

Native American / Indigenous Historic and Cultural Dwellings

The following table gives a brief overview of different types of structures that teachers may choose to utilize. These are not the only structures used by Native Peoples of North America.

Structure	Notes on Tribal Specificity	Shapes
Tipi (Teepee)	Every Tribe in what is now Montana used tipis, though the frequency and purpose varied by community (e.g., primary housing, seasonal movement, or hunting camps). Tribes commonly associated with tipi use include the Tsêhêsenêstsestôtse/So'taa'eo'o (Northern Cheyenne), A'aninin (Gros Ventre), Apsáalooke (Crow), Niitsitapi/Amskapi Pikuni (Blackfeet), and Nakoda/Nakona (Assiniboine). Many Tribes outside of Montana and across the Great Plains are known for their use of the tipi as well and each structure can vary by design, ornament, and purpose by community.	Cone (entire structure); triangle (sections between lodgepoles); circle (base); quadrilateral (flaps, door coverings).
Earth Lodge	Earth lodges were more commonly used by agricultural tribes of the Upper Missouri River region such as the Manda, Hidatsa, and Sahnish (Arikara). The homelands of these Tribes include parts of eastern Montana and the Dakotas. The Tsêhêsenêstsestôtse/So'taa'eo'o (Northern Cheyenne) also created permanent villages of earth lodges in the Great Lakes area.	Dome/half-sphere (entire external structure), quadrilateral (doorway, interior supports), triangle (roof supports)
Wigwam (Woodland Lodge)	Wigwams were most commonly used by Woodland Tribes in forested regions such as the Great Lakes. The Annishinabe (Ojibwe/Chippewa), including the Little Shell Tribe, can have cultural connections to these structures through their Ojibwe ancestry. Similar dome-shaped lodges were used by other tribes depending on environmental and geographically available materials. Wigwams are distinct from tipis in structure. However, it is worth noting that many historical texts refer to both interchangeably.	Dome/half-sphere (structure); arcs/half-circle (bent poles); circles or quadrilateral (entryways); triangle (framing intersections)

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Longhouse	Longhouses are most commonly associated with Eastern Woodland and some Northwest Coast Tribes. While not a primary traditional dwelling for most Montana Tribes, some modern longhouses have been created as community gathering spaces, such as that of the Séliš (Salish) , Qlispé (Pend d'Oreille) , and Ksanka/Ktunaxa (Kootenai) .	Rectangular prism (structure); quadrilateral (walls, roof panels); cube/prism (interior spaces)
Seasonal Hunting Lodges (Brust/Hide Shelters/Lean-tos)	Many Montana Tribes, including the Tsêhésestôstôse/So'taa'eo'o (Northern Cheyenne), A'aninin (Gros Ventre), Apsáalooke (Crow), Niitsitapi/Amskapi Pikuni (Blackfeet), and Nakoda/Nakona (Assiniboine), used temporary shelters during hunting trips or seasonal travel. These structures varied widely depending on materials and purpose.	Triangle (frame structures); quadrilateral (coverings); irregular composite shapes
Additional Structures	Some additional structures that could be used to do a national comparison include: • Wickiups – Southwest/Great Basin/American West, similar structure to Wigwam • Adobe Pueblo – Southwest/NM/AZ (Pueblos Peoples) • Igloo – Arctic/Alaska (Inuit Peoples) • Yukon Double Lean-to – Sub-arctic/Alaska (Tutchtone) • Pit House – Plateau/Northwest/Sonoran Desert Region • Coastal Plank House – Northwest Coast (Coastal Salish) • Hogan – Southwest (Diné/Navajo)	Shapes will vary by structure.

****Note:** While traditional structures may not have heavy applications of pentagons or hexagons, these can be used in the construction of multiple structures depending on the design of the base. For instance, a tipi could be constructed with a hexagonal base if six poles were used in its construction.