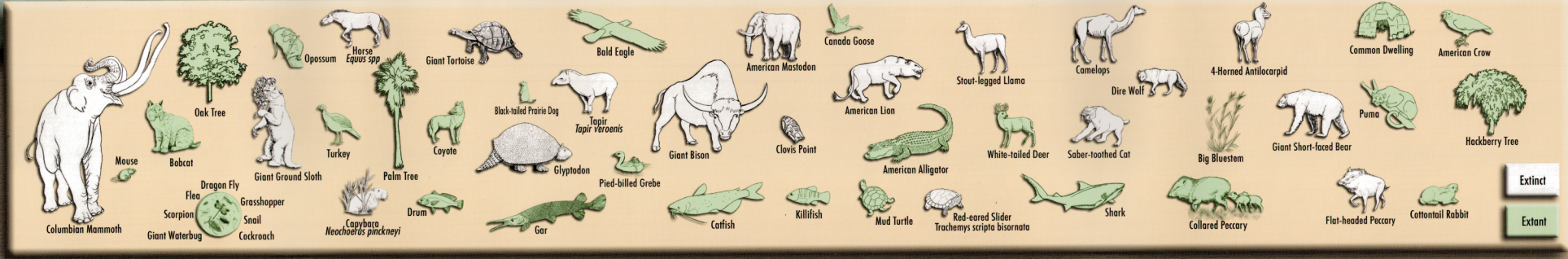


SOUTH TEXAS ICE AGE

Lower Nueces River Valley 13,230 Years Ago



This inset map shows the maximum extent of the ice sheets in North America during the last glacial advance 18,000 years ago. The light brown region rimming the present-day land area (shown in green) represents exposed surface at that time. Glacial retreat allowed sea level to rise (a process that continues to this day), moving the shoreline to its present-day position.



This scene depicts the plants, animals, humans and landforms of the southern United States and northern Mexico at the beginning of the latest interglacial period that started 18,000 years ago. Sea level was 330' lower than present, and the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico was many miles seaward of its current position.

A 14' by 7' mural of this scene is displayed along with a Columbian Mammoth foot, leg and shoulder blade mounted in an articulated life position in the Northwest Branch library in Corpus Christi, Texas. The bones, donated by the Wright and Truesdale families of Nueces County, Texas, were discovered 22 miles from the library in 1994.

How do we know the age of the bones?
Wood samples that were collected with the bones were radiocarbon dated by the Southern Methodist University Radiocarbon Laboratory as 13,230 +/- 110 years before present.

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