

PLAINS INDIANS

The Plains Indian Museum explores the culture, arts, and histories of Plains Indian peoples. The museum also presents the lives of Plains Indian people today.



Chrissy Kipp, Blackfoot-ONEIDA, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Photo by Chris Gimmeson



3:

This tipi is made from 13 buffalo hides sewn together with sinew, which is made from buffalo tendons. Plains Indian people made use of nearly every part of the buffalo. They used meat for food; hide for clothing, robes, and lodges; and bones for tools.

BUFFALO HIDE TIPI

4:

Today's powwows include singing and dancing as a way to bring families and friends together. They are competitions where participants are judged on both dance style and clothing. Individuals use their tribe's traditions to create the dances, music, and clothing for powwows.



Adam Tsosie Nordwall, Shoshone-Chippewa-Navajo, Fallon, Nevada. Photo by Sean Campbell

POWWOW



HIDATSA EARTH LODGE

5:

Some Plains Indian tribes were farmers and lived in earth lodges part of the year. When they traveled on long buffalo hunts, they lived in tipis. One family living in an earth lodge might have included children, parents, and grandparents.

RESERVATION HOUSE



6:

During the late 1800's Indian people no longer lived in round dwellings, but were told they had to move into reservation houses. Their new square dwellings came with a plot of land that men were asked to farm, while women tended to the house. Camp life and ceremonies were discouraged and sometimes even banned by the U.S. government.

CHEYENNE MIGRATION SCENE AND CROW CANVAS TIPI

1:

Plains Indian people designed tipis to take them down and set them up quickly. This was perfect, since they often moved as they followed the buffalo herds. Some Plains Indian people lived in tipis made out of buffalo hide. In the late 1800's they began making canvas tipis because hunters had killed most of the buffalo.

2:

Plains Indian men painted their shields with powerful symbols such as bears, eagles, buffalo, or stars. The strong shields made of thick buffalo hide protected men in battle. Some war leaders and warriors wore buffalo horn bonnets that sometimes had eagle feathers. These bonnets show the importance of buffalo to Plains Indian people.



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HORN BONNETS
SHIELDS AND



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

JUST THE FACTS

- What figures did *you* see on the shields?
- Why do *you* think Plains Indian men painted these figures?
- Compare the advantages and disadvantages of the migration lifestyle?
- How are the canvas tipi and the buffalo hide tipi similar or different?
- What are some differences between the reservation house and the earth lodge?



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TELL YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY

- What area or object of the Plains Indian Museum was *your* favorite and why?
- Was there one area or object that *you* did not know about before visiting the museum? What did *you* learn?



LET'S MAKE IT RELEVANT

- How is *your* home different from the tipi, earth lodge, and reservation home? How is it the same?
- Plains Indians have told stories for generations using art and storytelling. How does *your* family tell stories? What is one of these stories?



THE BIG QUESTION

- Compare how *you* celebrate your culture and how Plains Indians celebrate theirs today?

Logan Reeder, Kiowa/Wichita,
Logan, Utah. Photo by Sean Campbell.



THANK YOU

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