

Aboriginal Shelters

Different Aboriginal groups built different shelters, depending on the type of environment in which they lived.



Longhouse: a house with walls made of strips of birchbark and openings covered with animal skins in winter. The Iroquoians of the fertile Eastern Woodlands lived in longhouses, with families of the same clan living in the same house.

Plank House: had cladding and roofing made of cedar planks. These houses were found on the Northwest Coast where the climate was mild.

Pit House: a dwelling dug into the ground so that it would be cool in summer and warm in winter. Pit houses were found in dry plateau areas.

Tipi: a conical tent made of animal skins or birchbark; could be disassembled and reassembled quickly when a tribe decided to move and resettle. This was important to the Plains Indians who were nomadic.

Igloo: a dome-shaped dwelling constructed from blocks of ice and snow. Though igloos are usually associated with all Inuit, they were mostly built by people living in Central Arctic. Other populations of Inuit used snow to insulate their dwellings which consisted of whalebone and hides.

Dome Lodge: dome-shaped wigwams, usually as winter dwellings for the Ojibwa, Chippewa, and Salteaux, who lived in the Subarctic. The frame was made with saplings and then covered with mats and sheets of bark. A smoke hole was left in the centre of the roof.

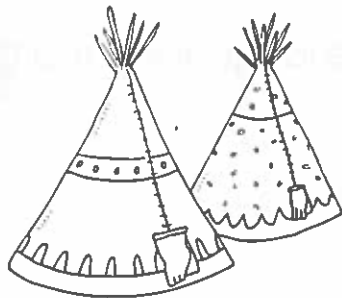
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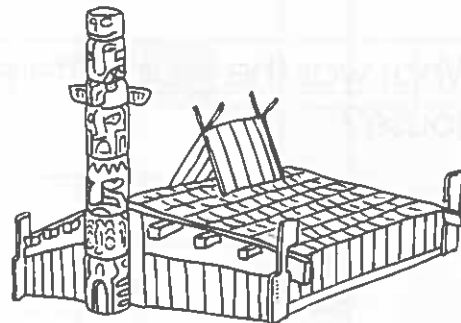
Aboriginal Shelters

Label these Aboriginal shelters with the correct names.

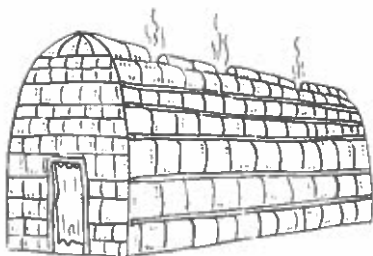
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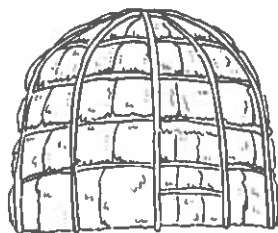
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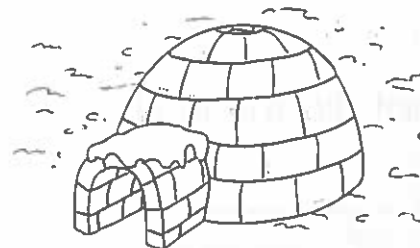
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Aboriginal Shelters

Answer the following questions about the various shelters built by different Aboriginal groups.

1. What was the main difference between the longhouse and the plank house?

2. Describe a special feature of the pit house.

3. Why were tipis the best dwellings for the Plains Indians?

4. Why was the centre of the roof of the dome lodge left open?

5. What did the Inuit outside Central Arctic use to build their houses?

6. Which type of dwelling would it be if several families were living together under the same roof?

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Aboriginal Shelters

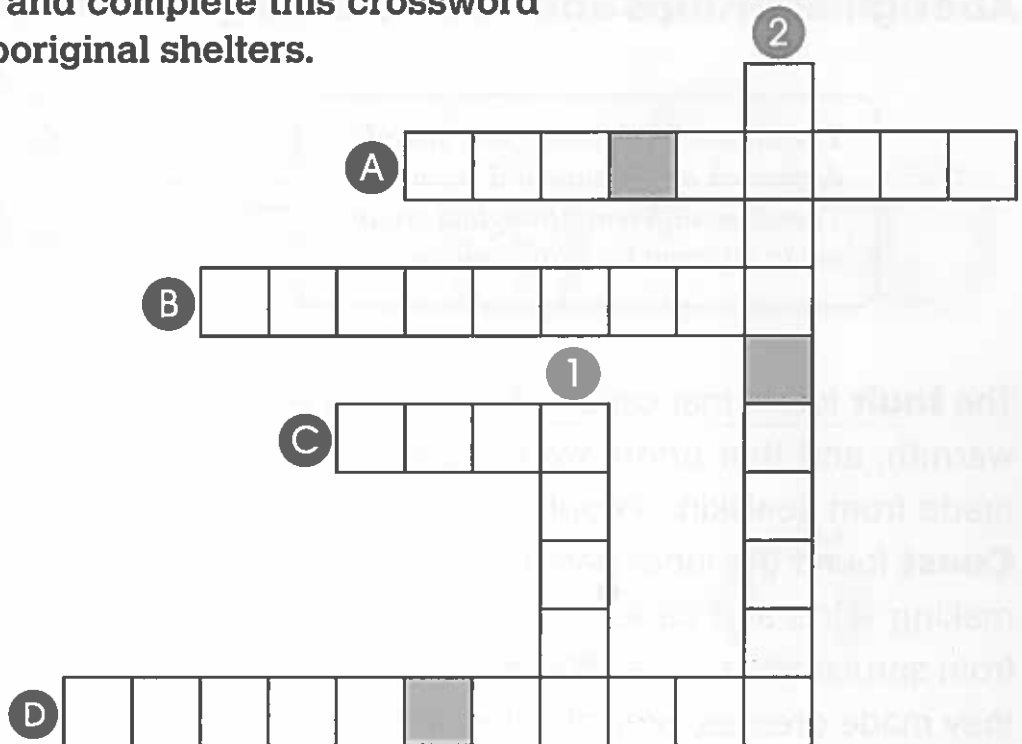
A. Read the clues and complete this crossword puzzle about Aboriginal shelters.

Across

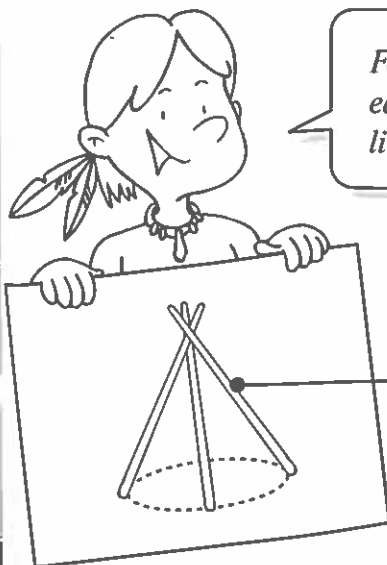
- A. dry and high area
- B. fertile land
- C. flat grassland
- D. mild climate

Down

- 1. harsh climate
- 2. the vast Subarctic



B. Read what Sam says and write a special meaning for this pole.



For the Aboriginal peoples of the Plains, each pole in a tipi had a special meaning, like "love" and "sharing".

You can give me a meaning.

