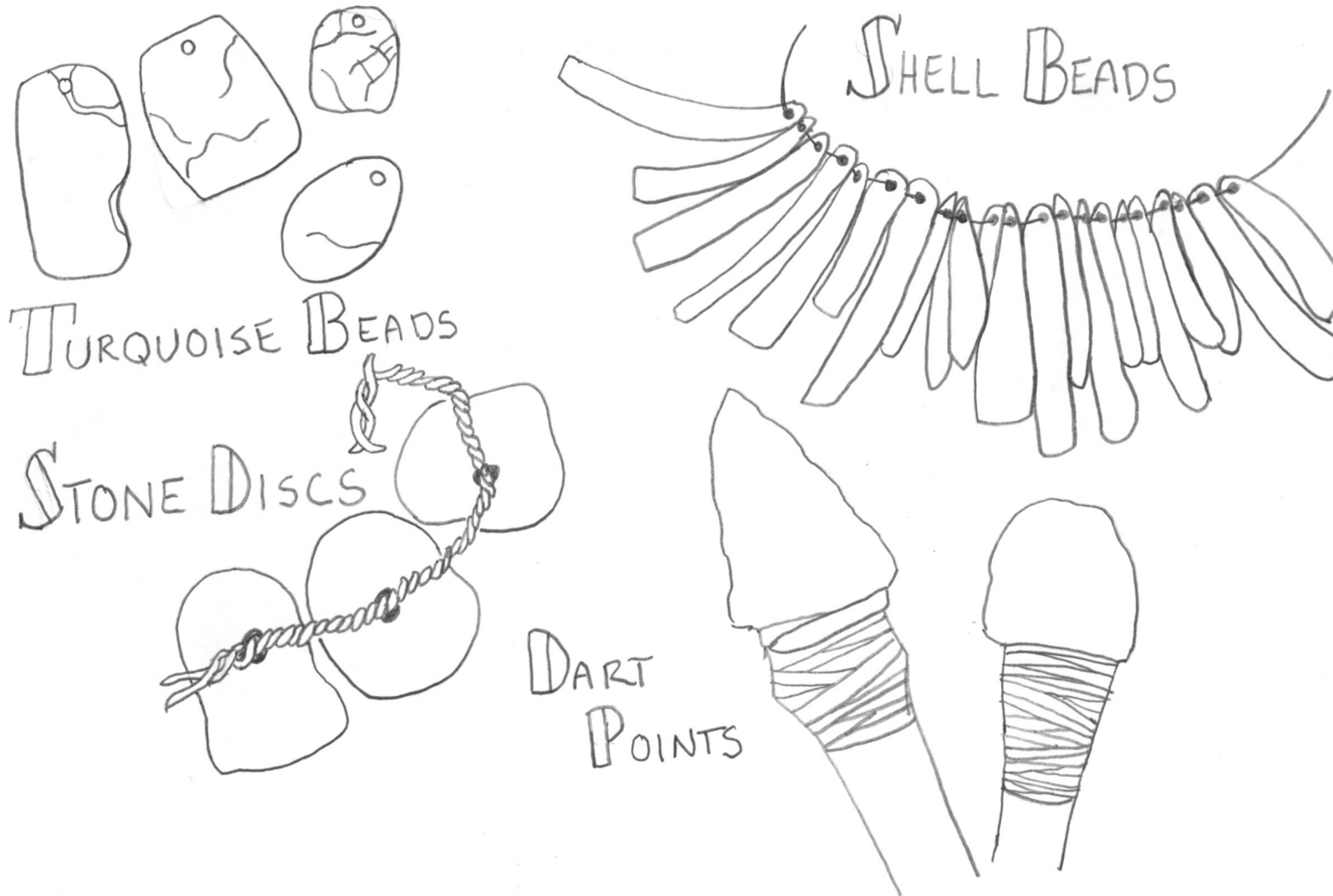


CEREMONIAL CAVE



Located in the Hueco Mountains of West Texas, Ceremonial Cave was a sacred shrine for pilgrims from the surrounding Puebloan region. For more than 1,000 years (between about 0 and 1000 CE), people from the Jornada-Mogollon culture visited the cave to leave offerings. The objects they left behind included many beads and ornaments made from shell and exotic stone, items of clothing like sandals, and tools such as weapons and fire-starting implements. These items can tell archaeologists a lot about how prehistoric people lived, including where they came from and the types of plants and animals they used to make their tools.

Artifacts from Ceremonial Cave show that it was a special site for people from local villages, but people brought items from very far away, too. Some of the shell items must have come from a distant ocean, and many of the artifacts suggest a connection to the site of Casas Grandes in northern Mexico.

Learn more at www.texasbeyondhistory.net/ceremonial