

No Stone Unturned: The Ben McReynolds Collection – The Virtual Exhibit

Key Terms

Archaeology – The study of human history and prehistory through the digging up of places and analysis of artifacts and human remains.

Archaeologist – A person who studies human history and prehistory by digging up sites and artifacts for analysis.

Excavate – To make a hole by digging up ground.

Artifact – An item made by a human being that was left behind.

Erosion - the geological process in which earthen materials are worn away and transported by natural forces such as wind or water.

Diagnostic Artifact – Artifacts that allow archeologists to pinpoint relatively specific time periods during which they were produced.

Relative Dating – A process that tells how old something is in relation to other objects, but cannot provide a year or specific date of use.

Convex - having a surface that is curved or rounded outward.

Lateral - a side part of something, relating to the sides of objects.

Serrated - having or denoting a jagged edge; saw-like.

Basal - forming or belonging to a bottom layer or base.

Chert - a hard, fine-grained sedimentary rock.

Hominin - any member of the zoological “tribe” Hominini of which only one species exists today—Homo sapiens, or human beings.

Tanzania - an East African country known for its vast wilderness areas.

Preserve – To maintain or keep intact.

Avocational - a subordinate occupation pursued in addition to one's vocation especially for enjoyment.

Cataloguing - the process of creating and maintaining bibliographic and authority records.

Digitization - convert (pictures, text, or sound) into a digital form that can be processed by a computer.

Tangible – Perceptible by touch.

Collection – A variety of objects that were excavated after spending a prolonged period of time underwater or within the earth. Often, they are of different materials, objects or fragments of objects.

Documentation - a series of actions applied to properties of archeological interest, such as identification, evaluation or treatment. The nature and level of documentation is dictated by each specific set of circumstances.

Atlatl – Stick used by Native American tribes in North America to throw a spear or dart.

Lithic – Something related to stone.

Paleolithic Era – Era before 10,000 BC when people were hunters and gatherers who followed food sources from place to place.

Neolithic Era – Era around 10,000 BC where people began to practice agriculture and have more permanent homes. Also called the Stone Age.

Paleoindian Period – Period from 16,000BC to 8,000 BC when people hunted large animals with large stone tools.

Early Archaic Period – Period from 8,800 BC to 6,000 BC. People began to have more complex societies and migrated for trade.

Middle Archaic Period – Period from 6,000 BC to 4,000 BC. People living along the coast and using more food sources from rivers and oceans.

Late Archaic Period – Period from 4,000 BC to 1,200 BC where people lived closer to the Coastal region of Texas and established permanent communities.

Late Prehistoric Period – Period from 1,200BC to 450 BC. The Coastal region of Texas was inhabited by people such as the Karankawa, Aranama, and Tamique.

Fossil – The remains or impression of a prehistoric organism preserved in petrified rock.