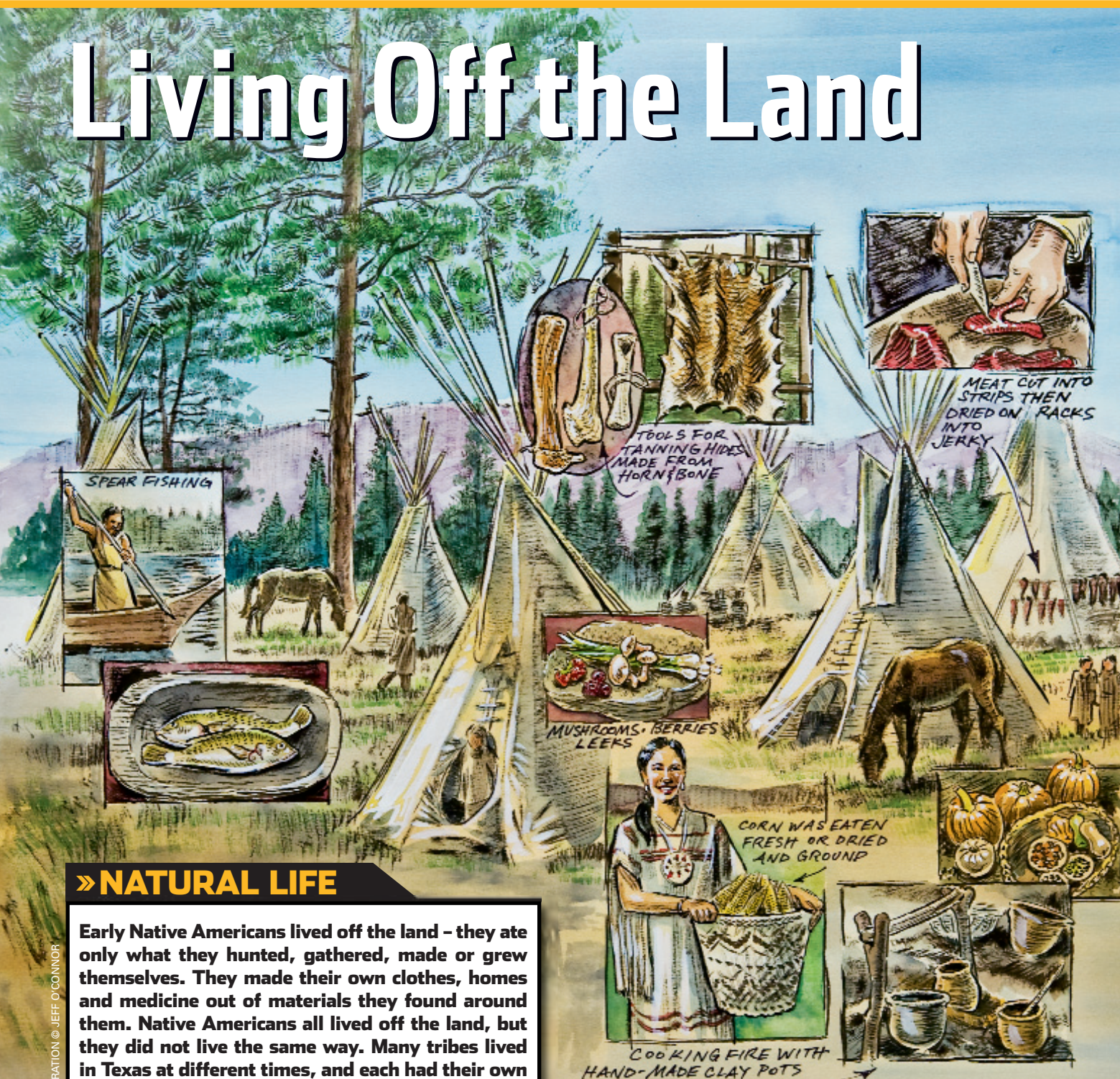


Keep Texas Wild

Living Off the Land



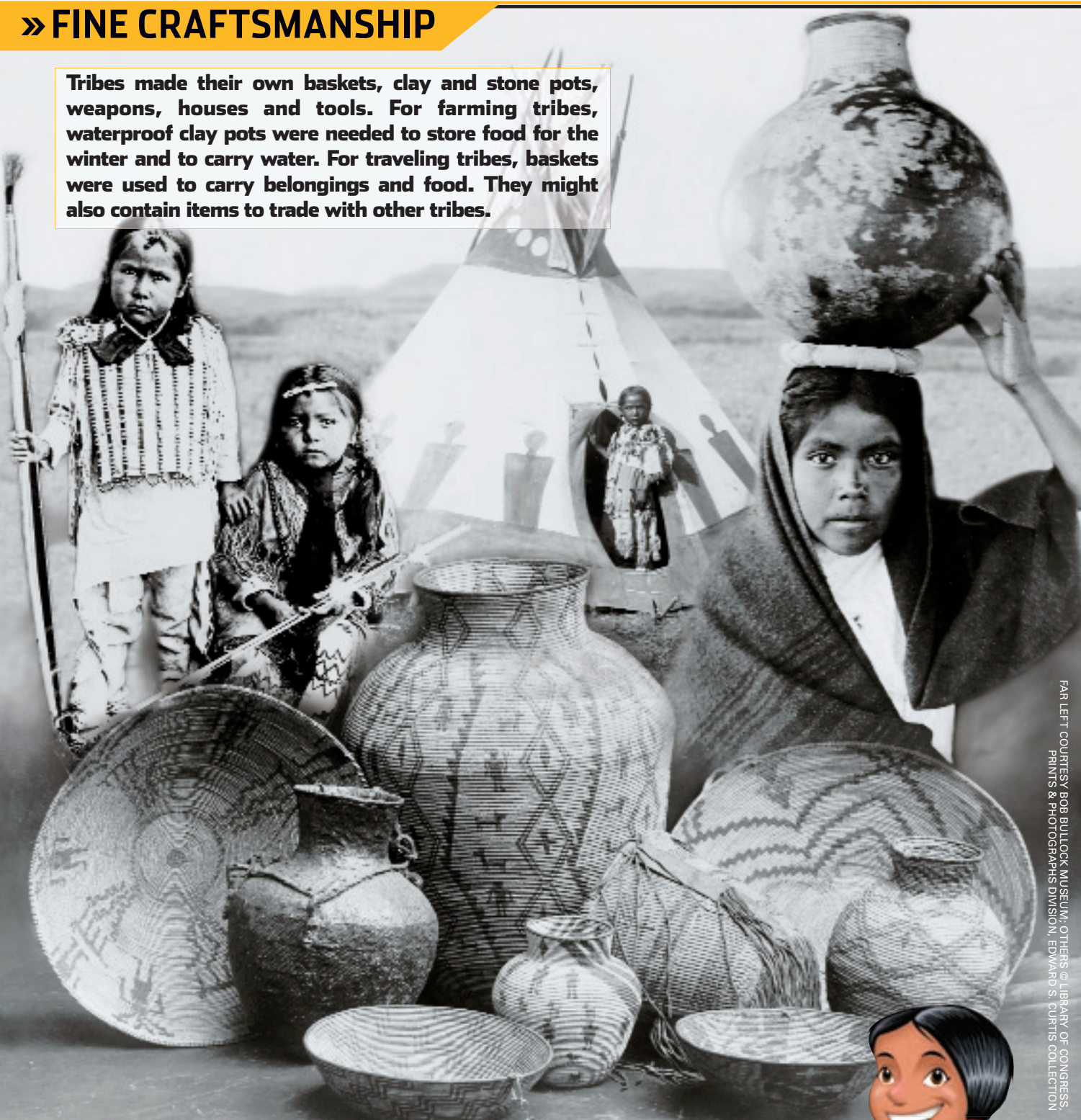
» NATURAL LIFE

Early Native Americans lived off the land – they ate only what they hunted, gathered, made or grew themselves. They made their own clothes, homes and medicine out of materials they found around them. Native Americans all lived off the land, but they did not live the same way. Many tribes lived in Texas at different times, and each had their own languages, cultures and customs.

