

FIRST ENCOUNTERS:
WHEN THE CONQUISTADORS MET THE KARANKAWA
from the Bullock Texas State History Museum



PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Social Studies TEKS

4th grade: 1B, 1C, 7A, 7B, 8A, 8C, 9A, 9B, 10A, 12A, 12B, 21B, 21C, 22A, 22B

7th grade: 2A, 9A, 9B, 9C, 21B, 21C, 22A, 22B

Objective:

Discuss how geography influences the way people live, specifically how the geography of Texas shaped the lives of American Indians in Texas.

During this activity students will:

- Identify regions in Texas
- Define: hunter-gatherer, farmer, nomad
- Make predictions about climate, animals, vegetation
- Discuss climate, landscape and natural resources of each region
- Analyze how the geographic characteristics of a region influenced the American Indians

Divide the class into small groups of 2-4 students per group. Use the First Encounters Pre-Program Activity PowerPoint to explain concepts and facilitate group discussion.

Materials needed

- First Encounters Pre-Program Activity PowerPoint
- First Encounters Pre-Program Activity student worksheet (1 per group)

Warm-up:

[Slide 2]

Imagine you were living in a time without supermarkets, malls, machines or electricity. How would you survive? What things do you need to survive? How could you make them? What materials would you need? Where would you get them? How? (What would you eat? Where would you sleep? What would you wear?)

- Have students discuss and record their ideas on the First Encounters Pre-Program Activity student worksheet, then discuss as a class.

Introduction:

[Slides 3-6]

- Have students define key terms on their handout as you discuss them with the class.

This world you have imagined yourself in was a reality for most humans throughout history! Without stores and machines, you would have to make everything from things

found in nature. You might also have to find all your food in nature, which means you would be a **hunter-gatherer**. (Discuss differences between hunting--animals and gathering--plants) In order to hunt and gather, you would need to move frequently to follow your food, whether you are hunting bison or gathering fresh berries. People who move to find food are **nomads**. Another option would be just to stay in one place and grow your own food, which would make you a **farmer**.

[Slide 7]

Depending on where you live, the things you find in nature or the things you can grow on your farm can be very different!

[Slide 8]

So, how did the geography of Texas influence the way American Indians lived? Our objective today is to learn more about the geography of each region and think about how the geographic characteristics like landforms, climate and vegetation could influence the way people, specifically the American Indians, lived.

[Slide 9]

In Texas there are four main geographic regions: **Mountains and Basins, Great Plains, North Central Plains and Coastal Plains.**

- Have students label regions on their worksheet.

You can imagine each region has different landforms, climate, plants, and animals. Just from looking at the names, what can you predict about the geography of each region? How might the geography influence how people live in each region? Which region do you live in? Which regions have you traveled to? (Verbal discussion: make connections and tap into prior knowledge.)

[Slide 10]

As we look at pictures of each region, imagine again that you are in a world without stores, electronics or machines. Search for clues that might tell you more about the plants, animals and climate of that region. Look closely at the pictures to find things you might need to use for food, shelter, clothing, etc.

Activity:

[Slides 11-34]

For each region:

- 1) **Scroll through images:** have students look for clues of plants, animals, climate in the photos.
- 2) **Make verbal predictions.**
- 3) **Discuss and write down characteristics.**
 - Have students summarize and write down the characteristics of each region on their handout
- 4) Discuss the significance of the geographic features: **How do these characteristics influence the way American Indians lived in this region?**
Guiding questions:

- What are the different ways you could get or grow food in this region?
 - What type of shelter or clothing might you need? What materials from nature could you use for shelter or clothing?
 - Are there any things that might make it difficult to live in this region? (climate, dangerous animals, landscape, no variety in plants, etc.)
- Have students summarize and write down answers on their worksheet.

[Slide 35]

Now that we've talked about the geographic characteristics of each region and we've thought about how these features might impact the settlement of American Indians, let's take a look at this map that shows us where the different American Indian groups lived in Texas before the European explorers arrived. Which region had the most American Indian groups? (Coastal Plains) Why do you think more groups settled here? (resources from land and ocean, temperate climate, etc.)

[Slide 36]

So, how did the geography of Texas influence the way American Indians lived? (re-cap objective and key points of discussion)

[Slide 37]

During the distance learning program we are about to participate in, we will learn more about the Karankawa tribe of the Coastal Plains (show on map) and their first encounter, or meeting, with the Spanish Conquistadors.

