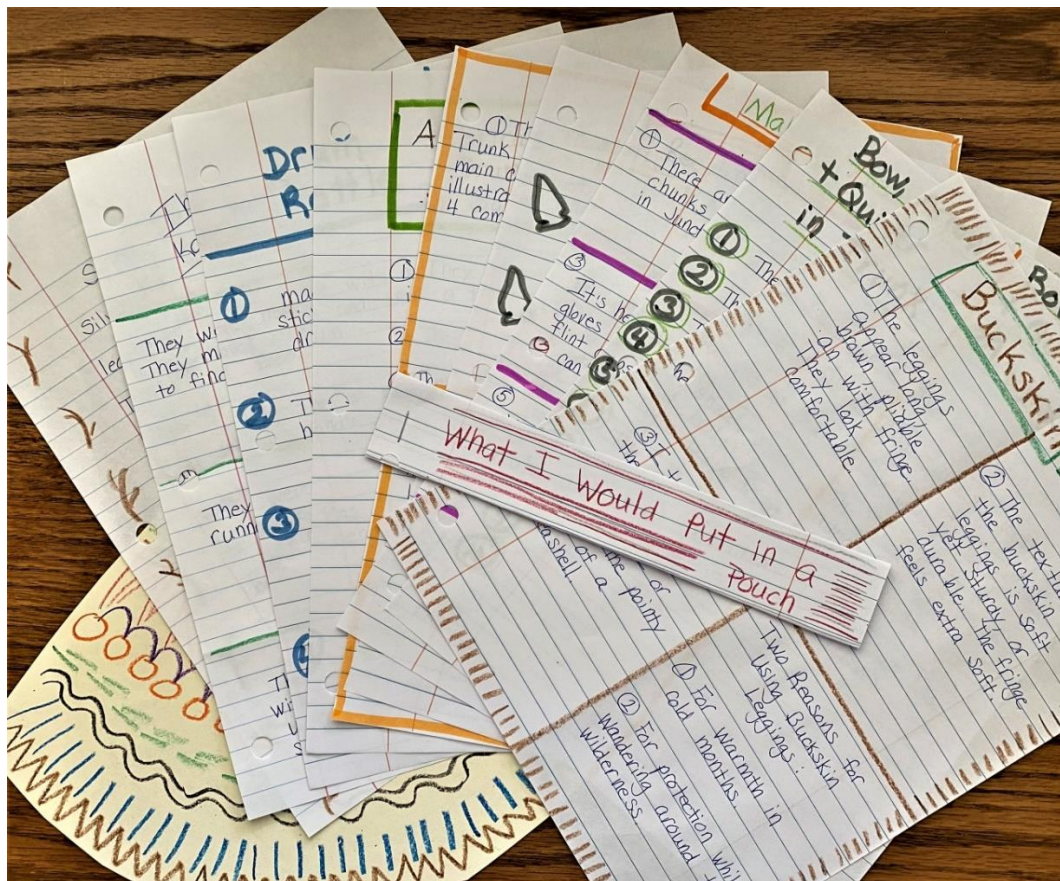




### ➔ Additional Texas Indian Travel Trunk Activities ◀

In addition to the many activities presented in the Travel Trunk notebook, please browse here for simple ways to make the artifacts of this trunk more meaningful and edifying! And, please remember, *adjust all activities as required*—according to time allowed, grade level, and applicability to needs.



## Painted Buffalo Skin



Many Texas Indians lived in the Plains of the U.S. where buffalo were plentiful. The buffalo were used not only for food, but the buffalo skin was used for a variety of things as well: tipi coverings (a tipi covering required 14-20 buffalo hides!), mats for sleeping or sitting, blankets, and robes. The artwork on buffalo hides often depicted biographical scenes, calendars (Winter Counts), dreams, political representation, people, weather events, natural landscape features, or geometric designs.

### → [4 Kiowa Tipi Designs](#)

→ Click on the link above to analyze four different Buffalo Hide Tipi designs from the Texas Kiowa Indians. As a craft, cut a piece of white or tan paper into a triangular-ish (doesn't have to be perfect!) shape. Using markers, paints, or crayons design your own tipi. Use geometric designs, or simple illustrations with meaning.

