

First Encounters

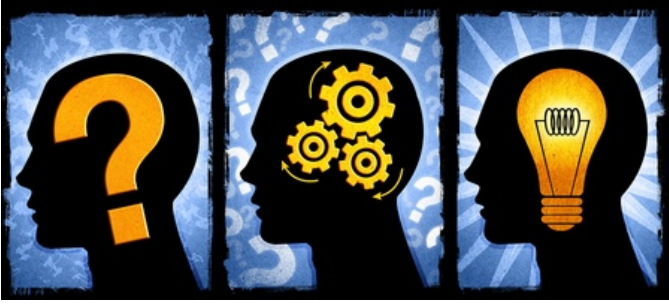


Courtesy of the Witte Museum



Courtesy of the Texas Memorial Museum

Pre-Program Activity



WARM UP:

Imagine you were living in a world without supermarkets, malls, machines or electricity.

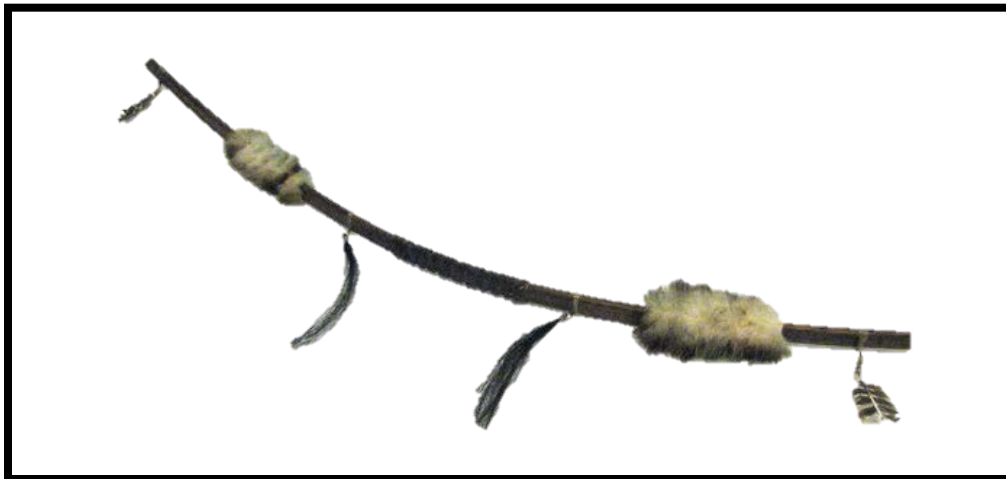
How would you survive?

- **What things do you need to survive?**
- **How could you make them?**
- **What materials would you need?**
- **Where would you get them? How?**

This world you have imagined yourself in was a reality for most humans throughout history, including the American Indians here in Texas.



Without stores and machines,
you have to make everything
from things found in nature.



You might also have to find
all of your food in nature:

hunter-gatherer



So, you would need to move
frequently to follow your food:

nomad

OR

You might stay in one place
in order to grow your food:

