

**Lesson Title:** Comparing Two Cultures – Hinds Cave and Yours

**By:** Carol Schlenk

**Subject:** Texas history & geography

**Grade level:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade

**Rationale or Purpose:** In this lesson students compare their own culture with that of prehistoric people who camped at Hinds Cave in the Lower Pecos region of Texas thousands of years ago. Students become familiar with lesson-related vocabulary terms (in English and Spanish), locate Hind's Cave on a map, make cultural comparisons using a graphic organizer, and write a comparison/contrast essay on the two cultures.

**Materials:**

- Overhead transparency of Hinds Cave photo
- Overhead transparency of Hinds Cave Map
- Overhead transparency of Hinds Cave Vocabulary in English and Spanish (optional)
- Student copies of Comparing Two Cultures graphic organizer
- Overhead transparency of Comparing Two Cultures graphic organizer (optional)
- Texas history textbooks or Texas Almanacs
- Writing implements

**Lesson Duration:** One or two 45 minute class periods

**Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):**

Social Studies, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Social Studies113.23 (1A), identify the major eras in Texas history and describe their defining characteristics
- Social Studies113.23 (9B), compare places and regions of Texas in terms of physical and human characteristics
- Social Studies113.23 (20A), compare types and uses of technology, past and present
- Social Studies113.23 (21B), analyze information by comparing and contrasting
- Social Studies113.23 (21C), organize and interpret information from charts and maps
- Social Studies113.23 (22A), use social studies terminology correctly
- Social Studies113.23 (22B), use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation
- Social Studies113.23 (22D), create written presentations of social studies information

### English Language Arts, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- English Language Arts and Reading 110.23 (14B), determine distinctive and common characteristics of cultures
- English Language Arts and Reading 110.23 (14C), articulate and discuss themes and connections that cross cultures
- English Language Arts and Reading 110.23 (15C), write to inform
- English Language Arts and Reading 110.23 (15H), produce cohesive and coherent written texts by organizing ideas
- English Language Arts and Reading 110.23 (18A), generate ideas and plans for writing by using prewriting strategies such as graphic organizers

#### **Activity:**

##### Step 1:

Display the overhead transparency of Hinds Cave. Ask students to describe the physical geography around the cave. Possible answers include dry, semiarid, desert like, rocky, hilly, etc.

##### Step 2 (optional)

If students are not familiar with this lesson's vocabulary words, introduce them on an overhead transparency or write them on the board and briefly define them aloud. Note: Spanish translations are included.

Step 3: Explain that nomadic hunting and gathering people traveling through southwest Texas often stopped at Hinds Cave for temporary shelter during the Archaic era. Such caves were usually inhabited by groups the size of an extended family, or around 12 people. Ask students to brainstorm a few examples of how living in such a cave 1,000 – 6,000 years ago would compare to living in their homes today. Explain that in this lesson, they will explore the culture of Hinds Cave and compare it to and contrast it with their own culture.

Step 3: Display the overhead transparency, Map of Hinds Cave. Point out that the cave is located on the Pecos River and have students locate this area on a map of Texas. Step 4: Distribute the Comparing Two Cultures graphic organizer. Explain that students will compare their own culture to that of Hinds Cave by filling out the Comparing Two Cultures graphic organizer, then use the information they collected to write a comparison-contrast essay on the two cultures.

Explain that Hinds Cave is protected beneath a prominent limestone overhang and because it exists in a semiarid region of Texas where the dry climate has produced almost perfect preservation conditions, archeologists have found a wealth of information about the people who camped there over the centuries. Objects found intact in Hinds Cave include artifacts, such as intricate tools, weapons,

basketry, sandals, wood, and chipped stone. Also found were more than 2,000 well preserved coprolites which tell us much about what these people ate.

**Step 5:** Distribute student copies of the Comparing Two Cultures graphic organizer. If necessary, display an overhead transparency of the graphic organizer to help students get started. To fill in the first two sections of the organizer, students will need access to their Texas history textbooks, the Texas Almanac, or some other source of information that can help them describe the location and climate where they live. Have students work with a partner to fill in the rest of their graphic organizers.

**Step 6:** Using their completed graphic organizers for reference, have students write a comparison-contrast essay on their own culture and that of Hinds Cave.

