

NATIVE AMERICAN TEEPEE WRITING CRAFTS!



WHAT ARE TEEPEES?

Teepees were special homes that Native American people used. These homes were like big tents, and they were made by putting together animal skins and wooden poles.

Different tribes, such as the Lakota and Cheyenne, used teepees as their houses. The materials used to build teepees made them unique. The animal skins kept the inside warm, and the wooden poles helped create a strong structure.

The tribes that used them were skilled at setting up and taking down teepees quickly. This was helpful because it allowed them to move around easily. They could follow the animals they hunted and find new places to live.

The design of teepees helped people live in harmony with nature. They could easily adapt to different environments and weather conditions. This made teepees a vital part of Native American culture, connecting them to their surroundings and allowing them to thrive in different places.

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NATIVE AMERICAN SYMBOL MEANINGS

Badger Tracks: Summer

Bear: Strength

Bear Paw: Good Omen

Buffalo Eye: Alertness

Big Mountain: Abundance

Bird: Carefree

Brothers: Loyalty

Buffalo Horns: Success

Butterfly: Renewal

Cactus: Desert

VOCABULARY DEFINITIONS

Summer: A hot and sunny season

Strength: When you are really strong and can do things that are hard for others

Good Omen: Something that makes you feel happy and lucky, like finding a shiny penny on the ground

Alertness: Being wide awake and paying close attention to what's happening around you

Abundance: Having a lot of good things, like lots of toys or lots of friends

Carefree: Feeling happy and not worried about anything

Loyalty: Being a good friend and sticking by someone's side when things get hard

Success: When you do something really well, like getting a gold star on your homework

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Chief: A leader of a group of people

Permanent Home: A place where you live for a very long time

Journey: Going on an adventure or taking a trip to somewhere

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to try new things or face challenges

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TEACHER DIRECTIONS

Description:

These crafts honor traditional Native American teepee designs using pictographs.

Materials:

- teepee templates (included)
- teepee coloring worksheets (included)
- colored craft paper (optional)
- crayons, markers, or paint (& paint brushes)
- scissors
- glue
- brainstorming sheets (included), (optional)
- writing projects (included), (optional)

Note:

There are multiple ways to create this craft:

1. Choose a coloring worksheet (included) or use a template (included) as a stencil to cut out colored craft paper and create a 2D or 3D craft.
2. Choose to draw, paint, or cut and paste pictographs. Students may decorate the teepees with additional designs as well. Pictographs can be selected based on their designs or meanings (meanings and related vocabulary definitions included).
3. Choose to create the craft by itself or add a writing component (several options included).

