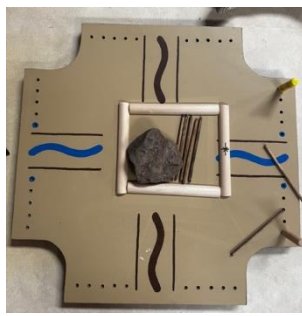




Connection to the Museum: Our museum's Native American exhibits help tell the story of the first people who lived on the Texas Plains.

Grade level targeted: PK/Kindergarten

Connected learning targets:

Science: Observe and describe objects from the past.

Social Studies: Recognize that people lived differently long ago.

ELAR: Ask questions and describe observations.

Fine Arts: Create artwork using clay.

Objective of lesson:

Students will identify artifacts and explore how Native Americans lived on the Texas Plains.

Summary of lesson:

Students rotate through five stations.

Station 1: Mock Dig

Students uncover artifacts buried in sand and talk about what they found.

Station 2: Clay Pinch Pot

Students learn that Native Americans made pots by hand to carry water, cook food, and store supplies. They create their own pinch pot.

Station 3: Native American Calendar

Students learn how people observed the seasons by watching plants, animals, and weather. They color or draw a seasonal calendar.

Station 4: Atlatl Demonstration

Students watch and safely try an atlatl while learning how it helped hunters catch food.

Station 5: Traditional Native American Game

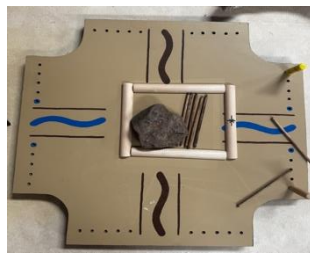
Students play a traditional game and learn that children long ago also enjoyed playing games.

Student Activity:

Complete all five stations.

Assessment:

Students share one thing they learned about Native Americans.



Connection to the Museum: Our museum's archaeological collections preserve objects that help us understand life on the Texas Plains hundreds of years ago.

Grade level targeted: 1st – 2nd

Connected learning targets:

Social Studies: Compare life in the past and present.

Science: Observe and classify artifacts.

ELAR: Communicate observations.

Objective of lesson:

Students will explain how artifacts help us learn about Native American life.

Summary of lesson:

Discussion Questions:

What is an artifact?

Why did Native Americans make pottery?

Why was the atlatl important?

How did people know when seasons changed?

Station 1: Mock Dig

Students uncover artifacts buried in sand and talk about what they found.

Station 2: Clay Pinch Pot

Students learn that Native Americans made pots by hand to carry water, cook food, and store supplies. They create their own pinch pot.

Station 3: Native American Calendar

Students learn how people observed the seasons by watching plants, animals, and weather. They color or draw a seasonal calendar.

Station 4: Atlatl Demonstration

Students watch and safely try an atlatl while learning how it helped hunters catch food.

Station 5: Traditional Native American Game

Students play a traditional game and learn that children long ago also enjoyed playing games.

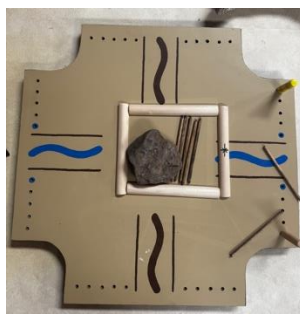
Student Activity:

Complete each station while drawing one artifact they observed and describing its purpose.

Assessment:

Complete the sentence:

"One artifact I learned about today was _____. It was used for _____."



Connection to the Museum: Our museum's archaeological collections preserve the stories of the earliest people who lived in the Texas Panhandle.

Grade level targeted: 3rd – 5th

Connected learning targets:

Social Studies: Analyze how archaeologists use artifacts to learn about past cultures.

Science: Use observations and evidence to make inferences.

ELAR: Draw conclusions using evidence.

Fine Arts: Explore artistic traditions through pottery.

Objective of lesson:

Students will investigate how archaeologists use artifacts to understand Native American cultures of the Texas Panhandle.

Summary of lesson:

Students rotate through five stations.

Station 1: Mock Archaeological Dig

Excavate artifacts and record observations before removing them.

Station 2: Clay Pinch Pot

Create a traditional pinch pot while learning how pottery was used.

Station 3: Native American Calendar

Explore seasonal calendars and create your own.

Station 4: Atlatl Demonstration

Learn how the atlatl improved hunting and safely throw at the life-sized papier-mâché bison.

Station 5: Traditional Native American Game

Play a historic game and discuss recreation in Native communities.

Discussion Questions:

Why is an artifact's location important?

What does pottery tell us about a community?

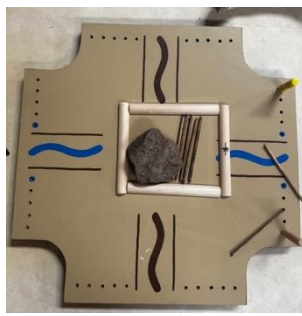
Why were hunting tools important?

Student Activity:

Complete each station while recording observations.

Assessment:

Write a paragraph explaining which station taught you the most about Native American life and why.



Connection to the Museum: Our museum's collections demonstrate how archaeology helps preserve the history of the Texas Panhandle's earliest cultures.

Grade level targeted: 6th – 8th

Connected learning targets:

Texas History: Analyze archaeological evidence to understand past cultures.

Science: Apply scientific investigation methods.

ELAR: Support claims using evidence.

Objective of lesson:

Students will evaluate archaeological evidence and explain how artifacts help reconstruct Native American life.

Essential Question:

How do archaeologists use evidence to understand cultures that left no written records?

Summary of lesson:

Students rotate through the five investigation stations.

At each station students analyze:

Function

Materials

Cultural importance

Historical evidence

Students discuss:

Context

Preservation

Scientific observation

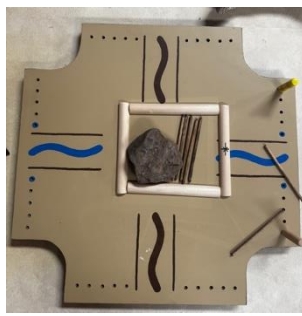
Student Activity:

Complete an archaeology investigation sheet while rotating through stations.

Assessment:

Claim: One activity best demonstrates Native American life because _____.

Evidence: _____.



Connection to the Museum: Our museum preserves archaeological collections that help tell the story of the Native peoples who shaped the history of the Texas Panhandle long before modern settlement.

Grade level targeted: High School (9th – 12th)

Connected learning:

Anthropology
Archaeology
Texas History
Scientific Research

Objective of lesson:

Students will evaluate archaeological methods and interpret Native American artifacts as primary sources of historical evidence.

Summary of lesson:

Students complete five investigation stations.

For each station students evaluate:

Historical context
Artifact function
Technological innovation
Cultural significance
Archaeological interpretation

Students discuss:

Why context matters
Ethical excavation
Museum preservation
Cultural stewardship

Student Activity:

Complete an archaeology field journal documenting observations, hypotheses, and conclusions from each station.

Assessment:

Students create a museum exhibit label for one artifact or activity explaining its historical significance and what archaeologists can learn from it.