



Dome Wigwam - The Woodland Hunters of the East/Midwest

Often a wigwam was covered with several different materials. In cold winter, the Chippewas used a layer of bark over a layer of mats, and then banked leaves against the lodge and piled evergreen branches over them. The smoke hole was left open, and protected by a square of bark that hung from the end of a long pole.



Iroquois Longhouse - The Iroquois of the East/Midwest

At each end were porches that could be used in winter for storage. The rest of the house was divided by bark partitions into family bunks and storage cells. Some of these houses were as long as 150 feet, but usually they were less than half that size. Fires were made down the middle and smoke escaped through small holes in the roof.



Kwakiutl House - The Kwakiutl of the Western Coast

These houses were built in rectangular shape with flat roofs. Planks were left open at the sides for smoke holes. These people would move according to the season, from one fishing site to another. Each time they moved, they took apart the walls and roofing and lashed the planks across two canoes.



Adobe Pueblo - New Mexican Native Americans of the Southwest

In the highlands, homes were made out of stone, and in the lowlands they were made about of adobe mud. The Spanish taught the New Mexican Natives how to cast large “bricks” of adobe mud, dry them, and build them into walls. The various levels could be reached by ladders or notched poles that could be taken up for protection.



Muskogean Village - The Muskogean of the Southeast

The residence of a wealthy family had four separate buildings facing an open court. One was a winter lodge, small and warm, which served in all seasons as a kitchen. Another was the summer house, open and airy. The third was used for storage. The fourth was an open shed where tools and gear were kept.



Tepees - The Buffalo Hunters of the Plains

A tepee was supported by 16-20 poles, each 18-20 feet long. The poles were cedar or pine, peeled and seasoned. The top three or four poles were lashed together to make its cover. Several people working together could set up a tepee in a few minutes.



Chippewyan Lodge - The Chippewa of the North

When these Native Americans were holed up for the winter, they built dome-shaped wigwams. These were covered with skins and piled with snow. The floors were spread thick with fir boughs. Others that kept moving all winter had a portable dwelling. They used a skin-covered tepee that was much smaller than those of the plains.



Basket Makers' Pit House - Southwest

These Native Americans dug holes in the floor of the caves to use as rain-proof bins for corn. They lined the pit with stones and gave it a flat roof with slanting sides covered with brush and mud. A central hole served as both a door and as an outlet for smoke. They climbed up and down on ladders, one leading to the roof and one down to the ground.