Native American Homes
NATIVE AMERICAN HOMES

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When asked in what type of homes did Native Americans live
Teepees would be the answer that many people would give.
And while it is true that some Native Americans lived this way
Teepees weren’t the only homes in which Native Americans did stay.
For instance, homes in the Everglades were built on stilts
To keep them above water, alligators and silt.
Other homes were built of adobe, a kind of clay
Whose walls shone like gold in the light of the day.
On the Pacific Northwest coast homes were built from huge trees
So large in size they almost blocked out the breeze.
These are just a few descriptions of the homes
That you’ll read about and see
That not all native Americans lived in teepees.
The people of the Plains depended on their teepees a lot
Because they didn’t stay for long in any particular spot.
This was because the buffalo that they greatly depended on
Would stay in one area a while and then they were gone.
Buffalo hides were sewn together to make a teepee’s walls
Which were supported by long poles so the teepee wouldn’t fall.
A hole in the teepee’s front provided access to come and go
While a hole in its top allowed any smoke from inside to flow.
Plank houses were used the most
By the peoples who lived on the Pacific Northwest coast.
These houses were made from the huge evergreen trees
That grew in the region swaying in the breeze.
Some of these homes were over a hundred feet long and sixty feet wide
Allowing for plenty of room for several families to reside.
A longhouse is as its name implies
Was a narrow house with very long sides.
Longhouses were used exclusively
By the tribes living in our country’s northeastern territory.
They were made by covering an elmwood sapling frame
With sheets of bark from trees of the same name.
There were several holes placed in a longhouse’s top
To let smoke out from the many cooking pots.
Because several related families took their place
Inside of each longhouse’s space.
PUEBLO

Pueblos looked a lot like the apartments today
Where many people prefer to stay.
They were made of a clay called adobe
That when dried made them as strong as could be.
A pueblo's inhabitants had access to their upper and lower floors
By using ladders without having to go out of doors.
A pueblo was cool in the summer and warm in the winter
Making it an inviting place to all who would enter.

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On the southern plains tribes like the Caddo and Wichita
Built splendid grass houses that early explorers held in awe.
These explorers described villages of grass houses resembling huge bee hives.
Bustling with the activity of people leading their lives.
Pithouses were homes built partially underground
Usually near where large bodies of water were found.
Pithouses were favored by many tribes living
In our country’s Plateau region.
Although some Far North and California tribes
Were also part of this legion.
To make a pithouse a shallow hole was dug in the earth
And lined with wooden beams of considerable girth.
The beams are then covered with earth, mats and reeds
Completing the home that its builders need.
Chickees were homes that were built above ground
Because of the Everglades that were all around.
Stilts held up the platform where the living was done
As well as a thatched leaf roof to keep out the sun.
A Chickee could vary in size
From single dwellings to those where several families could reside.
Wattle and daub after some deduction
Is not the name of a house, but it’s construction.
Wattle was the framework of poles and branches intertwined.
And daub was the mud plastered over them by tried and true design.
Many native American tribes living in the southeastern states
Found their wattle and daub homes first rate.
Wigwams are one- or two-family dwellings
Whose unique description here now bears telling.
A wigwam’s shape could be conical, oval, or round
Depending on what region of the country the wigwam was found.
All wigwams had a framework of branches tied together
Covered with bark, or leaves, to keep out bad weather.
During the winter blankets were hung on the inside walls
To keep the wigwam warm inside as the snow outside falls.
Igloos were usually temporary homes. Except where the people of the extreme Far North roamed. In those areas winter could last up to half a year. So using the most abundant resource available was thinking that was clear. An igloo could be built in about an hour. Using blocks of snow and good old human power. The thick walls of the igloo, along with a seal oil lamp, were enough to keep the igloo warm and chase away the damp. In fact, the inside of an igloo can at times be almost hot. Imagine, living in a home of snow that—instead of it being cold—it’s not!
Hogans were homes that were unique
To the Navajo people living in the desert heat.
They were made from a frame of logs and sticks
Then covered with mud smeared on quite thick.
According to lore that the Navajo knew well
A Hogan was either male or female.
A female Hogan was built with eight sides
While a male Hogan was taller than wide.
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Word Search Puzzle

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WORD SEARCH PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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