

## *How can I best use these materials to support the Social Studies TEKS for Grade 4?*

Understanding ancient Texans helps us to better understand our multicultural heritage and ourselves. The highly motivating content of this issue supports the content goals for 4th grade, and the activities support the essential knowledge and skills in these particular ways:

- **History (4.1B):** The activity “An Archaeologist in Your Room” helps students understand how we can know a great deal about preliterate societies such as indigenous Americans, laying the groundwork for the change in their lifestyles which arrived with European immigration.
- **History (4.2C):** The upcoming exhibit *Creation and Cosmos* offers a consideration of the spirituality of indigenous Americans shedding light in contrast to the Roman Catholicism which sought to convert them (4.2C). Use the “Kids Dig Reed Farmstead” ([kidsdigreed.com/default.asp](http://kidsdigreed.com/default.asp)) site to give 4th graders some experience with the tools and processes used by archaeologists to understand the past.
- **Geography (4.6A and B):** An archaeologist’s grid is an up-close-and-personal use of locating positions. Direct students to the Discovery Zone at “Kids Dig Reed Farmstead” to survey the area (in grids), locate possible dig sites, and even “dig.” Also, play the game “Memory” on that site to search for artifacts hidden in a grid. Set up two teams to bury a collection of items in two sandboxes. Switch sandboxes; have each team lay a string grid (strings at 12” intervals), then dig for buried items, and transfer information about the location of each to a paper grid. Use the Animal Effigy Pots Grid activity to practice grid skills and apply knowledge of map directions.
- **Economics (4.10A):** Discuss trading in student life, using examples such as trading cards, desserts at lunchtime, etc., to consider why the same item might have more value to one person than to another. Then ask, “Why would Texas Indians have such items as pipes made of stone from the Great Lakes area or jewelry with shells from the coast of California?” To view a trading session among Native Americans of different cultures, see the Caddo mural at the Institute of Texan Cultures. Archaeologists learned more about early trading between native Texans and Europeans at the Gilbert site <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/gilbert/index.html> for text and photographs of archaeologists at work on this site and a catalog list of beads.
- **Culture (4.20B):** Ancient peoples still speak through their art and stories. Listen to Native Americans speak through their folktales from a longstanding oral narrative tradition to gain deeper insights into Native American values, humor, and relationship to the environment. Invite an Indian storyteller to your classroom or read tales from various Indian traditions at [http://www.y-indianguides.com/pfm\\_st\\_nativestories.html](http://www.y-indianguides.com/pfm_st_nativestories.html), <http://www.angelfire.com/ia2/stories3/>, or [http://www.turtletrack.org/CO\\_Indices/CO\\_Index\\_Story.htm](http://www.turtletrack.org/CO_Indices/CO_Index_Story.htm). Listen to an audio story by Tschin, a Narraganset storyteller (and other native storytellers) at <http://www.pbs.org/circleofstories/storytellers/tchin.html>. Assign students to find and learn an American Indian folktale from our Webliography listings (4.20B).
- **Science, Technology, and Society (4.21A, B, and C):** Another famous scientist “such as” would be Barto Arnold, the Texas Historical Commission’s Marine Archeologist, who discovered and excavated La Salle’s ship *La Belle*. Learn more at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/lasalle/lasbelle.html>. Also, the Texas Historical Commission has prepared lesson plans related to La Salle and archaeology at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/lasalle/laseducation.html>.  
Lessons 1-8 and 13 are tied to 4th grade Social Studies and Language Arts TEKS. Most of what is known about the earliest Texans was learned by scientists in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, and related fields. Through participation in the “An Archaeologist in Your Room” and various Web site activities, students will experience the relevance of the science of understanding our history.