

Name:

Date:

Homes Across Different Regions

Native American Reading Comprehension Passage

Long before modern cities existed, **Native American peoples** built homes that matched the land and climate where they lived. Because North America has forests, grasslands, deserts, wetlands, mountains, and coastlines, different Native American Nations developed different types of homes. These homes were carefully designed to keep families safe, comfortable, and close to the natural resources they needed.

On the **Great Plains**, many Nations built **tipis** using wooden poles covered with buffalo hides. Tipis were lightweight and easy to take apart, making them ideal for families who traveled to follow buffalo herds. Their cone shape also helped them stand strong against prairie winds.

In the **Northeast**, some Nations built large **longhouses** using wooden frames covered with sheets of bark. Longhouses could shelter several related families under one roof and provided warmth during cold winters. These homes reflected the importance of family and community.

In the **Southwest**, Native American communities built **pueblos** using stone and adobe, a mixture of clay, sand, straw, and water that hardened in the sun. Thick walls helped keep the inside cool during hot summer days and warmer during cool desert nights. Some pueblos had several stories connected by ladders.

Farther south, in the wetlands of present-day Florida, the **Seminole** people built **chickees**. These homes stood on wooden posts above the ground with open sides and thatched roofs made from palm leaves. Their design allowed fresh air to flow through the structure while providing shade and protection from heavy rain.

Each type of home reflected the environment and available natural materials. Native American peoples used wood, stone, clay, bark, grass, animal hides, and palm leaves to create homes that met their daily needs. These homes were practical, resourceful, and well suited to their surroundings.

Today, some traditional Native American homes can still be seen at cultural sites, museums, and tribal communities. They remind us that Native American architecture reflects creativity, environmental knowledge, and generations of skilled craftsmanship.



Vocabulary

Use the passage to define each word.

Climate: _____

Adobe: _____

Shelter: _____

Resourceful: _____

Craftsmanship: _____

Multiple-Choice Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. Why did Native American peoples build different types of homes?

A. Every family wanted a different style.

- B. Their homes matched the land, climate, and available materials.
- C. They copied homes from Europe.
- D. They all preferred large houses.

2. Why were tipis useful on the Great Plains?

- A. They were made of stone.
- B. They stayed cool in deserts.
- C. They were easy to move while following buffalo herds.
- D. They floated on water.

3. Which home was commonly built in the Southwest?

- A. Chickee
- B. Longhouse
- C. Pueblo
- D. Wigwam

4. What was one benefit of a chickee?

- A. It had thick stone walls.
- B. It allowed air to flow through the home.
- C. It was built underground.
- D. It was covered with snow.

5. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Native American peoples all lived in the same type of house.

B. Different Native American homes were designed to fit different environments.

C. Every Native American home was built with stone.

D. Tipis were the only traditional homes.

Short-Answer Questions

1. Why were longhouses a good choice for families in the Northeast?

2. What materials were used to build pueblos?

3. How did chickees help people living in warm, wet climates?

4. Why did Native American peoples use local natural materials to build homes?

Context Clues

Choose the correct meaning of the bold word.

1. Thick pueblo walls helped keep the inside cool.

The word thick means:

- A. Heavy
- B. Wide from one side to the other
- C. Tall
- D. Bright

2. Tipis were portable homes.

The word portable most nearly means:

- A. Easy to move
- B. Difficult to build
- C. Very large
- D. Made from stone

Main Idea & Supporting Details

Main Idea

1. What is the passage mostly about?

2. Supporting Detail #1

3. Supporting Detail #2

Inference Question

Why do you think Native American peoples designed homes that matched their environment?

Text Evidence

Write one fact from the passage that shows Native American peoples adapted to where they lived.

Critical Thinking

If you lived in a hot desert or a cold forest, what type of home would work best for you? Explain your answer using ideas from the passage.

Answer Key

Vocabulary (Sample Answers)

1. **Climate** – the usual weather conditions of an area.
2. **Adobe** – a building material made from clay, sand, straw, and water.
3. **Shelter** – a place that provides protection.
4. **Resourceful** – able to use available materials wisely.
5. **Craftsmanship** – skill in making or building things.

Multiple Choice Answers

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. B

Sample Short Answers

1. Longhouses kept several families together and provided warmth during cold winters.
2. Stone and adobe.
3. Their open sides allowed air to flow through while the roof protected people from sun and rain.
4. Local materials were easy to find and worked well in each environment.

Main Idea (Sample)

Different Native American Nations built homes that matched their environment and climate.

Supporting Details (Sample)

- Tipis were portable for families following buffalo herds.
- Pueblos kept people cool in the desert with thick adobe walls.

Inference (Sample)

They wanted homes that would protect their families and work well in the climate where they lived.

Text Evidence (Sample)

"Each type of home reflected the environment and available natural materials."

Critical Thinking (Sample)

Answers will vary. Students should explain which type of home they would choose and support their answer using information from the passage.