NATIVE AMERICAN HOMES

Native nations built their homes from what their land gave them: bark, hides, earth, wood, stone and even snow. Each home suited its climate and the way its people lived. Read about six homes from six culture areas.



Longhouse

Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) · Northeast

Made of: elm bark over a frame of poles

Several families of one clan lived together, with fires down the middle. The thick forests gave the poles and bark for these long houses in farming villages.



Wigwam

Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) · Northeast

Made of: birchbark or woven mats over bent young trees

A domed house that one family could build quickly. Bark and mats from the forests and lakes covered a frame of bent young trees.

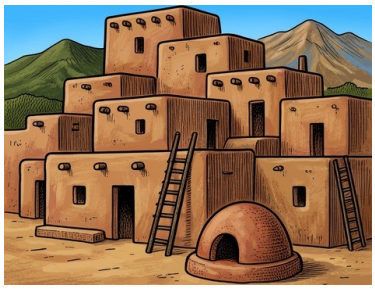


Tipi

Lakota · Plains

Made of: buffalo hides over long wooden poles

A cone-shaped tent that could be taken down and moved quickly to follow the buffalo. After horses came, horses pulled the poles, so tipis grew larger.



Pueblo

Pueblo peoples (Taos Pueblo, Hopi, Zuni) · Southwest

Made of: adobe (earth, water and straw) or stone

Connected houses rise in steps, reached by ladders. Thick adobe walls stay cool on hot desert days and warm on cold nights, and earth was easy to find.



Plank House

Kwakwaka'wakw, Haida and neighbors · Northwest Coast

Made of: wide split cedar planks

Several related families lived in one big house facing the beach. Giant cedar forests gave planks, and plenty of salmon let people stay in one village.



Igloo

Inuit of the central Canadian Arctic · Arctic

Made of: blocks of snow

A snow dome used as a temporary winter shelter on hunting trips. Most Arctic families also lived in sod, stone or whalebone houses and summer skin tents.