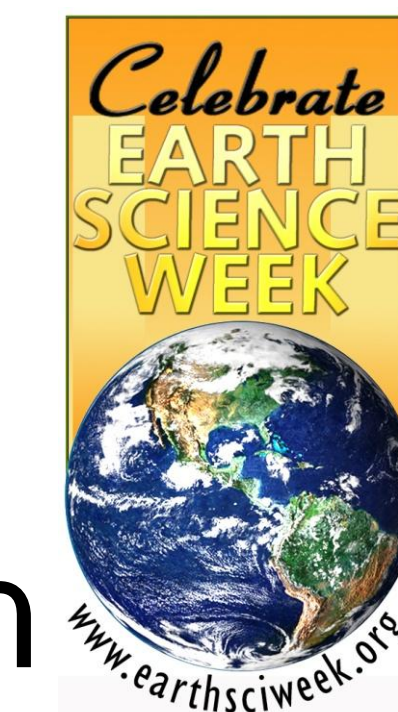


HGS Field Trip to McFaddin Beach – Sea Level Change



This area is one of both archeological and geological interest. Artifacts and fossil animal bones have been washed ashore here for many years. **The questions is why here?**

The Beaumont Formation



A fossil Bison tooth found at McFaddin Beach during a 2009 HGS field trip. Bison (American Buffalo) can still be found today and their current habitat and behavior tells us what it was like in this area when the bison lived here on the Gulf Coast.



Fossil horse tooth and a bison leg bone found at McFaddin beach during a 2009 HGS Field trip



26,000 years ago – maximum glaciation with sea level 125m lower than today, the coastline is 200km to the SE of its current position

14,000 years ago - sea level is rising as ice sheets melt, but sea level is still 65m below the current level

9000 to 7000 years ago – sea level continually rises in the Gulf Coast area and floods the populated coastal plains

1500 Years ago the Gulf Coast shoreline is approximately where we see it today and previously inhabited areas are under water.

And the answer is

Changes in local and global sea levels



Fossil arthropod burrows found at McFaddin Beach in September 2012



Replica Clovis Point artifacts similar to those found at McFaddin Beach where they are thought to have been washed ashore from the Gulf having been deposited when the sea level was much lower than it is today.

The High Island salt dome from McFaddin Beach



Example of a sulfur- rich cap rock associated with salt domes.



A fossil mammoth tooth found at McFaddin Beach. Mammoths are now extinct but lived in this area some 10,000 years ago.