Texas Pre-History Programs  
Pre-Visit Activity for Grades 4th -7th

Essential Question
How did the people of the Lower Pecos adapt to and thrive in their environment?

Objectives
The students will be able to:
- explain the settlement patterns of the people of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands
- identify the characteristics of a hunter and gatherer
- discuss at least two adaptations made by the people of the Lower Pecos to their desert environment

Discussion
- Use the photograph* of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands and your knowledge of the region to discuss the geographical characteristics. What adaptations do you think the people who lived in this area 4,000 years ago had to make? Why do you think they chose to live in this area?
- Use the illustration* of the Lower Pecos people. Discuss characteristics of a hunter and gatherer lifestyle. What evidence do you see of a hunter and gatherer life style?
- Using the photograph* of the Canyonlands and the illustration of the people of the Lower Pecos, together discuss what other adaptations this group of people might have made that contributed to their success in their environment?

Research topics
- Why do people decide to make art? Make a poster that explains the different kinds of art and the reasons the artists may have decided to make it.

Resources for Teachers:
https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pecos/
https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pecos/art.html
http://www.rockart.org/index.cfm

*Photographs from Witte collection*  
Revised May 22, 2017
*Photographs from Witte collection*  

Revised May 22, 2017
Illustration by George Strictland

*Photographs from Witte collection*  
Revised May 22, 2017
White Shaman shelter photograph courtesy of Jean

*Photographs from Witte collection*
Texas Pre-History Programs
Post-Visit Activity for Grades 4th - 7th

Essential Question:
How did the people of the Lower Pecos adapt to and thrive in their desert environment?

Objectives:
- The students will be able to explain the settlement patterns of the people of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands.
- The student will be able to identify the characteristics of a hunter and gatherer.
- The students will be able to discuss at least two adaptations made by the people of the Lower Pecos to their desert environment.

Discussion
- Use your experience and knowledge learned at the Witte, the picture of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands and your knowledge of the Great Plains region to discuss the geographical characteristics. What adaptations did the people who lived in this area 4,000 years ago make? Discuss the adaptations that you learned about. Which adaptations did you not expect? What did you learn about the area? How accurate was your theory about why they settled in this area?
- Use the drawing of the Lower Pecos people. Discuss what the characteristics are of a hunter and gatherer lifestyle. What evidence do you see in the photo of a hunter and gatherer life style?
- Based on your field trip and the tools of the hunters and gatherers, what adaptations did they make to successfully live in a desert environment? How has your assessment of their knowledge and skills changed since your visit to the museum? Explain what you learned about what knowledge and skills were important to their successful adaptation?
- Based on what you learned about rock art at the museum, discuss why you think this group of people created art?

Post Museum Visit Activities
Based on your visit to the museum...
- Research the art of Native American people. Why types of art did you discover? Were the objects you discovered originally used for art or did they have another function? How did the art you researched compare and contrast with the art you saw in the museum? Create a poster to illustrate your research.
- How did the seasons affect the way the people of the Lower Pecos lived? How did the seasons affect their art? Design a poster or write an expository essay that explains the importance of the seasons to the people of the Lower Pecos.
- Based on the rock art you saw at the museum or the picture from the Witte’s collection, create a story about the rock art. Use your imagination and be as creative as you can.

Resources for Teachers:
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https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pecos/art.html

*Photographs from Witte collection*