

## Section

# 3

## The Southeastern Culture Area

### Main Ideas

1. The Caddos of East Texas were advanced farmers.
2. The Wichitas hunted and farmed to survive.
3. Atapaka settlements developed differently based on their locations.

### Why It Matters Today

Important archaeological sites need to be preserved for future study. Use current events sources to learn more about working at an archaeological site.

### Key Terms

- crop rotation
- confederacies
- allies
- matrilineal

## The Story Continues

The Caddo Indians told many stories to their children. The following story taught the importance of farming. “As Snake-Woman gave each person the seeds, she told him that he must plant them, and must care for the plants that grew from them, but must allow no one, especially children, to touch them. . . . She said that until the seeds were ripe they belonged to her, and if anyone gathered them too soon she would send a poisonous snake to bite him.”



TEKS: 2A, 10A, 19C, 20A, 21B, 22D

### myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on the lives and cultures of the peoples of the southeastern culture area.



## The Caddos and Farming

The Caddo emphasis on farming grew out of the area in which they lived. They emerged in eastern Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma more than 1,000 years ago. The rich soil and abundant rain of eastern Texas allowed Caddo farmers to grow many crops.

Unlike the nomads of the Gulf Coast, the Caddos built permanent settlements. Over the years, they became expert farmers, developing agricultural techniques still used today. For example, the Caddos practiced **crop rotation**, planting different crops on a plot of land each year. This rotation prevents the soil from wearing out. The Caddos also set aside extra seeds each year for the next year's crop. In addition, the Caddos burned forests to provide lands for growing crops. On this land, the Caddos grew beans, corn, squash, sunflower seeds, and tobacco.

In many other Texas Indian groups, women did all the farming while men hunted. The Caddos, however, valued farming so highly that men shared the responsibility for growing crops. The men cleared the fields and made farm tools. Women did the rest of the farm work. In addition to their work in the fields, Caddo women gathered wild plants, cooked, and cleaned the houses.

**Reading Check Summarizing** What types of farming methods did the Caddos use that are still practiced today?

## Caddo Society

With a plentiful supply of food available, the Caddo population grew quite large. With their efficient farming system, some people were able to take on special jobs not related to farming. Some became skilled at working with pottery or making tools. Others took on political or religious roles. Over time, the Caddos developed one of the more complex societies in Texas.

By the time European explorers arrived in the region, the Caddos were politically organized into three **confederacies**, or loose associations who worked together. The confederacies were called the Hasinai, the Kadohadachos, and the Natchitoches Caddos. The three groups shared a common language and were **allies**, or friends who supported one another. Although conflicts sometimes arose between them, the groups were usually on good terms. Each confederacy built temples and mounds for religious events. The mounds were also used as burial sites.

The Caddos were a **matrilineal** society. This means families were traced through the mother's side. Family names came from the mother, not the father. In addition, when couples married, they lived with the wife's family. Women cared for the household and made the important decisions concerning the family. In each house, an older woman directed the activities of the 10 to 20 people who lived there.

In addition to their farming duties, men fished and hunted. Hunters used bows and arrows to kill buffalo, deer, and small animals. Their skill with bows also made Caddo men respected warriors. During the cold winter months, men and women wore clothing made from animal skins. In summer, men wore deerskin breechcloths, while women wore clothes made from grass and straw. Both men and women tattooed and painted their bodies. Caddo homes were built from wooden poles covered with grass. Some homes were also plastered with mud.

When European explorers came to Texas, the Caddos were one of the first groups they met. The Europeans came to know the Caddos as *Tejas*, the origin of the name *Texas*. Despite the changes and difficulties the Europeans brought to their society, the Caddos would continue to play a role in the state's history for years to come.

**Reading Check Analyzing Information** What aspects of Caddo culture suggest that their society was successful?

### LINKING

## Past to Present

### Studying the Caddo Mounds

Three huge mounds at the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site near Alto have drawn attention from archaeologists for decades. Built by the Hasinai Caddos, who lived at the site from about A.D. 780 to 1260, two of the mounds were used for public ceremonies. The third served as a burial site. Artifacts found at the site have taught us a great deal about Caddo life. They have also revealed that earlier Indians and Paleo-Indians lived on the site long before the Caddos. The state of Texas opened the site to the public in 1982. **What have scholars learned about the three American Indian mounds?**



## ★ The Wichitas

To the west of the Caddos along the Red River lived the Wichita Indians. The Wichita confederacy included four groups—the Wacos, the Taovayas, the Tawakonis, and the Wichitas. Originally from Kansas and Oklahoma, the Wichitas moved into north-central Texas in the 1700s. Some Wichitas lived as far south as present-day Waco.