farmer



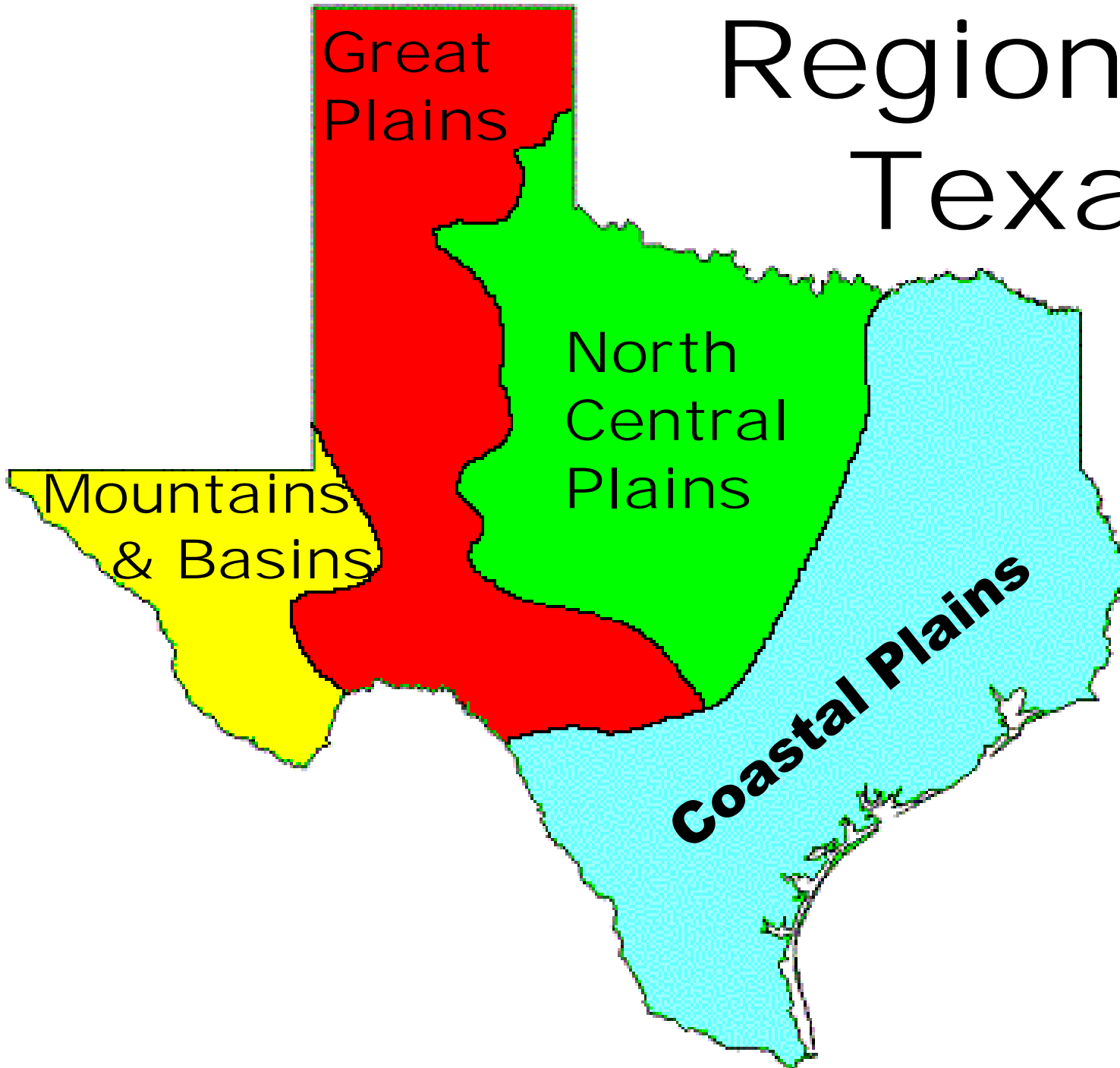


Depending on where you live,
nature can be very different!



So, how did the
geography of
Texas influence
the way
American
Indians lived?

Regions of Texas



Great
Plains

North
Central
Plains

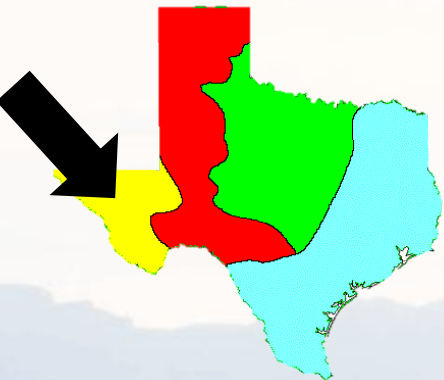
Coastal Plains

Mountains
& Basins

Look closely at the pictures to make predictions about each region. Try to find clues that will tell you about:

- plants
- animals
- climate

Mountains and Basins



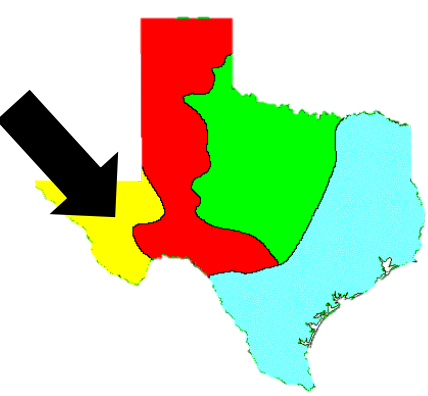




Share Out:

What is your prediction?

