

TEPEE MAKING

The Indian
Reading
Series



THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

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THE INDIAN READING SERIES
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Tepee Making

Series IV

Developed by the Kootenai Cultural Committee
of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

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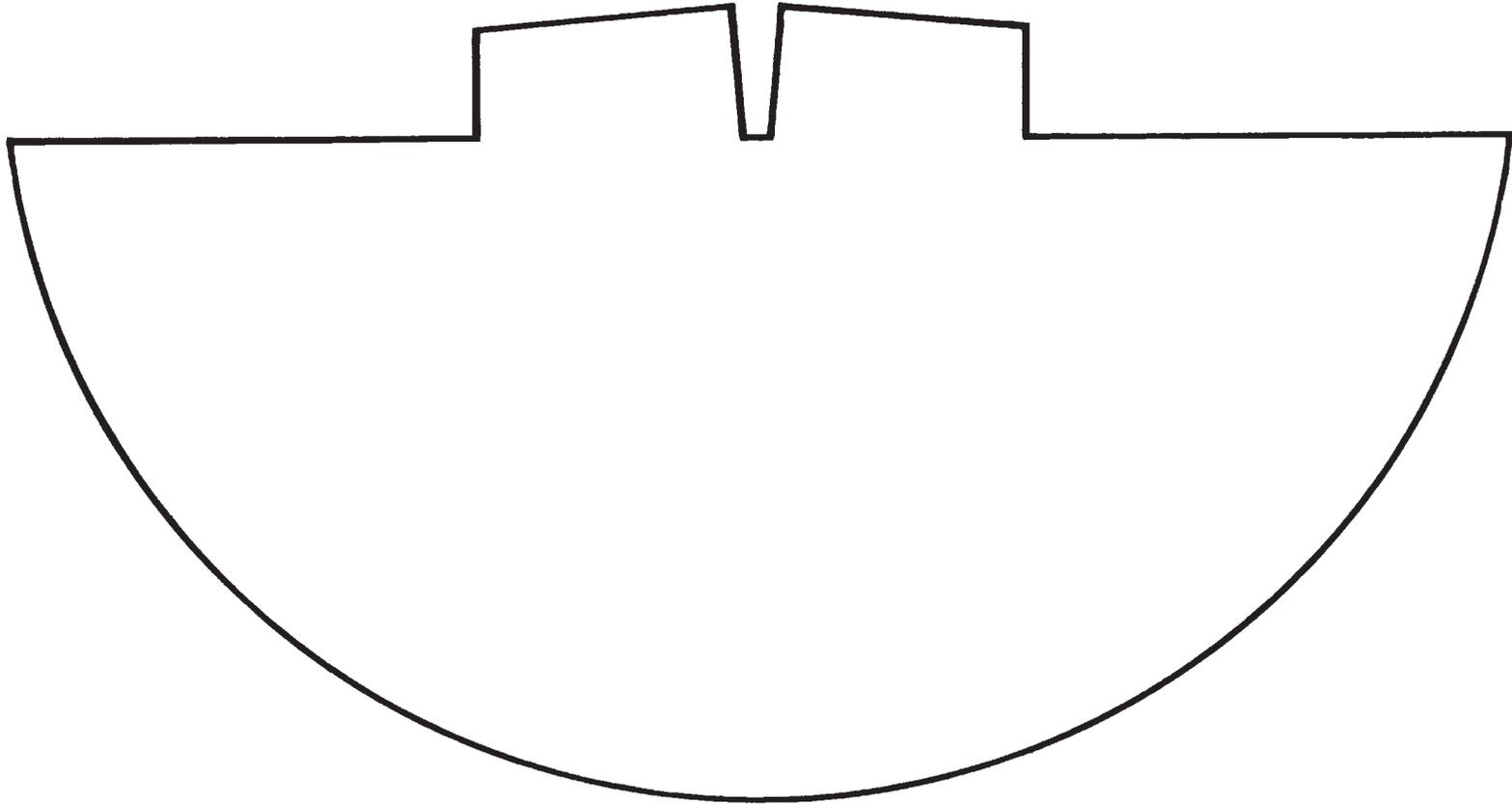
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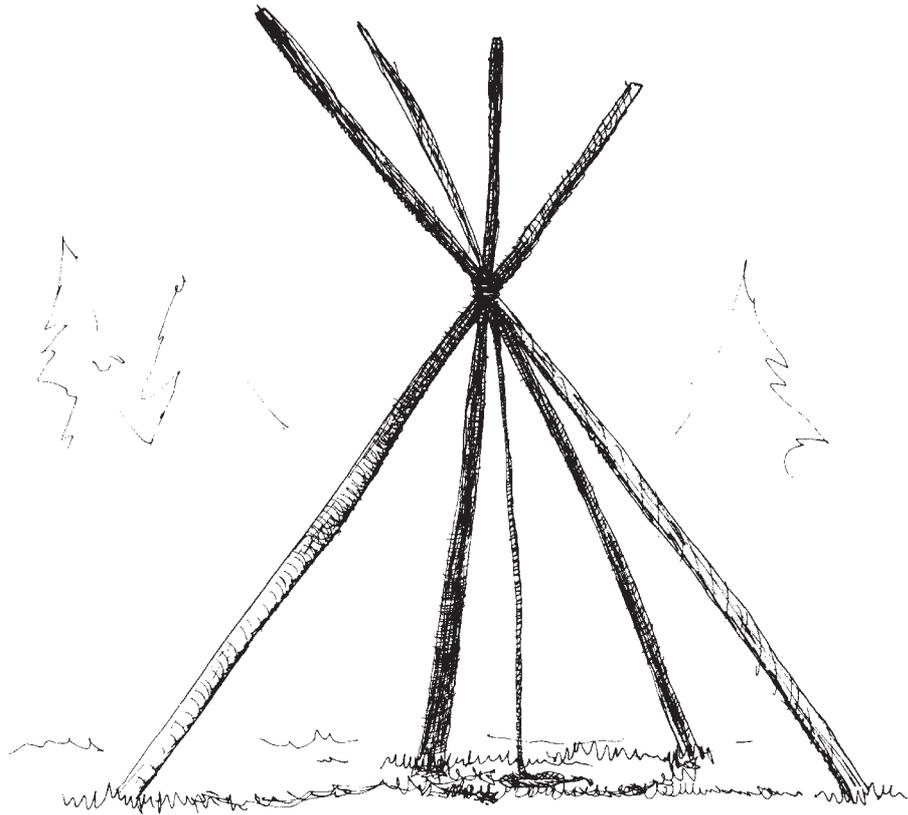


