

Clues to Beginnings

Use evidence and traditions to explain possible origins.

4.1.A "explain the possible origins of American Indian groups in Texas;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each statement that gives a possible explanation of where Texas American Indian groups' ancestors came from, and circle the source or clue connected to that explanation.

Looking for Origins

- ① Long before Texas had towns or roads, American Indian groups lived across its forests, plains, mountains, and coasts. Historians and scientists study clues to explain where these peoples' distant ancestors may have come from. The clues include stone tools, hearths, animal bones, and campsites. These finds show that people lived in Texas many thousands of years ago, but they do not tell every part of the story.
- ② One possible explanation says that some ancestors traveled into the Americas from northeastern Asia during the last Ice Age. Lower sea levels may have exposed land between Asia and Alaska, often called Beringia. People could have moved across this land, or traveled along the Pacific coast. Over many generations, families spread south and some eventually reached the area now called Texas.
- ③ American Indian communities also have their own origin stories, shared through spoken traditions. These stories explain how a people understand their beginnings, relationships, and responsibilities to their homelands. Origin stories are important historical sources, even though they are different from archaeological evidence. To learn about the possible origins of Texas groups, we can consider both community traditions and evidence from scientists, while remembering that no single clue gives the whole answer.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is one possible route that ancestors could have used to enter the Americas?

2 Why does the passage use words such as "may" and "could" when describing the journey to the Americas?

3 Name two archaeological clues that historians and scientists study.

4 How are community origin stories different from archaeological evidence?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences that explain how community origin stories and archaeological evidence can work together to help us learn about the possible origins of American Indian groups in Texas. Include why one source alone is not enough.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each statement that gives a possible explanation of where Texas American Indian groups' ancestors came from, and circle the source or clue connected to that explanation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one possible route that ancestors could have used to enter the Americas?	They could have crossed exposed land between Asia and Alaska, called Beringia, or traveled along the Pacific coast.
2	Why does the passage use words such as "may" and "could" when describing the journey to the Americas?	The exact journey is not known. The evidence gives possible explanations, not every part of the story.
3	Name two archaeological clues that historians and scientists study.	Answers include stone tools, hearths, animal bones, and campsites.
4	How are community origin stories different from archaeological evidence?	Origin stories are shared through spoken traditions and explain how people understand their beginnings and homelands. Archaeological evidence includes physical finds such as tools and campsites.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Stone tools and campsites can show that people lived in Texas long ago, while community origin stories tell how people understand their beginnings and homelands. Using both sources gives a fuller explanation, but neither source alone tells the whole story.

Accept either Beringia or the Pacific coast as a possible travel route. Accept responses that distinguish spoken community traditions from physical archaeological evidence and use careful language about possible origins.