

The Caddo

Where Do We Get Our Information?

Caddo Voices

East Texas is part of the historic homeland of a society of farmers, warriors, potters, priests and traders known today as the Caddo. The more than 5,000 modern Caddo strengthen their ties to the past through stories, songs and dances that commemorate and celebrate events in Caddo history. Living Caddo are a valuable resource for anyone researching Caddo history.



Courtesy of the Caddoan Visual Archive and Collection of the Caddo Heritage Museum

Members of the Caddo Nation gather for dances today just as they did in 1892, and for hundreds of years before that.



Courtesy of the Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society



Archaeologists carefully excavate at Caddoan Mounds, scraping away the dirt with small tools. Compare their technique to this Caddo cemetery destroyed by grave robbers using a backhoe.



Courtesy of Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin

The Past Speaks

A lot of what we know about the ancient Caddo comes from archaeology. Archaeologists are scientists who work slowly and carefully to keep dating and objects intact. After excavating a site, they share the artifacts and information they uncover with the world.

Early Explorers

"The Caddo are a populous nation of people, and so extensive that those who give detailed reports of them do not know where it ends...They have houses made of wood, cultivate the soil, plant maize and other crops, wear clothes, and punish misdemeanors, especially theft."

—Father Damien Massanet, 1690



Texas map 1691, original in Archivo General de Sevilla

European explorers in the 1600s and 1700s recorded a lot of information about what Caddo life was like at the time. A Spanish expedition produced this map which provides a detailed look at a Caddo village in 1691.



Bar-Zin-Debar
(Tall Man)

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Courtesy of National Anthropological Archives