**Modification:** Highlight pertinent geographic information for special needs students and have them use fewer categories on the graphic organizer. Use Spanish vocabulary for ESL students.

**Student Product:** A completed Culture Comparison graphic organizer and a comparison-contrast essay.

**Closure:** Ask students if they've ever been camping, and if so, how primitive their experiences were. Answers will vary from camping in an RV with TV and air-conditioning to primitive tent camping. Have students relate how their camping experiences differed from their everyday lives.

**Assessment:** Have students list the five things they would miss most from their own culture if they had to live in Hinds Cave for a week. Let students read their lists aloud and see if there are some common elements among their lists.

**Extensions:**

- To discover more about Hinds Cave coprolites and the interesting surprises they contain, visit Dr. Dirt, the armadillo archeologist who guides students through the interactive *Detectives into the Past*:  
<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/>
- Bake a batch of Chocolate Chip Coprolite Cookies, using the recipe handout at the end of this lesson. Don't worry, they're not real coprolites! They're chocolate oatmeal cookies with lots of ingredients that make them look like coprolites. See which of your students will volunteer first to do a taste test!

- Have students keep a log of everything they eat in a 24 hour period. Ask them to break down the components of all their foods as much as possible when entering them into their logs. For example, a hamburger contains a meat patty, but also may contain pickles (cucumbers, vinegar, spices), mayonnaise (eggs, vegetable oil), cheese (milk), and a bun (flour, salt, baking powder, etc.). Then ask them to imagine that a future archeologist is analyzing their culture by studying the foods they ate. What can students say about their own culture after studying the foods they eat? Point out to students that Americans have access to foods from all over the world that are available at almost any given time. How does such a diet compare to prehistoric diets such as those consumed at Hind's Cave? To find out more, have students link to *the What's for Dinner?* page in the *Kids Only* section of Texas Beyond History: <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net>
- Send away for owl pellets and dissect them in class (owls regurgitate the bones of their prey neatly wrapped in fur). Or, visit the following website and do a virtual owl pellet dissection:  
<http://www.kidwings.com/owlpellets/index.htm>

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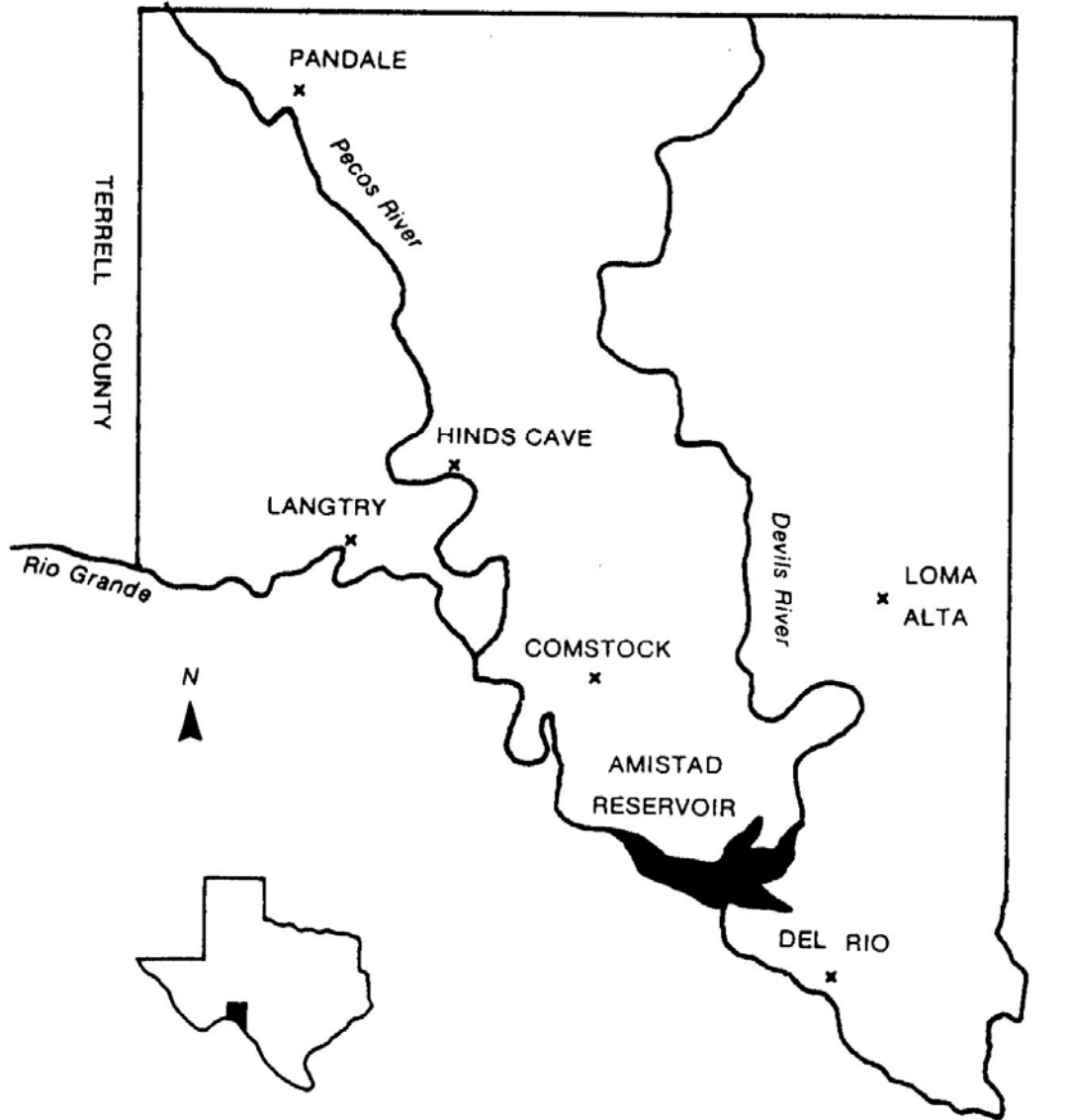
### **Hinds Cave Vocabulary**

