Native American Homes

Different Native American groups exist throughout the Southwest and throughout the United States, each one with its own traditions and own culture. As different groups spread all around America, each one developed their own way of living depending on their mobility patterns, environment, and customs.

One way in which we can differentiate between Native American groups is in the way they build their homes or shelters. Two of the most common styles used by Native People were the teepee and the Pueblo style adobe houses.

Different Apache groups, as well as other tribes from the Plains area used teepees as temporary homes when following herds of buffalo while hunting. Although these are no longer used as homes; they are still used for ceremonial purposes and for other special occasions.

Groups in Arizona and New Mexico like Zuni or Hopi build their houses out of rock and mud with many rooms on top of each other. These Pueblo style homes can be found throughout the Southwest and Northern Mexico.

Build your own teepee and Pueblo style homes following the instructions below.

Materials:
- Templates
- Colors or markers
- Scissors
- Glue

Teepee
1. Color the template below. Search online (with parental supervision) to find traditional designs often used on teepees.
2. Using scissors, cut along the solid lines.
3. Fold each dotted line then glue the two tabs together to build the teepee.

Pueblo Village
1. Color the template below.
2. Using scissors cut along the solid lines.
3. Fold each dotted line then glue the tabs together to form the different sized rooms. Cut doors and windows where desired.
4. (Optional) Print out multiple templates and continue adding more rooms on top of each other or on the sides. Some Pueblo Villages often had more than 100 rooms!

Photo by Timothy H. O’Sullivan, Zuni Pueblo, 1873

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