- What kind of **plants** did you see?
- What kind of **animals** do you think live here?
- What do you think the **climate** is like?



Mountains and Basins Characteristics:

Climate: hot by day and cool by night in the desert, very dry (only 8-20 inches of rain a year)

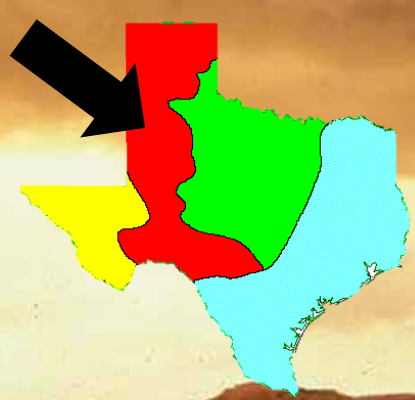
Landscape: mountains, basins, valleys, desert

Plants: cactus, brush/short grass, yucca, pine, oak, maple trees

Animals: bison, coyote, elk, prairie dog

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

Great Plains







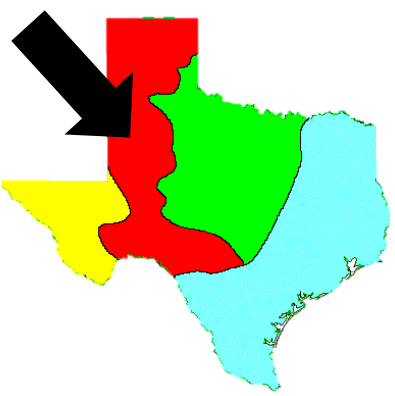
Share Out:

What is your prediction?

➤ What kind of **plants** did you see?

➤ What kind of **animals** do you think live here?

➤ What do you think the **climate** is like?



Great Plains

Characteristics:

Climate: mostly dry (15-28 inches of rain per year) northern areas colder in the winter, southern areas get more rain, dust storms

Landscape: canyons in NW, flat grasslands in SE, limestone and granite, caves, aquifers

Plants: cactus, mesquite, cedar, cottonwood trees

Animals: bison, owl, prairie dog, badger, deer, antelope

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



North Central Plains







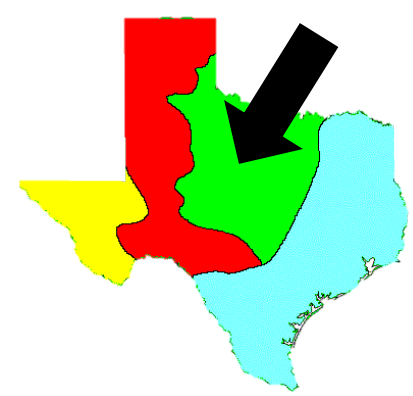
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What is your prediction?

➤ What kind of **plants** did you see?

➤ What kind of **animals** do you think live here?

➤ What do you think the **climate** is like?



North Central Plains Characteristics:

Climate: wide ranging temperatures (hot summers, cooler winters) 20-30 inches of rain per year, risk of tornadoes

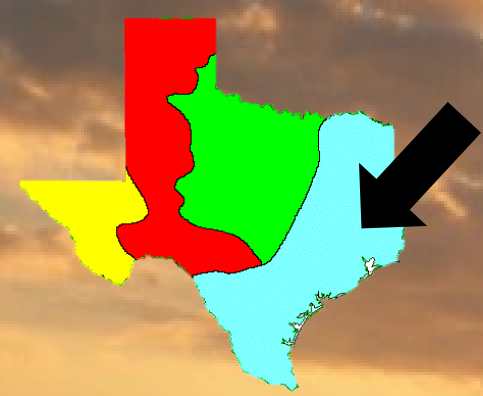
Landscape: rolling plains, short grasses and brushy plants

Plants: oak, mesquite, pecan, walnut trees

Animals: bison, hawk, beaver, quail, deer, armadillo

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

Coastal Plains







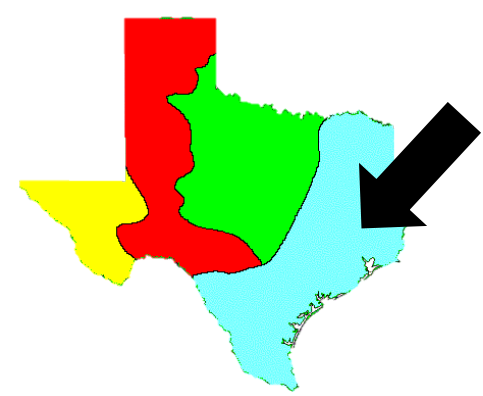
Share Out:

What is your prediction?