ILLUSTRATION © JEFF O'CONNOR

» FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Tribes made their own baskets, clay and stone pots, weapons, houses and tools. For farming tribes, waterproof clay pots were needed to store food for the winter and to carry water. For traveling tribes, baskets were used to carry belongings and food. They might also contain items to trade with other tribes.



FAR LEFT COURTESY BOB BULLOCK MUSEUM; OTHERS © LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION, EDWARD S. CURTIS COLLECTION

NOTHING WENT TO WASTE «

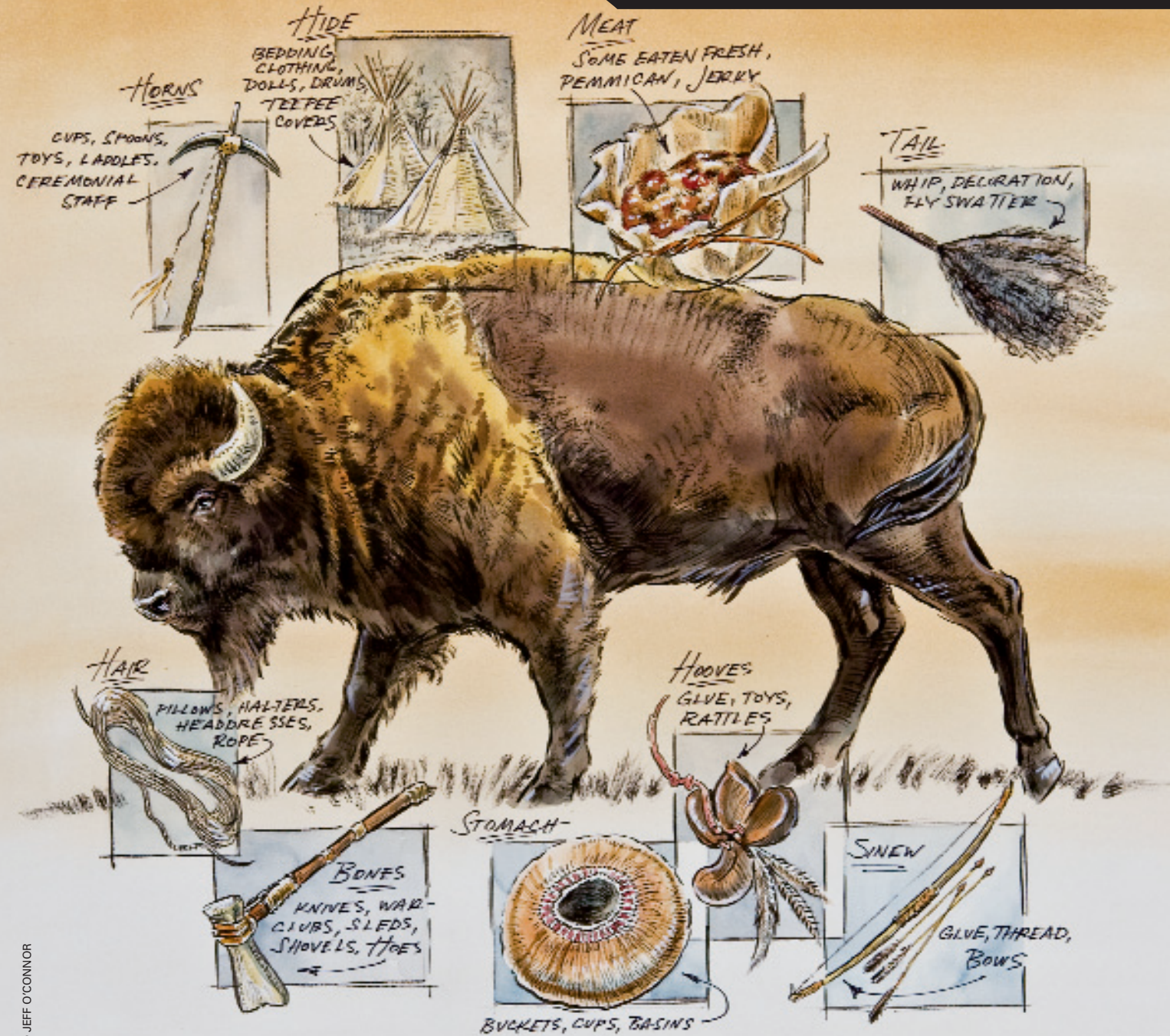
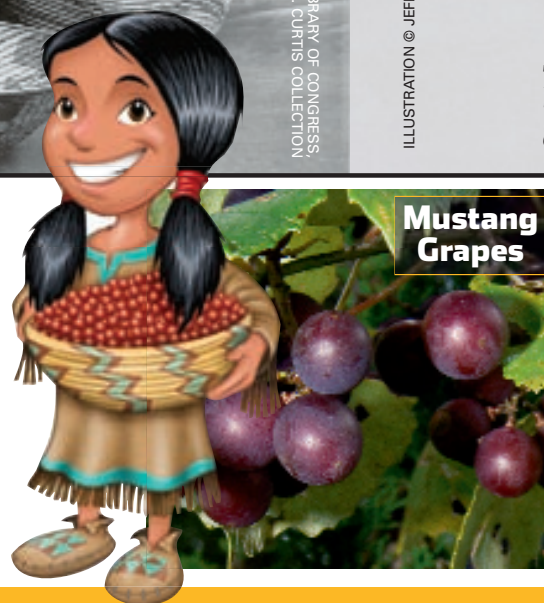