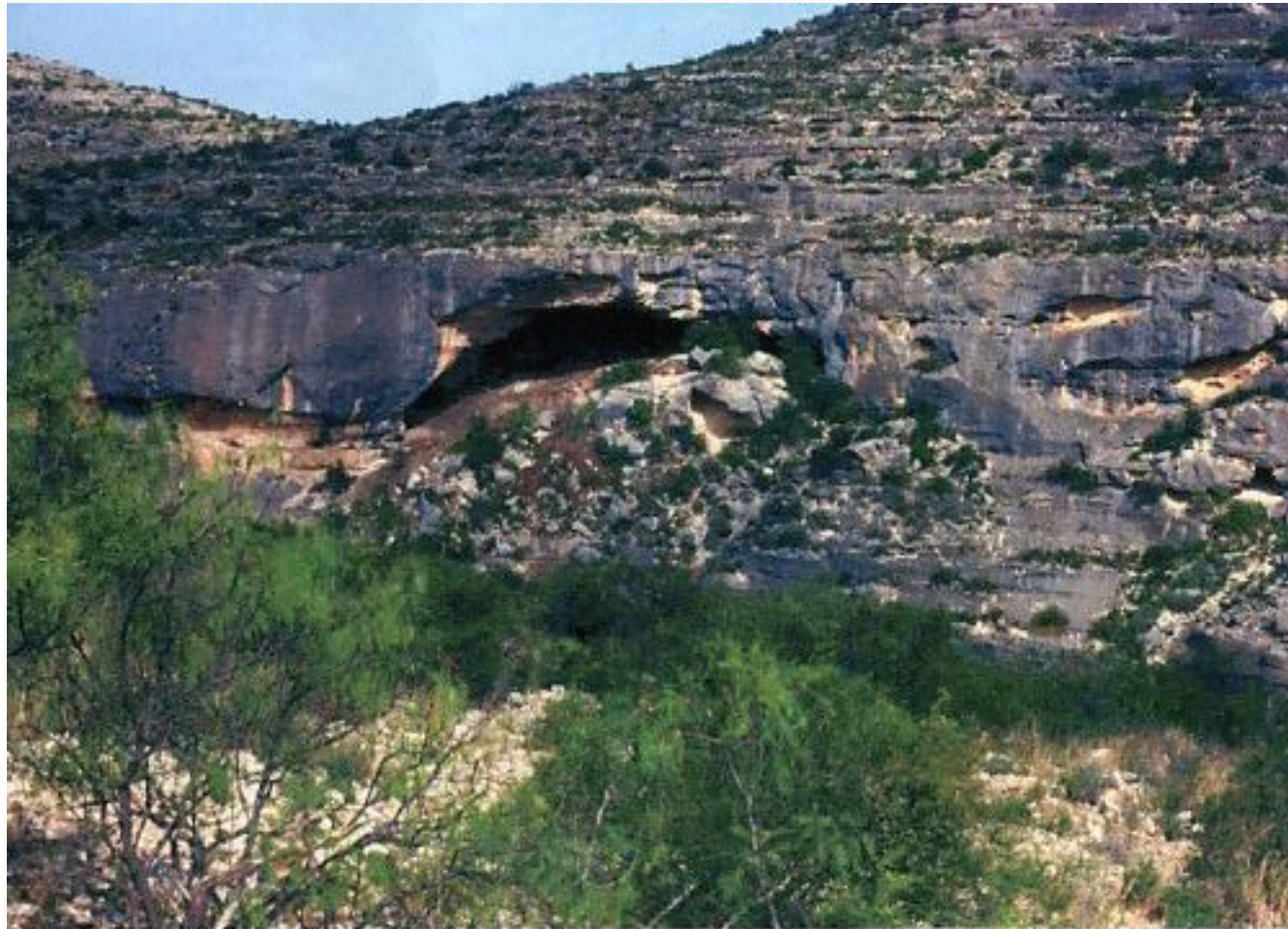
- nomadic – traveling much of the time in search of food and shelter
- Archaic – time period between 1,000 and 9,000 years ago
- semiarid – dry, desert like climate
- artifacts – things made by or used by humans
- coprolites – dried feces (poop) of ancient animals (including humans) which may include particles of plant and animal materials as evidence of what the individual had eaten