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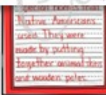
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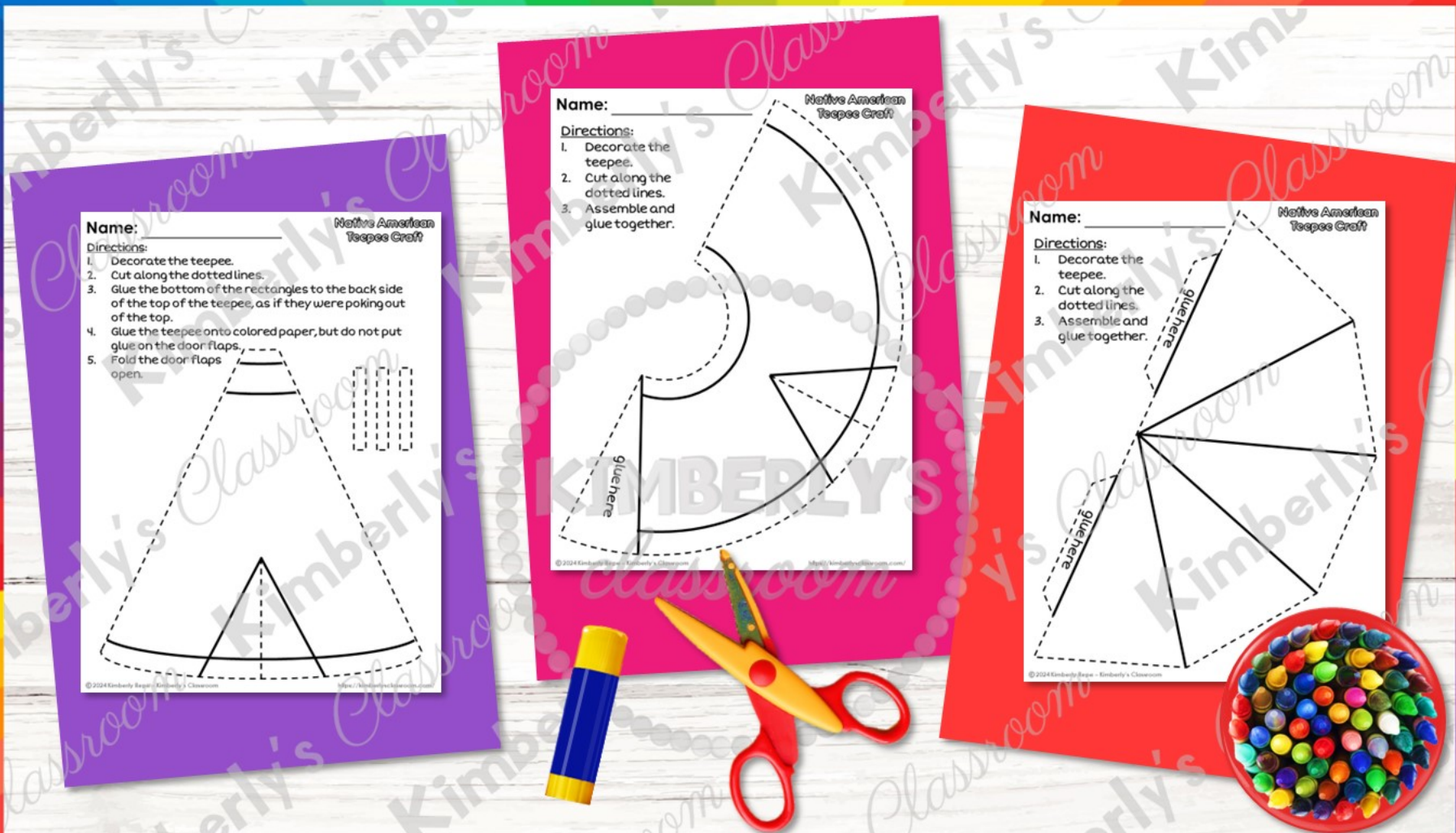
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Cultural information, symbol guide, vocabulary definitions, and craft directions included!



**Choose your template and use it as a stencil
to create your craft on colored paper!**



Or, decorate directly on a worksheet with traditional pictographs and unique designs!

Pictograph Symbols (BW): Page 1

Badger Tracks: Summer	Bear: Strength
Bear Paw: Good Omen	Buffalo Eye: Alertness
Big Mountain: Abundance	Bird: Carefree
Brothers: Loyalty	Buffalo Horns: Success

Pictograph Symbols (BW): Page 2

Butterfly: Renewal	Cactus: Desert
Coyote Tracks: Trickster	Deer Tracks: Safety
Drying Rack: Plenty of Meat	Eagle: Freedom
Eagle Feather: Chief	Hogan: Permanent Home

Pictograph Symbols (BW): Page 3

Horse: Journey	Lightning: Power
Medicine Man's Eye: Wisdom	Mountain Range: Destination
Spider: Good Luck	Sun: Happiness
Tipi: Temporary Home	Turtle: Protection
Wolf Paw: Courage	

