



UNITED TRIBES
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
LAND GRANT EXTENSION

UTTC LAND GRANT EXTENSION

UTTC Lifeskills Lessons – Managing Home and Self

Lesson 25: What Makes a Home

LS00025

HOME SWEET HOME

Indigenous people had homes of many different styles. But, every house was a home to the people who lived and loved in that place. In the Northern Plains there were many different tribes, each had their own home style. It is clear all the styles were practical, comfortable, and convenient for the families who lived in them.



RESOURCES

- http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/healthy_homes/hhi
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDAJdwwOhnoRCES> (4.23 minutes)
- <https://www.smartdraw.com/specials/ppc/facilityplanning.htm>
- <http://www.poemhunter.com/poems/home/page-1/364391/>

EARTH LODGE



Earth lodges were typically constructed using the woven willow technique with sod and covering the sturdy infrastructure. Heavy vertical timbers served as central roof supports and almost always had four center posts. The earth layer insulated the home from the extreme temperatures of the Plains. This construction technique is sturdy and can support a large building (some as much as 60 feet across), in which ceremonies were held.

Often times, more than one family lived in a lodge. The middle of the earth lodge was used as a fire pit, and a hole was built into the center. This smoke hole was often covered by a bullboat during inclement weather. Earth lodges often contained cache pits (root cellar-type holes) lined with willow and grasses, where dried foods and seeds were stored.

TIPI (TEPEE)



The tipi was a portable home that suited the nomadic lifestyle of the plains. Tipis were supported by long thin wooden poles and covered with buffalo hides. Depending on the size, twelve to fifty buffalo hides were needed to cover a tipi.

Depending on the tribe, three or four poles were pulled together to form a cone. The cone shape represented the universe and the cycle of the seasons. Additional poles were added to frame and fill gaps.

Generally, the doorway faced the east toward the rising sun and was created when the skin cover came together. With the westward lean, the harder the wind blew, the greater the pressure to push the poles into the earth. Long poles were used to regulate the temperature by opening or closing the flaps and to allow smoke to exit.

LONGHOUSE



In the wooded areas of this continent, indigenous people built rectangular shaped long houses with high barrel shaped roofs and no windows. The name of the house indicates the size of the homes which could be over 300 feet long.

To form an arc-shaped shelter, the outside of the home was constructed of hundreds of sharpened poles driven into the ground and bent toward the center. To form solid walls, the arced upright poles were then woven with light cross poles, twigs, and strips of bark. Bark and twigs were sewn in place and layered like shingles to create a weatherproof roof.

Longhouses were like apartments – providing living space for family groups. The central hallway was used so families could share the fire pit, cooking, beading and stories.



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Our family moved 10 times over a period of 22 years. As a child, I thought of home as where I grew up. Now, home is wherever we gather with our family and friends. Houses get bought and sold; a home stays with you always.



Home is where I can cook in my pajamas and be naked physically and emotionally. Home isn't a place, it is a feeling.



There is no place like it. As we journey through life it is comforting to know that a bed, loving smiles and arms, and perhaps even a young one or two await, just across the threshold.

Drawing of how I see the home where my grandmother grew up

Drawing of the home I would love to own in the future (outside image or the floor plan).



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WHAT MAKES A HOME

OBJECTIVES:

1. To share various styles of home structure for indigenous people in the Northern Plains.
2. To allow time for participants to share and hear about various homes and living styles.
3. To allow time for participants to share and hear about dreams for home structures in the future.
4. To provide opportunity to visualize on paper what the floor plan of a dream home might look like.

PROCEDURE:

1. Write objectives on the board
2. Distribute UTTC Lifeskills Lesson 25 Talking Sheet
3. Ask for a volunteer to open the session with a prayer, offer a prayer relating to asking the creator to be present in the homes and hearts of the participants, or open the session with a minute of silence
4. Ask participants to share stories of the home of their childhood (write words on the board prior to sharing including “rentals, owned, happy, sad, family, foster, boarding school, homeless”). Expect emotions and provide respect and safety in the room
5. Show the You tube listed below to open discussion about moving into a different home
6. Draw or have a handout ready with a simple floor plan for a basic home – (entry, living area, bathroom, kitchen, bedrooms, hallways) – may support with photos (electronic or hard copy of more elaborate floor plans)
7. Facilitate discussion relating to Section 8 application for housing support
8. Ask participants to draw a visual of what they considered a home where their grandmother grew up
9. Ask participants to draw a floor plan of a home they see themselves living in in the future
10. Distribute and collect Lesson 25 evaluation

RESOURCES FOR INSTRUCTION SUPPORT:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDAJdwwOhnoRCES> (4.23 minutes)
2. http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/healthy_homes/hhi
3. <https://www.smartdraw.com/specials/ppc/facilityplanning.htm?id=329463&gclid=CMPNjtPsss4CFQyOaQodJAEG0A>
4. <http://www.poemhunter.com/poems/home/page-1/364391/>
5. <http://www.sectioneightapplication.com/apply/ND?s>
6. UTTC Lifeskills Lesson 8 – Money Matters: Home – Rent or Own

TIME:

50 minutes



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On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being least confident and 5 being most confident, please circle one per question.

Not Confident

Very Confident

Please rate how confident you are in sharing the various styles of home structures used by the indigenous families in the Northern Plains

1 2 3 4 5

Please rate how confident you are in sharing the various styles of home structures used by the indigenous families in the Northern Plains

1 2 3 4 5

Please rate if your knowledge increased about what constitutes a home

1 2 3 4 5

Please rate how comfortable you are in being able to verbalize what type of home you would like in the future

1 2 3 4 5

Please rate how confident you are in recognizing that there is a difference between a house and a home

1 2 3 4 5

New things I learned or understand better because of the lesson

Comments:

EVALUATION