## Coyote Skin & Fur



Coyotes played a big part in the life of Texas Indians. Just like other animals that were hunted by Indians, most every piece of the coyote was used for something. Coyote fur was particularly prized among Texas Indians for it provided warmth. Coyote skin was used to make clothing, blankets, headdresses, and sometimes for decoration. Coyote meat wasn't the favorite food of Texas Indians, but if they killed a coyote, they would usually eat rather than waste the meat. Coyote teeth were often used for ornamentation.

### → [Native American Legends About Coyotes](#)

→ Coyote fur was very helpful to keep Texas Indians warm during cold seasons. Also, Texas Indians (lots of American Indians, actually) enjoyed telling a wide variety of Coyote Legends. Click on the link above, select one Coyote Legend, and read it.

→ **Bonus Activity:** Re-write your Coyote Legend in your own style.

## Seashells



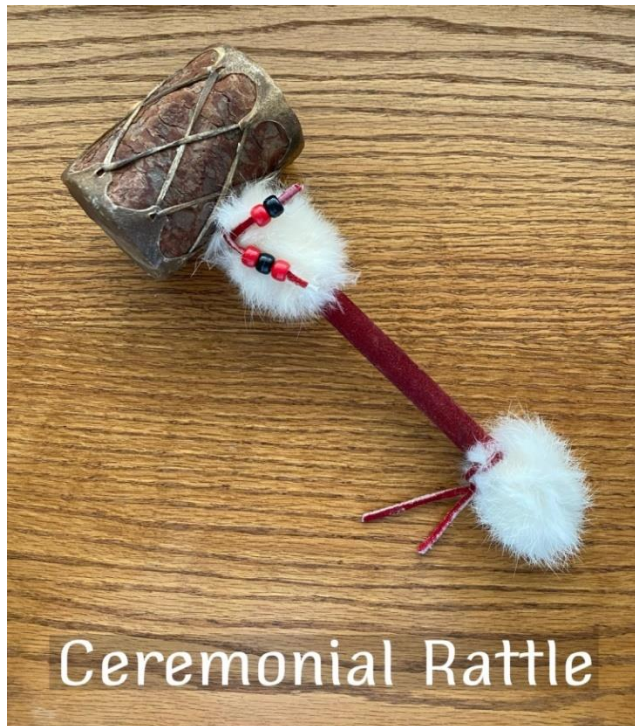
The Karankawa Indians lived along the Gulf Coast, stretching approximately from Galveston to Corpus Christi. Some say that the Karankawas died out completely, but recent evidence suggests that there are indeed some Karankawa descendants living now. Seafood was a large part of the Karankawa diet. They often used seashells left over from seafood meals to use as dishes, tools, trading, and ornamentation. They used a variety of sizes and styles of shells.

### → [Texas Indians: The Karankawas](#)

→ What else can you learn about the Karankawas? Click on the YouTube video link above. Take out a sheet of loose-leaf paper, fold it into 8 sections (3 folds), open it back up and write down one thing you learned about the Karankawas in each section.

## Ceremonial Rattle

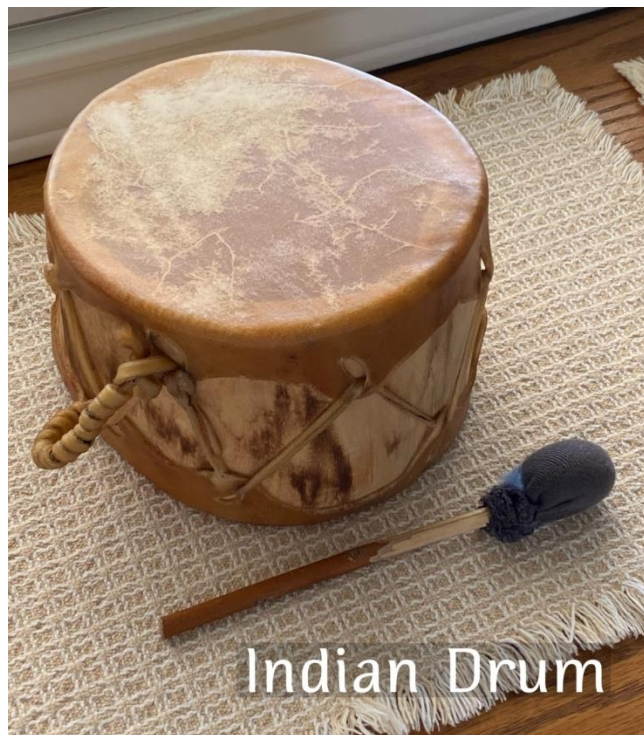
Ceremonial Rattles (also known as Shaman's Rattles) are an essential tool for Texas Indians (and many other Indians as well!). They are also called Indian Medicine Rattles and are made in a variety of ways; rawhide rattles are particularly widespread. Seeds, stones, shells, or corn are often put inside the rattle to create the rattling sound. Sometimes the Ceremonial Rattles are adorned with decoration, others are left plain. These rattles were used for storytelling, spiritual ceremonies, and tribal dances. The steady beat of the Ceremonial Rattles often help Indians to settle into a calm state; they assert this helps to heal various ailments.



