

Section

4

The Pueblo Culture Area

Main Ideas

1. Some Jumanos were farmers who lived in villages, while others roamed the plains hunting buffalo.
2. Disease, drought, and attacks ended Jumano culture.

Why It Matters Today

Drought affected the lives of hunter-gatherers and farmers in early Texas. It continues to affect Texans today. Use current events sources to learn more about drought problems today.

Key Terms

- adobe
- hides

The Story Continues

The old buildings of sun-baked earth had withstood years of heat, rain, and wind. They had long outlasted the people who built them. The empty village now stood on the Texas plain, silent proof of a once-thriving society. The homes were built close to one another, as if huddled against the harsh elements. What happened to the people who lived there? Scholars had much to learn before they would know the secrets of the village.



TEKS: 2A, 9B, 10A, 20A, 21B, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on Jumano culture in West Texas.



The Jumanos

Buildings like the ones described above were built in Texas by a group of American Indians called the Jumano (zhoo-muh-NOH) people. Descendants of the earlier Anasazi culture, the Jumanos built permanent houses out of **adobe** bricks, which they made by drying clay mud in the sun. The early Jumanos lived in villages along the Rio Grande. Although the region was dry and rugged, they grew corn and other crops by placing fields near the river. When the Rio Grande overflowed, the fields filled with water.

The Jumanos also gathered wild plants for food and hunted buffalo. Some became nomads and moved onto the plains of western and central Texas. They supplied the Jumanos near the Rio Grande with meat and **hides**, or animal skins. The Jumanos also traded goods with other American Indian groups to the east and the west.



VIDEO

Adobe

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Interpreting Visuals

Jumanos. Like other Indians of the Southwest, the Jumanos lived in adobe homes and made pottery from clay. **How did the Jumanos adapt to their natural environment?**

The Jumanos who remained near the Rio Grande lived in large villages. All together, some 10,000 people lived in the five Jumano villages near La Junta de los Ríos, north of Big Bend. In some villages, the Jumanos built their houses around a central plaza. About 30 to 40 people lived in each house, usually made of adobe and wood. The roofs were flat and probably made from tree branches. Inside the house, the Jumanos often painted black, red, white, and yellow stripes on the walls.

Those Jumanos who did not live in villages probably lived in separate adobe houses or in grass huts. Those who hunted buffalo on the plains lived in temporary shelters made from animal hides or grass.

The Jumanos used bows and arrows to hunt buffalo. They used the hides of the buffalo they killed to make many objects. For example, Jumano warriors used shields of buffalo hide along with heavy clubs. Nearly everyone wore clothing and shoes made from hides as well.

In addition to their hide clothing, many Jumanos wore jewelry. This jewelry was made from copper, coral, and turquoise. They also tattooed or painted their faces with striped lines. Jumano hairstyles could be quite ornate, as one Spanish explorer described.

Analyzing Primary Sources
Comparing and Contrasting
How did the hairstyles of Jumano women differ from those of the men?

TEXAS VOICES

“The women . . . wear their hair long and tied to the head. The men have their hair cut very short, up to the middle of their heads, and from there up they leave it two fingers long and curl it with . . . paint in such a way that it resembles a small cap. They leave on the crown a large lock of hair to which they fasten feathers of white and black.”

—Diego Pérez de Luxán, quoted in *The Indians of Texas*, by W. W. Newcomb Jr.

Reading Check Analyzing Information What innovation helped the Jumanos acquire food?

★ Troubled Times for the Jumanos

When the Spanish first arrived in Texas, they traded goods with the Jumanos. The Jumanos were particularly interested in the horses the Spanish had brought to the Americas. Horses made travel and buffalo hunting much easier. However, the Spanish arrival also marked the beginning of a difficult time for the Jumanos. The Spaniards brought diseases that killed many Jumanos.

The Jumanos faced other problems as well. Drought had always made life in western and central Texas difficult. In the early 1500s some Jumanos told a Spanish explorer that it had not rained for two years in a row. When periods of drought became longer during the 1600s and 1700s, many rivers in Texas dried up. Farming became very difficult, and many crops failed. Much of the grass on the plains also died, prompting the buffalo herds in western and central Texas to move away. The Jumanos, who had depended on the buffalo for meat and hides, lost an important resource.

The Jumanos also suffered from attacks by the Apaches, who lived in the plains to the north. The Apaches wanted control of Jumano hunting territories and trade. In the early 1680s a group of Jumanos, led by a chief named Juan Sabeata, asked the Spanish for protection against the Apaches. Sabeata had dealt extensively with the Spanish. He knew their customs and language, and he also knew the people of northern Mexico. Even so, the Spanish did little to help the Jumanos.

By the mid-1700s the Jumanos had lost control of much of their land to the Apaches. Historians think some Jumanos probably survived in small groups that eventually joined other American Indian groups. Some probably even joined the Apaches.

Reading Check Summarizing What three major events caused problems for the Jumanos?

LINKING

Past to Present

Pueblo Culture

The Jumanos were a part of the larger Pueblo culture of the southwestern United States. The Pueblos lived in huge adobe buildings. They farmed, growing several varieties of corn and other crops. Skilled pottery makers, they used decorated jars for food storage. The Pueblos also held elaborate dances and ceremonies, many of which reflected the importance of agriculture to their society. Although historians believe that the Jumanos joined other American Indian groups, the Pueblo culture survived and flourishes today in the American Southwest. **How did Pueblo culture reflect the environment in which it developed?**



Section 4 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- adobe
- hides

2. Locate on a map:

- Rio Grande

3. Summarizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show what the Jumanos did to survive in the dry climate of western Texas.

1. ____
2. ____
3. ____
4. ____

4. Finding the Main Idea

- a. Why did the Jumanos migrate to the Rio Grande region?
- b. What problems caused the decline of the Jumano culture?

5. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Comparing and Contrasting Imagine you are an anthropologist. Write a paragraph describing similarities and differences in the lives of the Jumanos and the Caddos.

Consider the following:

- farming techniques
- housing and clothing