The Wichitas lived mainly along creeks and rivers, where they grew beans, corn, melons, and squash. They used horses to hunt buffalo and deer. Like the Caddos, the Wichitas lived in permanent villages. One Spanish explorer in Kansas described a Wichita house.

### TEXAS VOICES

“[The houses are] all round, built of forked poles . . . and on the outside covered to the ground with dry grass. Within, on the sides, they had frameworks or platforms which served them as beds on which they slept. Most of them were large enough to hold eight or ten persons.”

—Don Juan de Oñate, quoted in *Spanish Exploration in the Southwest, 1542–1706*,  
by Herbert E. Bolton

Like the Caddos, the Wichitas tattooed their bodies. However, most Wichitas had more tattoos than the Caddos did. Women drew circles around their eyes and lines from their lips to their chins. Men tattooed their eyelids and drew short lines at the corner of each eye. Because these tattoos made them look like raccoons, the Wichitas called themselves *Kitikiti'sh*, or “raccoon eyes.”

**Reading Check Finding the Main Idea** Where did most Wichitas live, and why?

### Interpreting Visuals

**Horses.** The Wichitas and other groups first got horses from Spanish settlers. Hunters would later capture wild horses to tame. **How did horses help Texas Indians?**



### Our Caddo Name

In eastern Texas, the Spanish encountered a group of Caddos known as the Hasinai. The Spanish called the Hasinai by the group's word for friend—*Tejas* (TEH-hahs). The state of Texas takes its name from this word.

## Literature

**American Indian Stories**

Most cultures have stories and tales to explain the origin of people and animals. These tales are called origin or creation stories. The Wichitas told how people got what they needed to survive. According to the story, people had many things but did not know how to use them. Then a man called Having-Power-to-Carry-Light and a woman called Bright-Shining-Woman appeared. Having-Power-to-Carry-Light showed the men how to make a bow and arrow and how to hunt. Bright-Shining-Woman brought corn and told the women to plant it. Having-Power-to-Carry-Light then became the first star seen in the morning, and Bright-Shining-Woman became the moon. **What does this story suggest about the role of hunting and farming in Wichita society?**

★ **The Atakapas**

Between the Caddos and the Gulf of Mexico lived a people called the Atakapas. Their territory ran from Galveston Island to the Sabine River and into parts of present-day Louisiana. Atakapa communities developed very different ways of life based on where in this territory they lived.

Atakapas who lived in inland areas far from the Gulf of Mexico had good land for farming. They grew many vegetables, but corn was their most important crop. Some scholars think that these Atakapas learned about farming from the Caddos who lived nearby. In addition to farming, the Atakapas used bows and arrows to hunt wild game. Buffalo and alligators formed part of their diet.

Other Atakapas lived closer to the coast, where the land was marshy. Saltwater sometimes flooded the land, so farming was impossible in this area. The ocean, however, provided an abundant supply of food. The Atakapas used wooden traps to catch fish and canoes to gather shellfish, which they raked from the sea bottom. The coastal Atakapas also gathered berries, birds' eggs, and nuts.

Regardless of where they lived, all Atakapas had some traits in common. They probably lived in huts made from brush, though historians are uncertain. They also made pottery and wove baskets. Atakapa clothing was simple, consisting of breechcloths for men and skirts for women. Some groups tattooed their faces and bodies.

Little remains of the Atakapa culture. European diseases had a terrible effect on the Atakapas, and by the early 1900s there were very few left.

**Reading Check Comparing and Contrasting** In what types of environments did Atakapa groups live, and how did these environments affect their way of life?

**Section 3 Review**

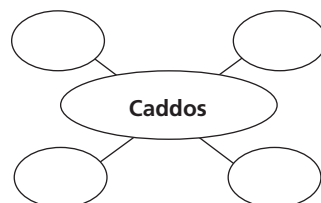
hmhsocialstudies.com

**ONLINE QUIZ****1. Define and explain:**

- crop rotation
- confederacies
- allies
- matrilineal

**2. Analyzing Information**

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to describe four aspects of Caddo culture.

**3. Finding the Main Idea**

- How did the Caddo culture adapt to and modify the environment?
- Where did the name *Texas* come from?
- Where did the Atakapas live, and how did they adapt to their environment?

**4. Writing and Critical Thinking**

myWriteSmart

**Comparing** Write a short report comparing the Caddos, Wichitas, and Atakapas.

Consider the following:

- how they obtained food
- how they made houses and clothing