→ [Wooden Ceremonial Rattle](#)—Click on the link to see a picture of a man holding a different style of Ceremonial Rattle. Take a sheet of loose-leaf paper and fold in half lengthwise. Write a list of descriptive features of each rattle: the drum-styled rattle from the Travel Trunk on the left column, and the rattle from the link on the right. See if you can come up with at least 10 descriptive words for each rattle. → **Bonus Activity:** Make a modern “Ceremonial Rattle” using objects from your yard and/or your house.

## Indian Drum & Drum Stick

Texas Indians (and other American Indians!) made drums with materials found in nature: rawhide, wood, antlers, etc. They might be large or small. These Indian Drums have been used for centuries for powwow meetings, celebrations, and religious ceremonies. Indians believe that the drums imitate the heartbeat of Mother Earth. The tribes dance and sing during the drumming, attempting to communicate with spirits in hopes of promoting healing, war preparation, or to give thanks for a harvest. Indians still play drums today.



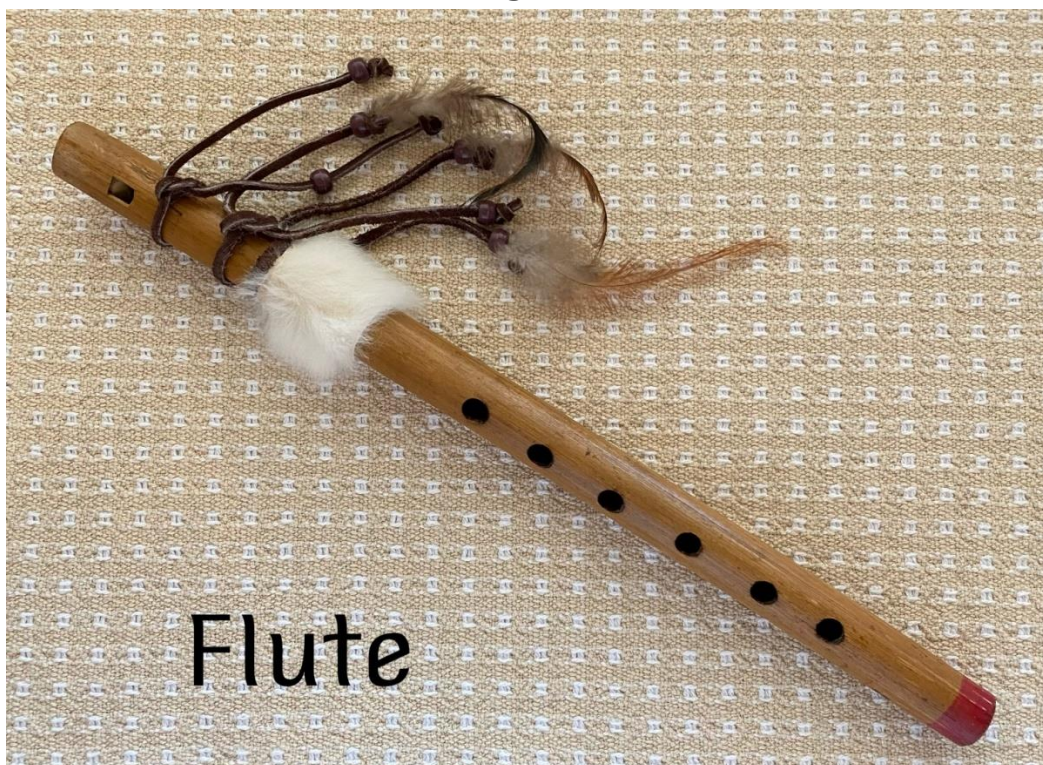
### → [American Indians Drumming and Singing in San Antonio](#)

→ Click on the link above and watch the video. On a sheet of loose-leaf paper, write down your observations on the following:

- 1) How would you describe the feelings or attitudes of the Indians?
- 2) Describe their melody in one sentence.
- 3) Describe their clothing in two sentences.
- 4) Why do you think these Indians still play traditional Indian drums even though it is an ancient activity?

