

Texas Archeology at a Glance

Did You Know—

➤ Archeology is not the study of dinosaurs, or rocks, or fossils—archeology is the study of past human cultures.



➤ People came to North America over an Arctic land bridge across the Bering Strait, and they came to Texas thousands of years before Columbus arrived in the New World.

➤ American Indians did not use the bow and arrow until about 1500 years ago—earlier hunters used spears.

➤ Some stone points that people call arrowheads are really spear points.

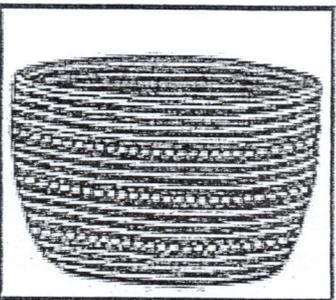
➤ The horse was introduced to American Indians by the Spaniards after A.D. 1500.



➤ Bison (or American buffalo) were hunted by American Indians afoot—long before the horse was introduced into the New World.

➤ Changes in climate caused the extinction of many large mammals—such as a large bison (much larger than the bison of historic times) and mammoth—and this caused changes in the lifeways of prehistoric people for thousands of years.

➤ The Karankawa of the Texas coast spoke a language related to Indian languages of the Caribbean region, and the Karankawa may have come to Texas by boat in prehistoric times.



➤ Prehistoric Texas Indians were trading for turquoise and obsidian from New Mexico, shell from the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, and exotic stone from as far away as Minnesota.

➤ A stone quarry in Texas was used by many Indians of the southern Great Plains and is now a national monument—Alibates National Monument, in the Amarillo area.



➤ In addition to projectile points (stone points for arrows and spears), Indians made many other tools of stone, bone, and shell—including knives, drills, axes, awls, hoes, and grinding implements.

➤ Prehistoric people in Texas used plant fibers to make baskets, mats, sandals, and many other useful objects. Well-preserved woven sandals have been found by archeologists in the dry rock shelters of southwestern Texas.

➤ Some of the most impressive prehistoric rock art in North America is found in Texas—visitors can see excellent examples at Hueco Tanks and Seminole Canyon state parks.