➤ What kind of **plants** did you see?

➤ What kind of **animals** do you think live here?

➤ What do you think the **climate** is like?



Coastal Plains

Characteristics:

Climate: Semi-tropical, warm and humid, rarely freezes, 30-60 inches of rain per year

Landscape: flat, low, prairie grasslands, sand beaches, marshes, bays, barrier islands

Plants: Pine forests, oak, mesquite, willow and hickory trees

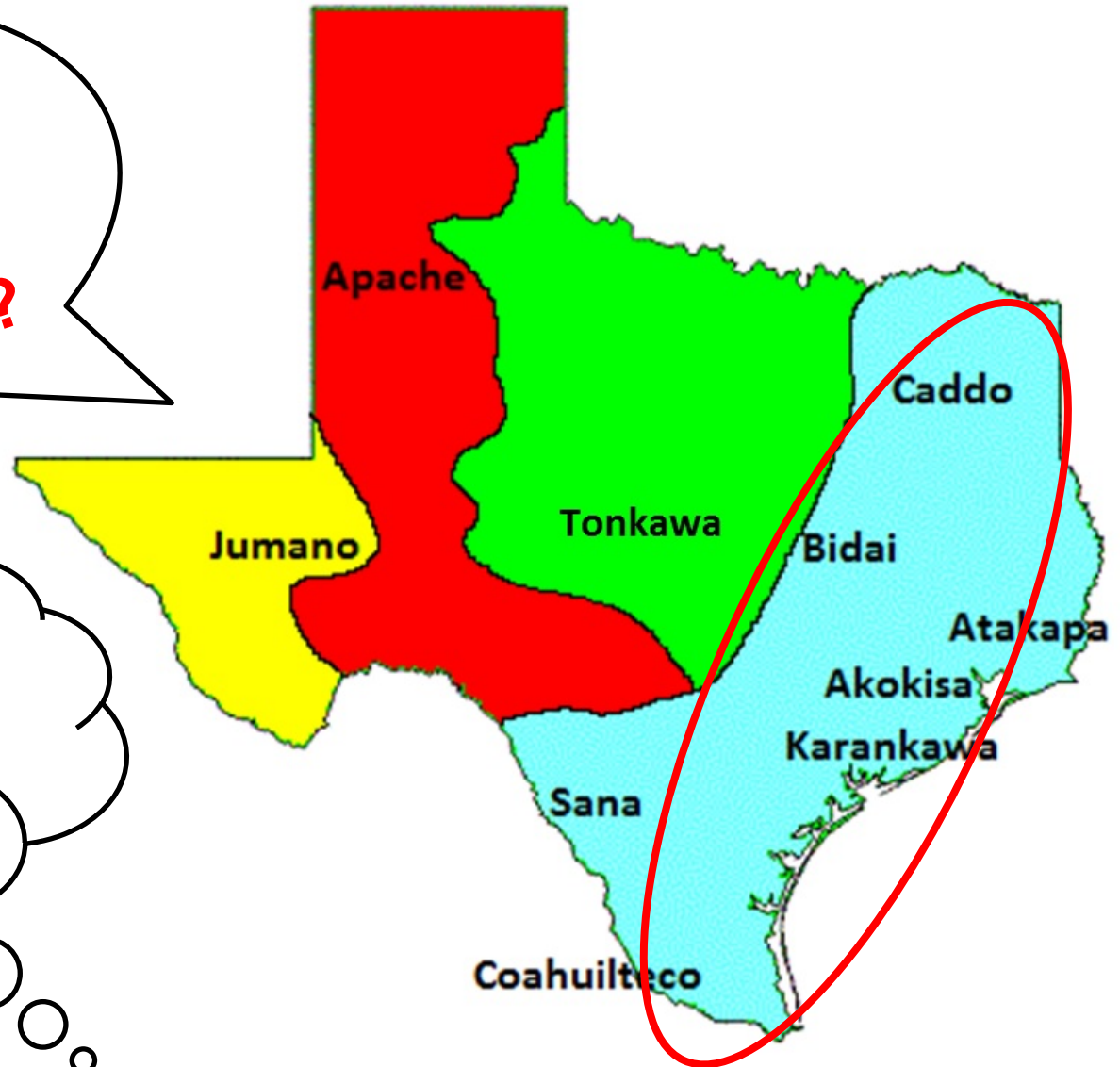
Animals: Fish, shellfish, fox, deer, bison, otter, alligator