ILLUSTRATION © JEFF O'CONNOR

Some Native Americans hunted the American bison, an animal often called a buffalo. There are still bison in Texas today. The bison lived wild on the plains. Hunters used tracking skills to find the bison, and made weapons to kill them. They used every part of the bison for their daily needs.

» BISON FOR SUPPER AGAIN!

Native Americans ate more than just bison. Many of the foods they gathered can still be found here today. Mustang grapes, Texas persimmons and Mexican plums are sweet, juicy wild fruits. Pecans grew along the rivers, then and now. Honey mesquite beans and acorns were ground up to make breads. Native plants, like sotol and prickly pear, hide delicious food under spikes and thorns. Hunters brought home rabbits, wild turkey, deer and fish. Tribes who farmed grew corn, pumpkins, sunflowers, squash, beans and tobacco.



Mustang Grapes



Turkey



Prickly Pear



Rabbit

PHOTOS BY TPWD; ILLUSTRATION © FIAN ARROYO



Spike's Activity Page

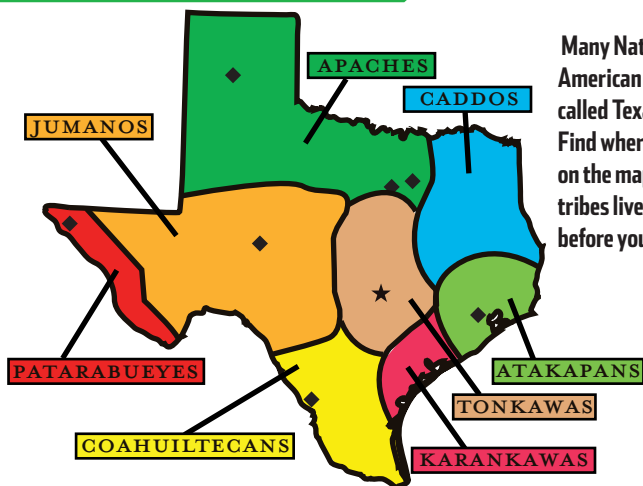


>> KEEPING IT WILD



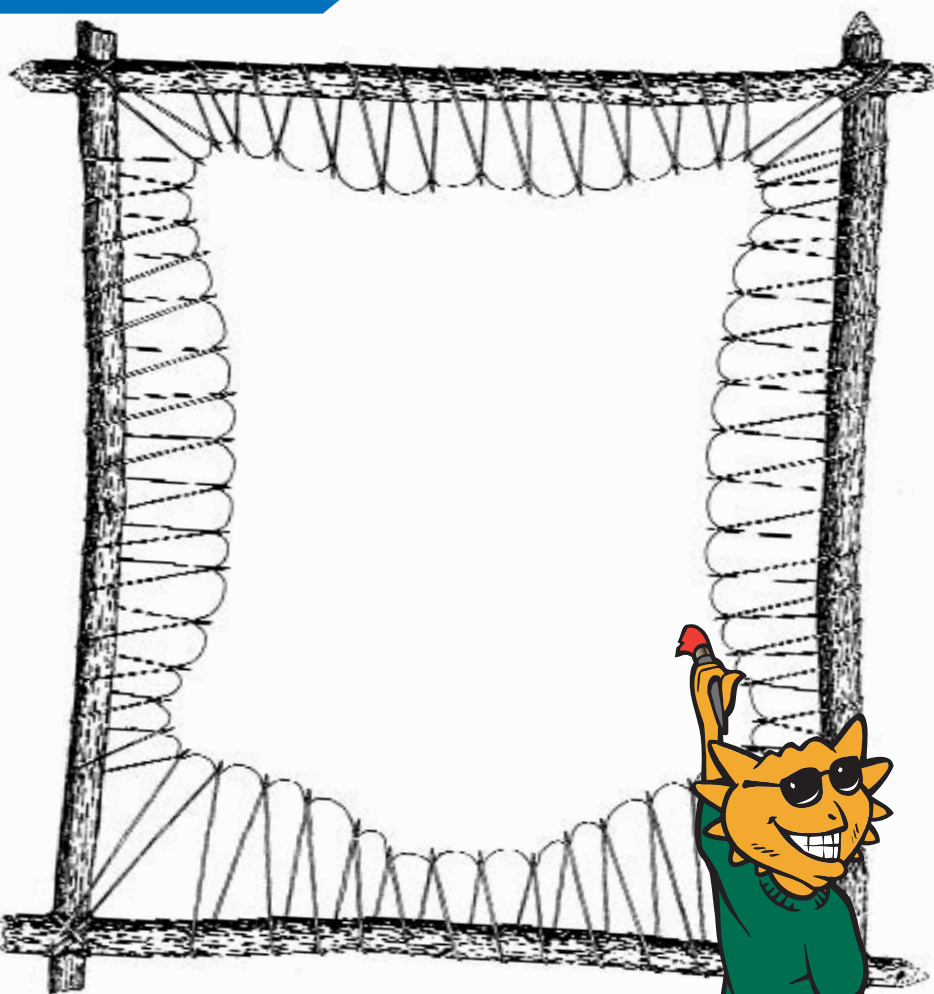