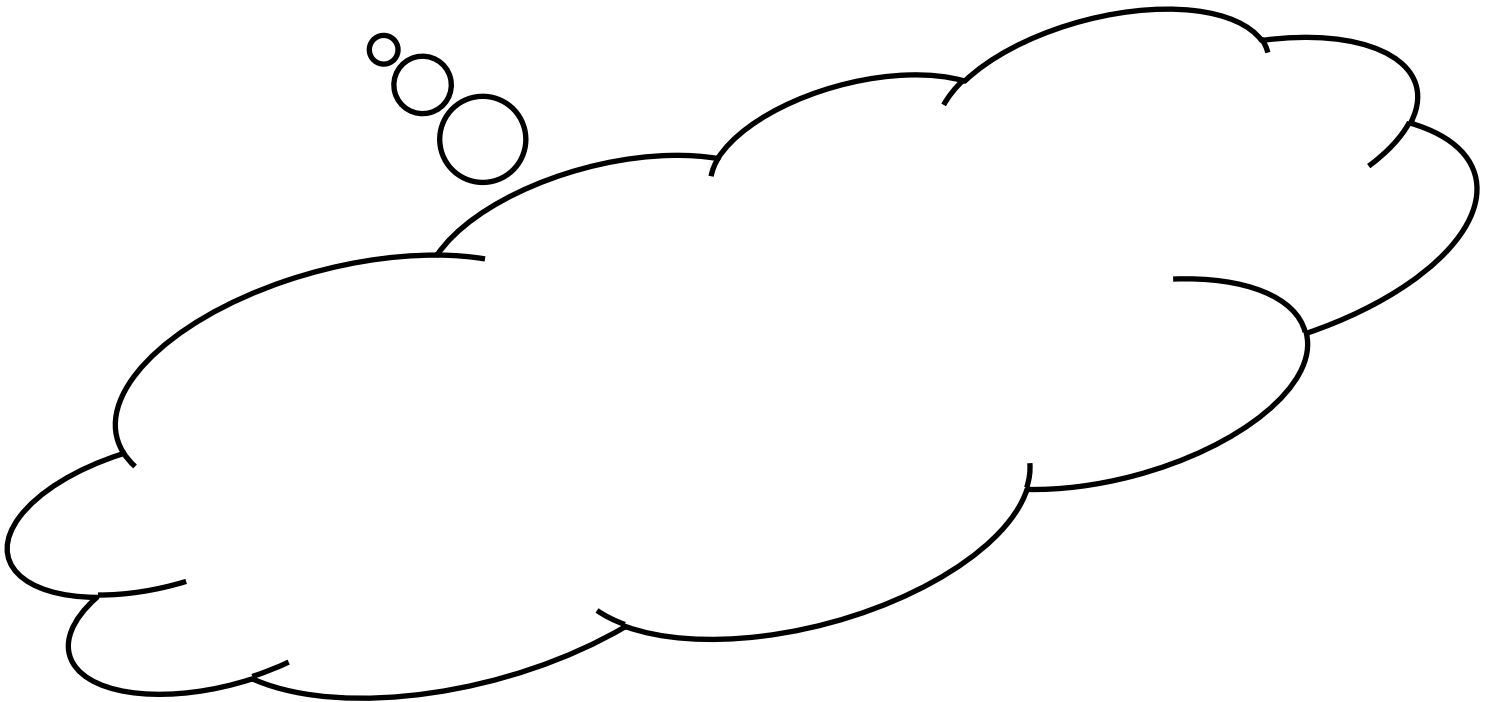
***Note for *First Encounters* Distance Learning Program:**

***First Encounters Day of Program Student T-Chart* can be used as a note taking option during the distance learning program or afterwards in order to review the program as a class. It is recommended to have the T-Chart completed as a reference if you are planning on using the Post-Program Assessment.**

FIRST ENCOUNTERS: PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITY STUDENT WORKSHEET

Think about your answers and record your brainstorming below:

Imagine you were living in a time without supermarkets, malls, machines or electricity. How would you survive? What things do you need to survive? How could you make them? What materials would you need? Where would you get them? How?



WORDS TO KNOW:

hunter-gatherer	
nomad	
farmer	

How did the geography of Texas influence the way American Indians lived?

Region:

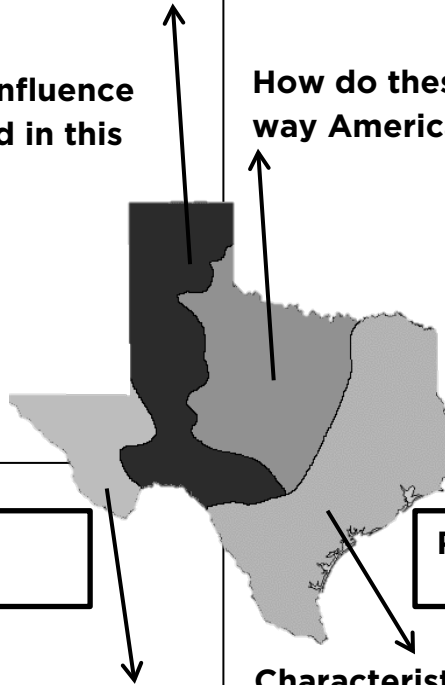
Characteristics:

How do these characteristics influence the way American Indians lived in this region?

Region:

Characteristics:

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