### **El Vocabulario de la Cueva Hinds**

- nómada - viajando la mayor parte del tiempo en busca de comida y refugio
- Arcaico - periodo de tiempo des de hace 9,000 años a 1,000 años atrás
- semiárido - clima como desertico
- artefactos - cosas hechas or usadas por humanos
- coprolitos - excremento seco de animales y humanos antiguos las cuales incluyen particulas de plantas y materiales de animales como evidencia de lo que han comido

# HINDS CAVE





## CHOCOLATE CHIP COPROLITE COOKIES

Making these delicious chocolate cookies is a wonderfully gross way for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas history students to simulate the composition of actual coprolites. They can be prepared by the teacher ahead of time and offered to the bravest of students for taste testing!

### Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups quick rolled oats
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 2 sticks margarine
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup sesame seeds
- 1 cup pecan or walnut pieces
- 1 cup slivered almonds (or sweetened, flaked coconut)

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Combine first 4 ingredients in a bowl, mixing thoroughly.
- In a large bowl, cream the margarine, vanilla and sugars together. Add eggs and mix well.
- Add in the dry flour mixture in 4 portions, stirring well after each.
- Stir in the rolled oats, mixing well.
- Add in the final four ingredients, mixing thoroughly. Mixture will be thick and 'chunky.'
- Using a tablespoon (or small ice cream scoop), place mounds of cookie dough on baking sheet and shape into small 'logs.'
- Bake at 375 degrees for 12-15 minutes.
- Remove baked cookies to a plate or cooling rack. They will harden as they cool.

Recipe makes approximately 4 dozen cookies.



## Comparing Two Cultures—Hind’s Cave & Yours

Aspect of Culture	Hind’s Cave Culture	Your Culture
Location: What part of Texas?	Lower Pecos area of Southwest Texas, Plateaus and Canyonlands Region Val Verde County	
Climate	Semi-arid	
Shelter	Limestone overhang cave	
10 commonly eaten foods	Prickly pear cactus, agave, mesquite beans, sotol, grasshoppers, rodents (rats & mice), birds, catfish, snakes, lizards	
Education	Daily on-the-job training by elders	
3 Methods of Communication	Smoke signals, talking, possibly chanting	
3 Daily Chores	Gathering firewood and water, weapon making and hunting (boys), food gathering and food preparation (girls), child care (girls)	
3 Means of Transportation	Walking, running, climbing	