Long ago tepees were made out of buffalo or deer hides. Today many tepees are made out of canvas.

When Indian women make a tepee, they do a lot of cutting and sewing. The women will cut the material and sew it together piece by piece.



When the sewing is done, the women will check the shape and size of the tepee. The back of the tepee should be a little shorter than the front. A round hole is cut in the front to be used as a door. The tepee will have two flaps in the front, at the top of the tepee. These flaps will be used to keep wind and rain out. They can be closed when the weather is bad. When a fire is built inside the tepee, the flaps can be opened to let the smoke out.

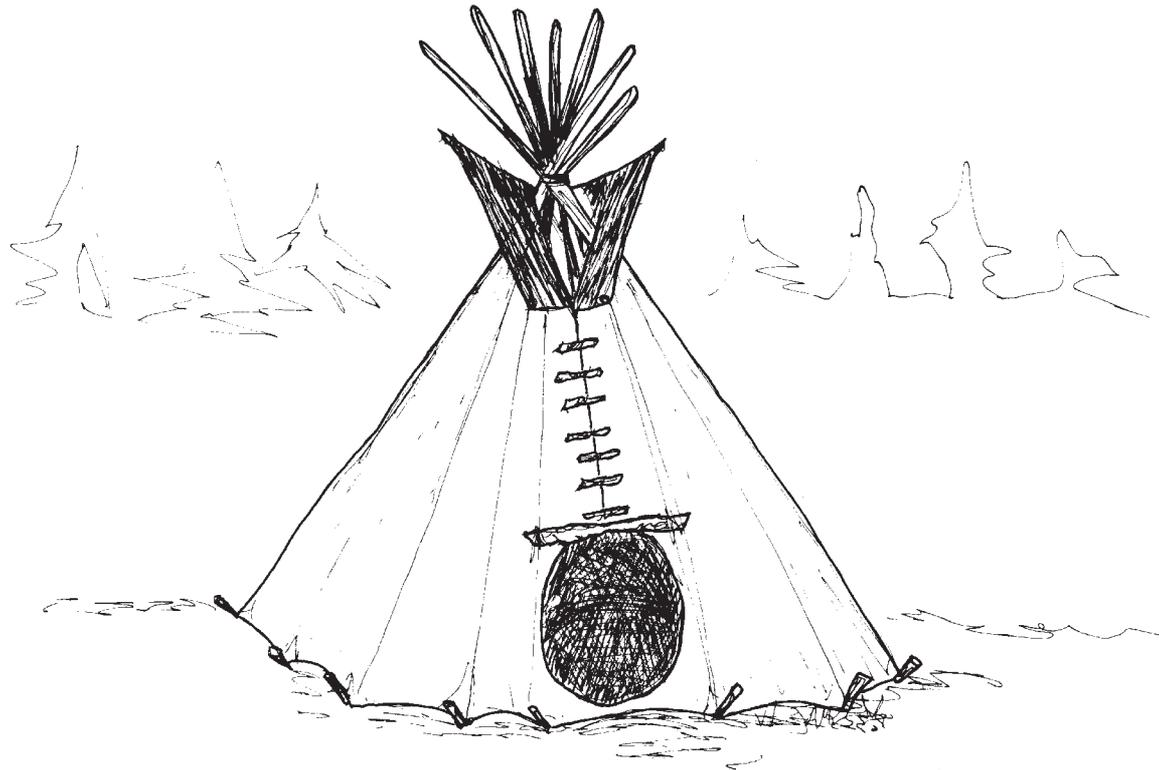


Lodge pole pine trees are used for tepee poles. The branches are cut off and the bark is peeled from the trees. The poles should be long and straight. Some large tepees use as many as fifteen poles.

Four poles are tied together near the top. They are set up to form a pyramid, then three poles are added to each side with two in the front for the doorway. When all poles are put in place, the frame will begin to form the shape of a tepee. Two poles are always used to open and close the flaps at the top of the tepee.



The canvas is tied to a single pole. This pole is then placed in the rear of the frame. The canvas is unfolded and wrapped around the frame. When all the poles are covered, the teepee will be loose.



Above the door opening there are two rows of holes. Wooden pegs are put through these holes to close the tepee.

The poles are pushed outward to make the tepee snug. After this is done, wooden stakes are pounded through canvas loops at the bottom of the tepee. These stakes hold the tepee to the ground so it won't tip over. Finally, the door opening is covered with a flap.

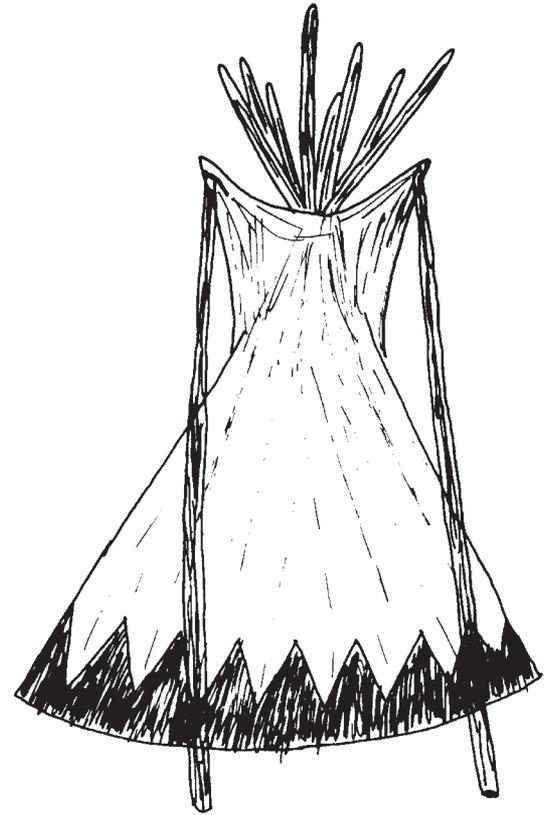
Tepee making takes a lot of hard work and skill. A tight fitting tepee will not leak and looks nice. Indian women are proud when they make a nice looking tepee.

