

Native Americans - Traditional Native American Homes

by ReadWorks

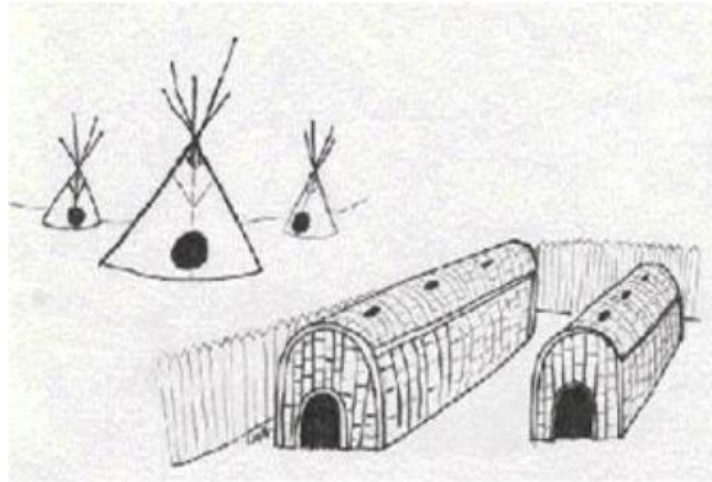


Illustration by Lynn M. Hanousek

Many people have heard of cone-shaped teepees. They are probably the most well-recognized traditional Native American home. However, traditional Native American houses came in many other shapes and sizes.

On the Northwest coast, tribes lived in slant-roofed houses. These houses were built out of cedar planks. The houses were huge - around 40 feet wide and 10 feet high.

The Iroquois built even bigger houses. They were called longhouses. Longhouses were about 100 feet long. There was enough room in them for a large extended family. Parents, children, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins all lived together. No one was left out.

In California, most tribes dwelled in simpler houses. Small shelters were covered in earth or brush. Other California tribes built redwood plank houses.

Farming tribes in the Southwest built pueblos. Pueblos looked a lot like apartment houses. They were made out of stone or adobe. Adobe is a clay mixture. It is usually made into bricks. The bricks are dried in the sun.

In the Midwest, around the Great Lakes, women were in charge of building wigwams. Even the young girls made tiny wigwams for their dolls. Wigwams are tent-like houses. They have frames made of wooden poles. A lot of these tribes moved from place to place. Everyone had to carry their belongings on their backs. When they moved, all they left behind were the frames of their wigwams.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Native Americans all lived in the same kind of house.
- B. Different tribes built different kinds of houses.
- C. In most tribes, women always built the houses.
- D. Traditional Native American houses were very small.

2. Which is the largest house mentioned in this passage?

- A. wigwam
- B. long house
- C. redwood plank house
- D. slant-roofed house

3. Who probably wouldn't live in a family's long house?

- A. a son
- B. a cousin
- C. a grandmother
- D. a stranger

4. The drawing with this passage most likely shows

- A. tepees and longhouses
- B. wigwams and pueblos
- C. pueblos and longhouses
- D. wigwams and tepees

5. Based on the passage, tribes in the Midwest most likely built wigwams

- A. because they wanted to fit many family members into them
- B. because they could be packed up easily when they moved
- C. out of adobe and stone
- D. out of redwood planks

6. What was the author's purpose in writing this article?

7. Based on the passage, what did the Iroquois most likely think about family? Why?
8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Most people think of teepees when they think of traditional Native American homes, _____, different tribes had different types of homes.

- A. so
- B. after
- C. however
- D. because