

Tepees

- Tepees (also spelled Teepee or Tipis) are tent-like American Indian houses used by Plains tribes such as the Lakota, Cheyenne, Comanche and Kiowa.
- Tipi is a Lakota (Sioux) word meaning “used to live in”.
- A tepee is made of a cone-shaped wooden frame with a covering of buffalo hide. It took 14 to 24 bison hides to make a tipi. It was the woman’s job to prepare the hide to make the tepee. It was also her job to set up and take down the tepee.
- Tepees are good houses for people who are always on the move. Plains Indians migrated frequently to follow the movements of the buffalo herds.
- An entire Plains Indian village could have their tepees packed up and ready to move within an hour.
- Tepees are used today for special events and ceremonies.

Youtube Video:

Native Peoples of the Plains (12 min)

Activity:

Cut out tepee using die cut and light brown construction paper.

Allow students to decorate thier tepee using markers, colored pencils or crayons.

A tepee’s design reflects the life, status and interests of its owner. What defines you and your family? What is your role in the your community? What interests you? Use your answers to create a design for your tepee.