## Flutes

There are many legends on how the Texas Indians (and other American Indians) invented the flute. One story tells that woodpeckers pecked holes in hollow branches while searching for insects and bugs. Then the wind blew across the holes and the Indians nearby heard the lovely sound. They studied the branch and then made some more and decorated them with pieces of fur, leather strips, feathers, beads, paint—whatever they might have available. Flutes were made from the natural resources found near each particular tribe of Texas Indians. Branches and river reeds were popular materials for flute-making.



### → [A Sketching of an Old Flute](#)

→ Click on the link above and examine the drawing of the flute. Take a sheet of loose-leaf paper and fold it into fourths. In three of the quadrants, write down a difference between the flute in the Traveling Trunk and the flute in the link. In the fourth quadrant, write down why Indian flutes might have been made differently.

## Tortoise Shell Pouch



Tortoise Shell Pouch

Indians of Texas and many other areas rarely wasted anything from nature that might be useful in some way. They could create clothing, blankets, utensils, tools, drums, or even a pouch to keep special objects in. They might use a pouch for food, medicine, fire-starting materials, tobacco, bone needles for sewing, beads, shells, etc. Most pouches were made of leather, but this one was made out of a tortoise shell.

### → [Mystery Cache \(Treasures\) from the Lower Pecos](#)

→ Click on the link above; study the top cluster of photographs to see a Texas Indian Pouch more than 4,000 years old. Take a sheet of paper and fold it into four (or eight) strips. Cut the strips. Using the information above, images from the link, and your imagination, write down on each strip an item you would put in your pouch if you had been a Texas Indian many years ago.

**Example:** A piece of sharp rock for scraping fur off of deer skin. Staple the strips together at one end, creating a narrow booklet.



## Five Arrowheads



All American Indian tribes used arrowheads for hunting, fishing, and warfare. East Texas was home to many Indian communities and consequently is a good place today to find authentic arrowheads. The northern Texas tribes such as the Comanche and Kiowa had a lower density of people, so fewer arrowheads can be found in these areas. The best time to look for arrowheads is after a rainfall. The banks of the Guadalupe River near Center Point is often a good place to find arrowheads (make sure you're not trespassing on private property though!). The banks of the Blanco River hold some of the oldest arrowheads.

### → [Arrow Head Hunting in the Texas Hill Country](#)

→ Click on the link above to watch a short video on arrowhead hunting in the Texas Hill Country. Which strategy did you like best for arrowhead hunting: digging, crawling, or screening? Would you be willing to spend three days searching for arrowheads? Try to put yourself in the moccasins of the Texas Indians who used these arrowheads. How would you feel if eating depended on the effectiveness of your arrowhead? Discuss or write down these thoughts.

## Black Obsidian Arrowheads



Obsidian is formed from the lava flow of volcanic eruptions. Obsidian was a common material used to make arrowheads due to its ability to chip easily. However, there are no deposits of obsidian in Texas. So, although the Texas Indians did not have access to obsidian, this type of arrowhead it is still occasionally found in Texas—usually in east Texas. This is due to trading; obsidian and obsidian arrowheads were highly prized. So any nomadic people passing through on trade routes likely traded obsidian arrowheads for other objects. These obsidian arrowheads may have originated in California, Canada, or central Mexico before landing in Texas.

### → [Recycling Arrowheads?](#)

→ Scroll down to the third “Fantastic Fact” in the link above entitled: Recycling. Why might trading something for arrowheads from another part of the country be of value to Texas Indians? Write a three sentence paragraph explaining your ideas and theories.

