

## What Does It Mean?



Predicting requires making educated guesses about what will happen, e.g., what will happen tomorrow, what will happen in the story, what will be on a test. Making predictions about a reading passage requires a student to be an active reader. Predicting requires students to activate prior knowledge as well as to expand that knowledge as they read.

In the **What Does It Mean?** strategy, students activate prior knowledge about a given topic. They respond by generating a list of words associated with the topic. Then, they categorize the words according to an organizing framework, for example, people, places, cooking utensils, government, punishments.

After categorizing the words, students give each group a name. The name should describe the words - entertainment, household items, customs. Finally, based on the groupings of the words and their descriptive titles, students write one or more hypotheses or predictions about the content of the reading.

Listing the words, grouping them, giving the groups a name, and writing a prediction are completed before reading. During reading, students may validate or discount their predictions.

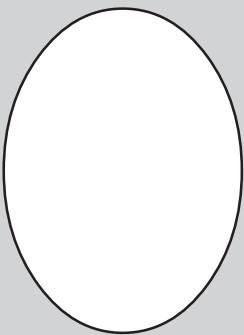
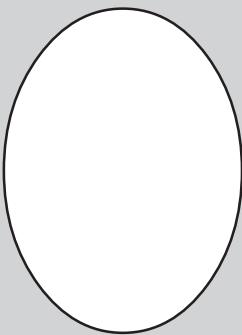
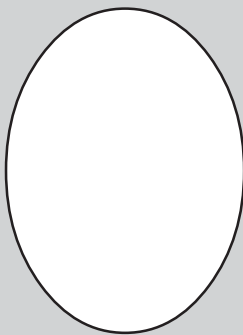



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**To Teach** the What Does It Mean? strategy, use Selection 3 and Graphic Organizer 3. Give the students the word list that is in the template. Have them complete the other steps in the strategy as you read the directions in the left column.

1. Have students make a list of key words about the topic. (The words may come from memory or from skimming a reading passage. The teacher may also provide the list.) The words should be written in the large rectangular box. (NOTE: In the practice exercise, give the students the list of words in the Word List.)
2. Have the students group the words in one of the ovals. The words should be grouped by some common characteristic. Use each word in only one oval.
3. After the words are grouped, have students give each group of words a name. Write the name in the rectangular box under each circle.
4. Based on the groupings, have students make a prediction (hypothesis) about something that may be addressed in the selection.

WORD LIST			
<i>culture</i>	<i>customs</i>	<i>beliefs</i>	<i>traditions</i>
<i>atlatl</i>	<i>archaeologists</i>	<i>prehistoric</i>	<i>artifacts</i>
<i>anthropologist</i>	<i>extinct</i>	<i>paleo</i>	<i>gatherers</i>
<i>nomads</i>	<i>hunters</i>	<i>Clovis point</i>	<i>Folsom Point</i>
<i>mammoths</i>	<i>mastodons</i>	<i>flint knapping</i>	

PREDICTIONS
1. <u><i>Culture includes beliefs, customs and traditions.</i></u>
2. <u><i>Scientists tell us about ancient cultures.</i></u>
3. <u><i>Early people had crude weapons.</i></u>
4. <u><i>Early people hunted animals that are extinct today.</i></u>

**To apply the skill**, have the students complete Graphic Organizer 3 on their own as they read a passage in their textbook.

**To extend the activity**, have students check the accuracy of their predictions by using Graphic Organizer 4. They should write their hypotheses in the middle column and then, as they read, cite evidence to support their prediction in Column 1 or cite evidence to refute their prediction in Column 3

## What Does It Mean?

### Selection 3 - Prehistoric Cultures: The Paleo and Archaic Periods

**Culture** refers to the **beliefs, customs,** and civilization of a particular people or group. Prehistoric cultures are those cultures or communities that existed before recorded history. Prehistoric cultures are usually grouped by how and where they lived as well as when they lived.

What we know about prehistoric cultures on the North American continent comes from **traditions** and the work of **archaeologists** and **anthropologists**. From **artifacts** - bits of stone, bone, pottery, tools, and weavings - these scientists piece together a picture of how the people lived.

The earliest primitive hunters are sometimes called Paleo Indians. The word **paleo** means “very old.” So, it might be said that these people were very old **hunters**. Some people from the Paleo period were nomads who followed large

animals like **mastodons** and hairy **mammoths**. They depended on these animals for food and clothing. They hunted with spears that had a **Clovis point** made by chipping away rock. The process of making the spear points was known as **flint knapping**.

As the large animals became **extinct**, people had to change their methods of hunting. They began to make a finer spear point — the **Folsom point** — that was more effective when hunting smaller animals. A popular new weapon — the **atlatl** — was developed during the Archaic period. The atlatl made it possible to throw spears or darts with more force. The Archaic people, since they did not have to follow the large animals, stayed in one place for longer periods of time. As a result, they became **gatherers** as well as hunters.