

## Texas History Goes High Tech

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A new free public education website, *Texas Beyond History*, www.texasbeyond history.net, showcases more than 13,000 years of human history — from Clovis mammoth hunters to cotton farmers — for K-12 teachers, students, and the public. Facts and stories about Texas' past are illustrated with more than 1000 vibrant images in virtual museum "exhibits." There are also kid's activities, an illustrated glossary, and teachers' lesson plans. All can be downloaded and printed for use in the classroom.

Viewers can point and click their way across a map of the state, visiting a little known Civil War era prison camp for Union soldiers in East Texas (Camp Ford) or the site of a 10,000-year-old buffalo jump where Indians stampeded animals over a cliff in southwest Texas (Bonfire Shelter). The 1880s Red River War between units of the U.S. Army and desperate bands of Plains Indians is revisited, with a special section on how archeologists tracked the locations of the battles across hundreds of acres of Panhandle canyon lands. The story of the rediscovery of the site of Mission San Saba highlights the fascinating detective

work of archeologists, historians, and a San Antonio architect who is a descendant of one of the soldiers at the Mission.

Texas Beyond History is already quite large, but it currently features only 20 of the state's most important historical and archeological sites.

Over the next five years, the goal is to cre-

ate 200 exhibits linked to extensive resources for Texas school children and teachers. Major theme exhibits on the Caddo of East Texas, the Frontier Forts of Texas, and the first farmers of the Texas Panhandle (from roughly 800 years ago!) will premiere in summer 2003.

The website is an effort of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the

Address ( http://www.texasbevondhistory.net/index2.html × 63 60 Move your mouse **Texas Beyond History** Home | Glossary over the map for an Map Tool overview and timeframe of each Rubin Hancock Click on a site to dig The Rubin Hancock farnstead was stablished by freed stayes during the 1,670s, at a will in present-day north Austin. Many of the shonck descendants still live in the Austin area nd have commoused their stones to the # Http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/n/bay/index.htm

Screen shot from the Map Tool section of the Texas Beyond History website.

University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Archeological Society. Archeologists, historians, educators, and artists from institutions and organizations across the state have contributed to this effort. In addition, the TBH staff works closely with the College of Education at UT Austin to create curricula and other resources for K-12 teachers.