Pictograph Symbols

Badger Tracks: Summer
Bear Paw:
Bear: Stren
Buffalo Eye

Pictograph Symbols

Big Mountain: Abundan
Bird: Caref
Buffalo Horn

Pictograph Symbols (Color): Page 5

Butterfly: Renewal
Coyote Tra
Cactus: De
Deer Track

Pictograph Symbols

Drying Rack: Plenty of M
Eagle Feat
Eagle: Free
Hogan: Pei

Pictograph Symbols

Horse: Journey
Lightning: I
Medicine I
Mountain f

Pictograph Symbols (Color): Page 11

Spider: Good Luck
Sun: Happi
Turtle: Protection

Pictograph Symbols (Color): Page 12

Tipi: Temporary Home
Turtle: Protection

Students can choose from 25 different pictographs! Color, draw, or cut and paste!

badger tracks

bear

bear paw

buffalo eye

big mountain

bird

First, I chose the

Next, I chose the

Then, I chose the

I also chose the

Finally, I chose the

First, I chose the

Next, I chose the

Then, I chose the

I also chose the

Finally, I chose the

I also chose the
because

Finally, I chose the
because

ALL ABOUT TEEPEES

ALL ABOUT PICTOGRAPHS

MY TEEPEE STORY

Differentiated to build confidence!

WRITING & RESEARCH IDEAS

1. What are teepees and why are they an important part of Native American culture?
2. Compare and contrast teepees between different Native American tribes.
3. Discuss the different kinds of tools and materials Native Americans used to create and decorate their teepees.
4. Describe some common symbols found on teepees and explain how they were used.
5. Why did some Native Americans live in teepees instead of permanent houses?
6. How did the design of teepees help people live with nature?
7. Can you describe what the inside of a teepee looked like for a Native American family?
8. Can you think of ways we can show respect for Native American culture and traditions?

INFORMATIVE BRAINSTORM

Topic:

Fact:

Detail:

Fact:

Detail:

Fact:

Detail:

Conclusion:

NARRATIVE BRAINSTORM

Title:

Setting:

Characters:

5 Senses:

See:

Hear:

Smell:

Touch:

Taste:

Beginning:

Middle:

End:

PERSONAL NARRATIVE BRAINSTORM

Title:

Where were you?

Who was there?

When did it happen?

What happened?

How did you feel?

PERSUASIVE BRAINSTORM

Opinion:

Reason 1:

Evidence / Details:

Reason 2:

Evidence / Details:

Reason 3:

Evidence / Details:

Conclusion:

Writing and research ideas included! Use brainstorming maps as a guide for writing projects!

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Drying Rack: Plenty of Meat

Eagle: Freedom

Page 1

TEACHER DIRECTIONS

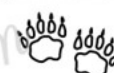
- To start, you can have your students brainstorm an idea of what they would like to create or you can assign a project to them. Using symbols, called pictographs, your students can either tell a story (real or fictional), create a scene, or select symbols that represent them or their family members.
- If using craft paper, select a template (3 options included) as a stencil to cut (along the dotted lines) out a teepee shape.
- If using coloring worksheets (3 options included), students can color and design their teepees directly on the worksheet.



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Pictograph Symbols (BW): Page 1

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INFORMATIVE BRAINSTORM

Topic:

Fact:

Detail:

Fact:

Detail:

Fact:

Detail:

Conclusion:

**B&W
included!**

If you like this resource, you may also enjoy these Native American crafts!

DIFFERENTIATED WRITING CRAFT NATIVE AMERICAN TOTEM POLE!



First, I chose the
thunderbird

Next, I chose the
bear

Then, I chose the
beaver

I also chose the
fox

Finally, I chose the
owl

MY TOTEM POLE

Name: _____

TOTEM POLES
Totem poles are big, tall sculptures made by Native Americans. They are made from trees and tell stories about the history of families and tribes. Totem poles can have different animals, plants, and people carved into them.

1) Who made totem poles?
☐ African Americans ☐ Native Americans
☐ Asian Americans ☐ Hispanic Americans

2) Why were totem poles made?
☐ to get animals ☐ to make bread

DIFFERENTIATED WRITING CRAFT NATIVE AMERICAN BUFFALO HIDE ART



Pictograph Symbols (Color): Page 1

Badger Tracks: Summer

Bear: Strength

First, I chose

Next, I chose

Then, I chose

ALL ABOUT BUFFALO HIDE ART

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