice Age; they were the first “Texans” and the ancestors of modern Native Americans.

- We are still learning how and when the First people came to Texas, but it was at least 16,000 years ago.
- Paleoindians were hunter-gatherers who became experts on Texas’ landscapes, plants, and animals.
- Paleoindians had their own distinctive tools and technologies.
- Paleoindians, like people everywhere, had their own languages, cultures, and beliefs.
- Paleoindians lived through climate change as the Ice Age ended, the ocean level rose, and many animals went extinct. They adapted and live on today in their descendants.



EDUCATIONAL, EXPERIENTIAL, AND THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

△ OVERARCHING THEMES: THEME 2

Today, we can use evidence, technology, and traditional knowledge to tell the stories of the first Americans.

- Archaeologists excavate carefully to collect evidence.
- Many different kinds of scientists help study this evidence, using tried-and-true methods and cutting-edge technology.
- Native American oral traditions and community knowledge can help explain this evidence or provide a different way of talking about the past.
- The stories we tell about the first Americans change as we learn more.



EDUCATIONAL, EXPERIENTIAL, AND THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

△ OVERARCHING THEMES: THEME 3

We don't know it all, so every piece of this past is important — the next discovery might be made by you!

- Each small piece of bone or a chip from a stone tool holds information and is important.
- Archaeological sites help give a voice to the first Texans. We treat these sites with respect.
- Paleoindians' living descendants collaborate in ongoing research and share their own stories.
- As new and emerging techniques and processes are developed, we can ask new questions and tell new stories.