## Flintknapping Rocks



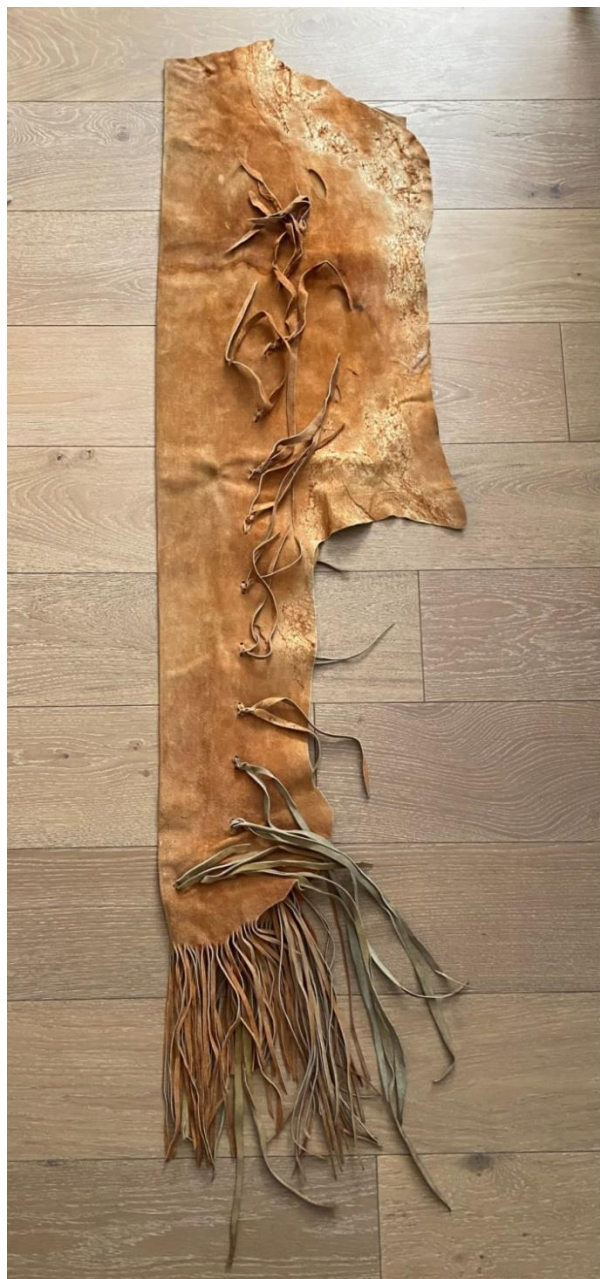
Flintknapping Rocks

Flintknapping is the process of chipping away at and shaping flint, chert, obsidian or other silica-based stones to create sharp points or tools. Flintknapping is the technique that creates stone tools such as spears, arrowheads, knives, blades, or scrapers. It is a skill that has been employed for over 10,000 years by Indians of North America, including Texas Indians. The practice requires the ability to control the way rocks break when they are struck. The best rocks for flintknapping break away in a certain way, creating a “flake,” when struck with another rock, piece of antler, or bone.

### → [Making Arrowheads From Texas Flint](#)

→ Watch the YouTube video (link above). Take a sheet of paper and fold it into eighths. Draw lines separating the eight sections. In each section, write one thing you observed about flintknapping rocks (eight observations total).

## Buckskin Legging



Buckskin is the soft, pliable hide of an animal, typically a deer that has been tanned—a process where the hair and grease have been removed, and then soaked in water for hours or days. Then “tannin” (an acidic compound from tree bark) was used to help the buckskin become durable. Oil was put on the hides to make them soft. Smoking the hide would give it a dark honey color (unsmoked buckskin is almost white in color). Smoking the hide would also help prevent it from stiffening up if it got wet. In addition, smoking the skin helped to deter insects.

### →Analyzing Buckskin Leggings

→Carefully look at and touch the Buckskin Legging and write the following on a piece of paper divided into four sections:

- 1) Describe the appearance of the Buckskin Legging.
- 2) Describe the texture of the Buckskin Legging.
- 3) How do you think the fringe was cut without scissors?
- 4) List two reasons leggings like these might have been used for?

## Bow, Three Arrows, Quiver



Bows and arrows were used by most cultures around the world at some point or another. The use of bows and arrows is at least 8,000 years old. The bow is made of wood (bone snaps too easily), and the string is made from treated intestines of animals, bundled horse hair, fibers from nettle, or certain types of sinew. Once the string is ready, it is attached to each end of the bow. The arrow is created from a wooden shaft with an arrowhead attached at one end. At the opposite end, feathers are added to help the arrow's flight. Quivers were typically crafted with animal skin—with or without the fur. A strap was used to keep the quiver with arrows handy, and to free up one hand.

### → [Bows and Arrows of the Plains Tribes](#)

→ Take a sheet of paper and fold it in half length-wise. On the left side, make a list of 5 attributes describing the Bow, Arrows, and Quiver in the Travel Trunk. On the right side, make a list of 5 attributes of the Bow, Arrows, and Quiver portrayed in the link above.