



**Karankawa Society**

The following excerpt describes the Karankawas, one of the Native American groups making up the Gulf Culture. It was written by a French observer, probably in the early 1700s.

**DIRECTIONS: Understanding Primary Sources** Read the following passage and answer the questions below. As you read, think about

- how the Karankawas obtained their food.
- what the observer’s attitude is toward these people.

... [The Karankawas have] always lived on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. ...

... Following the example of other indigenes [Native Americans] they have some horses, although their travels are much more frequently over the bays than over the land. Aboard frail skiffs [boats] they go from island to island, seeking in the inlets an abundant catch. They eat fish and turtles, and, if these animals are lacking in the rivers, they catch caimans [alligators]. ...

... They are men of tall stature, from five French feet, eight inches to five feet, ten inches. Their bearing is arrogant [proud] and all are remarkably robust. Due to the life they lead, alternately in the water or on the broiling sands, the legs of most of them are covered

with small varicose [vein-filled] ulcers, to which they pay almost no attention. These indigenes are so accustomed to walking on oyster banks that a barefoot Karankawa can run without doing himself any harm in places where we others, well shod, would soon cut our stoutest shoes to pieces.

A matter which surprised me ... was their fishing. After beating the water and gathering together in a small inlet the fish which they encountered, they kill the largest with arrows, and with such skill that often they designate the species of fish which they thus want to catch. They do not have any of those instruments which the ... [peoples] of the southern seas use for fishing.

**INVESTIGATING THE PRIMARY SOURCE**

1. Where did the Karankawas live?

---

2. What method of fishing did the Karankawas use?

---



---

**★ Activity ★**

**DIRECTIONS: Analyzing Information** On a separate sheet of paper, describe why the sea was important to the Karankawa way of life.

**Guided Reading** ★ ★★ **Activity 3-3***For use with textbook pages 90–95***Pueblo and Plains Cultures****DIRECTIONS: Filling in the Blanks** Use the information in your textbook to fill in the missing word(s). Use another sheet of paper if necessary.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ lived as a trading and \_\_\_\_\_ people.
2. The Jumanos had \_\_\_\_\_ tattoos on their \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Jumanos hunted small animals, deer, and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Houses of the Jumanos were large, with \_\_\_\_\_ roofs made of \_\_\_\_\_ and branches covered with \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Jumanos fought to maintain their \_\_\_\_\_ and their trade relationships, but the \_\_\_\_\_ prevailed.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ were another \_\_\_\_\_ people whose descendants live on a \_\_\_\_\_ in Texas today.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ reintroduced the horse to the Americas around A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ lived along the southeastern edge of the \_\_\_\_\_ Plateau.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ were two important Apache groups in Texas.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ was a vast land covering parts of Mexico, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Comanche life centered on two activities—\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Kiowa families lived in \_\_\_\_\_ that were made of tanned \_\_\_\_\_ and were easy to move.