

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____



Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 5: Louisiana's Native People and Early European Explorers - Section 1: Prehistoric Cultures

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. The first people who lived in the area that is now Louisiana did not leave _____, but some of the items they used in their daily lives have survived, often buried deep in the _____.
2. When these items are dug up, they are called _____ (objects made by humans, especially ancient tools and weapons).
3. _____ (before the time of written history) people left behind the _____ they used for hunting and making shelters, along with the items they used to prepare food or to conduct ceremonies.
4. Taken all together, those items provide _____ (scientists who use artifacts from the past to try to understand prehistoric people) a window into how _____ people lived.
5. One place archaeologists find artifacts in large numbers is in _____ (ancient garbage dumps).
6. It is possible to determine the age of these prehistoric artifacts by using a method called _____.
7. Based on differences in the artifact record and what it suggests about how life was changing over time, _____ have separated Louisiana's prehistory into _____ eras.
8. The first people to live in Louisiana date to a period called the _____.
9. Scientists believe these people first traveled to North America from Asia across a _____ that once connected today's state of Alaska and the region of Russia called Siberia.
10. Paleo people ate the meat from the _____ they killed and used their skins to make clothing, blankets, and coverings for their shelters. Because they followed the animals as they _____ seasonally, their shelters were temporary.
11. Around 7500 BC, Earth's climate _____. As a result, native people no longer had to _____ constantly to keep up with migrating herds.

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12. This change signals the beginning of the _____ era, where people were still _____ (wandering from place to place), but were beginning to stay in the same place for longer periods of time.
13. The Meso people developed a spear-throwing device called an _____. An atlatl was a shaft of _____ with a small cup or groove on the end.
14. Because Meso people moved around less, their _____ changed as well. They became _____ because they were meant to last longer.
15. Meso people began building artificial hills, called _____, as early as 5000 BC.
16. The shift from the Meso to the _____ era took place around 2000 BC.
17. Around 1000 BC, Neo people began to make _____.
18. The development of the _____ around AD 500 is another advancement of this period.
19. Early Neo people established _____ and stayed in them as long as food in the area was _____.
20. The _____ era began about AD 800 and ended around AD 1600.
21. During this period, native villages became even _____, and houses were made more _____.
22. In the Late Neo period, they also began to build _____ on mounds.
23. The Late Neo people switched from gathering to _____ (settled farming).
24. Their main crops were _____ (corn), beans, squash, and pumpkins.
25. The Late Neo people developed a planting method called _____, which involved planting two or more _____ with different harvest times in the same plot of land.