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

American Indians in Texas

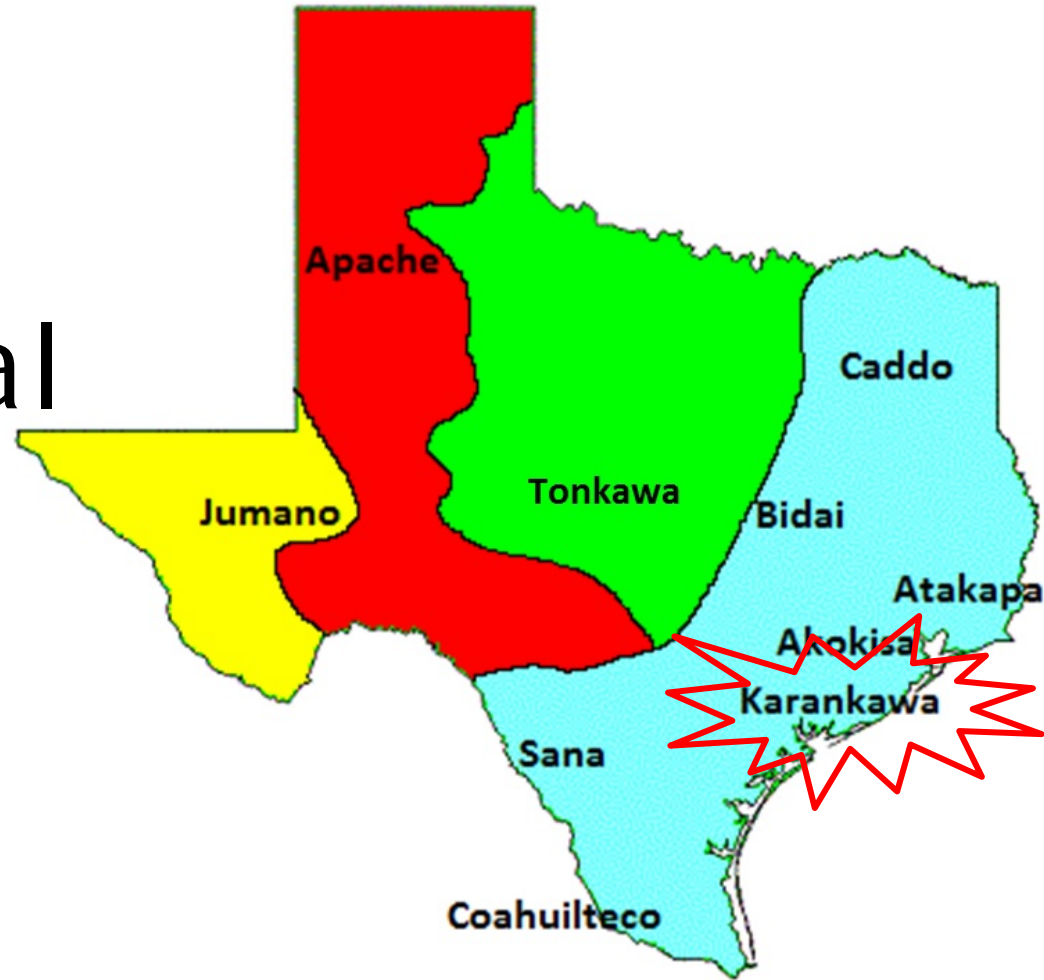
Which region has the most American Indian groups?

Why do you think more groups settled here?



So, how did the
geography of
Texas influence
the way
American
Indians lived?

During the distance learning program, we will learn more about the **Karankawa** of the Coastal Plains and their **first encounters** with the **Spanish Conquistadors**





**BULLOCK
TEXAS
STATE HISTORY
MUSEUM**