Kootenai tepees today are not painted as they were years ago.

The Kootenai Indians painted animals and birds on their tepees. The kind of animal painted on a tepee meant the owner's spirit was like that particular animal. It may have been a bear, deer, buffalo, or many other animals or birds.

Some tepees were painted with a ripple design, a symbol of green grass.

Other designs were mainly for decorative purposes, more or less to beautify the tepee.



Howard Kallawit Jr

Booklets available in the Level IV sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the Planned Sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I, II and III sequences.

1. *Warm Springs Animal Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
2. *Snail Women at Sq³a'le*
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison
Reservation
3. *Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman*
Muckleshoot Tribe
4. *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
5. *Coyote*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
6. *How the Summer Season Came*
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap
Reservation
7. *Little Weasel's Dream*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
8. *Fort Hall Stories*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
9. *The Bear Teepee*
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
11. *Kootenai Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
12. *Chief Mountain's Medicine*
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap
Reservation
13. *Coyote the Trickster*
Burns Paiute Reservation
14. *Running Free*
Shoalwater Bay
15. *Salish Coyote Stories*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
16. *Coyote and the Cowboys*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall
Reservation
17. *Napi's Journey*
Blackfeet Tribe
18. *Warm Springs Stories*
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
Reservation of Oregon
19. *Teepee Making*
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*
Blackfeet Tribe



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