

Looking Ahead *Grade Level*

Unit 1: Natural Texas and Its People

Name: Date: Period:

Part I: The End of an Era

For 12,000 years on the land we now call Texas, American Indians had lived, worked, played, established communities, raised families, ran their governments, formed alliances, and fought their enemies. This *era* of Texas history was a time characterized by Indigenous people living their lives, without any influence from outside of the Americas.

Then, on what probably seemed like any other November day in 1528, a group of American Indians along the coast encountered unknown people from a far-off place. This encounter set off a chain of events that would change Texas history forever.

___ 1) Based on the context of the reading, what is the best definition of the term *era*?

- a. A large area of land characterized by similar features.
- b. A specific period of time characterized by certain features.
- c. A cultural or political group of people who shared a common language.
- d. A political organization with specific beliefs and ideologies.

___ 2) According to the passage, what event ended the Era of Natural Texas and Its People?

- a. A dramatic change in climate that forced Indigenous people to adapt to new ways of life.
- b. War-like tribes migrating into Texas and disturbing the existing order.
- c. Many American Indian tribes of Texas deciding to migrate to other regions.
- d. The arrival of people from far off distant lands.

Make a prediction: Who do you think these unknown people are? What do you think will be the outcome of this encounter?



Part II: Two Worlds Collide

In November of 1528, a group of Spanish explorers met members of the Karankawa tribe of the Coastal Plains. The Spanish men were shipwrecked, lost, and starving. One of the survivors, a man named Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, would later write a book about his experience. In his book, he detailed this first encounter between the Spanish and the Indigenous people of Texas.

They . . . saw that three Indians, with bows and arrows, were following and calling to him, while he did the same to them by signs. So he came to where we were, the Indians remaining behind, seated on the beach. Half an hour after a hundred Indian archers joined them, and our fright was such that, whether tall or little, it made them appear giants to us. They stood still close to the first ones, near where we were.

- The Journey of Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca and His Companions from Florida to the Pacific, 1528-1536, The Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas

Vocabulary in Context

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| ___ 1) By signs | A) Being scared, fear |
| ___ 2) Archers | B) Using hand motions to communicate |
| ___ 3) Fright | C) People using bows and arrows |

Comprehension Questions

- ___ 1) How did the Spanish initially feel during this first encounter with the Karankawa, according to Cabeza de Vaca?
- Troubled and uncertain
 - Excited and eager
 - Bored and apathetic
 - Angry and aggressive
- 2) Circle or highlight evidence in the passage that supports your answer to the previous question. Why do you think the Spanish men felt this way?

3) We have no written account of this event from the Karankawa point of view. How do you think these early Texas people might have felt in this encounter? Explain your answer.

