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 "latas." 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.