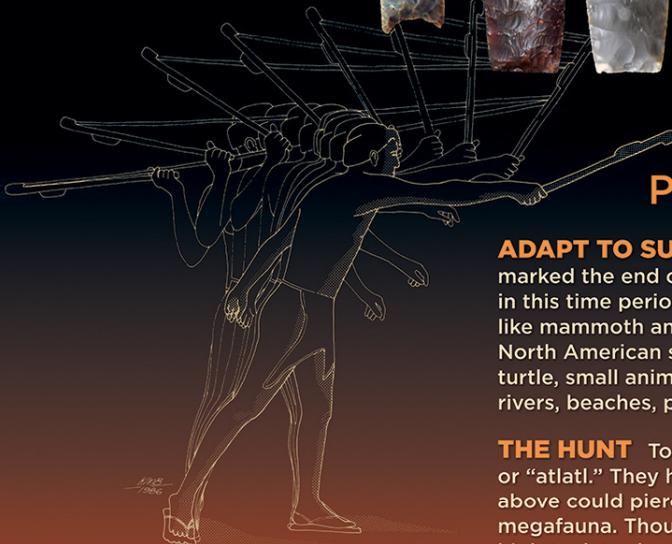


FIRST TEXANS

Paleoindian Archeology Across the Lone Star State



Paleoindians inhabited Texas more than 13,000 years ago.

ADAPT TO SURVIVE The Paleo period (13,500 – 9,000 years ago) marked the end of the Ice Age. Archeologists refer to the people who lived in this time period as Paleoindians. They are known for hunting megafauna like mammoth and bison, but archeological evidence from sites around North America suggests they foraged on a range of local resources like turtle, small animals and plants. They thrived all over Texas: forests, deserts, rivers, beaches, plains, hills and mountains.

THE HUNT To get to faraway targets, Paleoindians used a spear-thrower, or “atlatl.” They hunted with spears long before the bow and arrow. The points above could pierce through the tough hides of mammoth, bison and other megafauna. Though these points are made of stone, they are finely crafted high-tech tools unlike anything archeologists have seen since then.

TODAY Native American tribes across America make up the descendants of the first people. Current Native American cultural practices highlight this shared heritage. Learning more about current tribes is an important part of appreciating the study of ancient people through the science of archeology.

The above photos and content were developed by the following organizations, who aim to provide the public with a collaborative resource where the science of archeology connects us all to the people, places and stories of the past.

- Center for Archaeological Studies, Texas State University
- Center for Archaeological Research, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin
- Texas Department of Transportation, Archeology Branch
- Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division