Native Americans made their own jewelry from items they found in nature. Shells, stones, bones, feathers, seeds and bones were strung in different combinations to make necklaces or decorate hair and clothes. We still use many of the same materials, like turquoise and sea shells, to make jewelry. Go outside and collect natural items like leaves, feathers and acorns. Ask an adult to help you poke holes in what you find. Using string or yarn, make your own necklace or bracelet.

>> WILD GEOGRAPHY



Many Native American tribes called Texas home. Find where you live on the map. Which tribes lived there before you?

>> WILD ART



Many Native Americans didn't have a written language as we know it. Instead they painted symbols called pictographs to tell stories. Pictographs were both art and communication. The paintings represented people, animals and other things they saw in nature. Using these as a guide, create your own symbols. Can you use them to tell a story about your family, friends or school?



Horse



Bear Track



Tepee



Crow



Man



Sun Rays



Sun



Mountains



Water

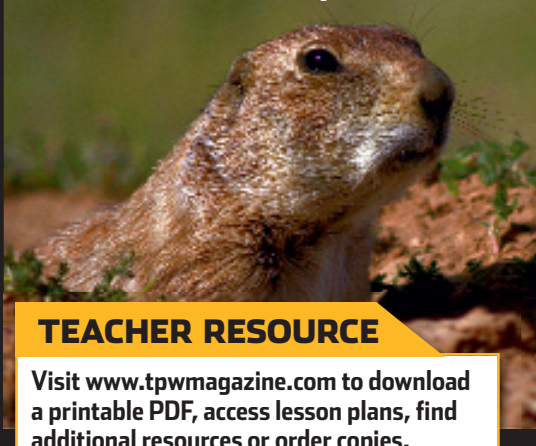


Hungry



Buffalo

NEXT MONTH:
Home for the Holidays



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