

# Family Life

PART 1

## KEY QUESTION

How accurate is the stereotype of the Native North Americans?

There were over 600 separate tribes of Native North Americans. Using this worksheet we will investigate the family life of the Sioux Tribe. The Sioux originally came from the East Woodlands and later moved to the Plains.

### Beadwork and Quills

A talented woman could achieve high status with her skills. Beadwork was important, but quilling was the greatest skill. This was using porcupine quills which were dyed and woven together.



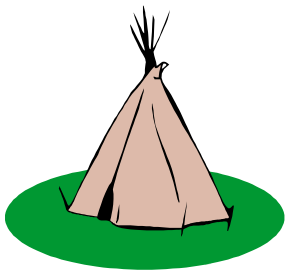
A porcupine

## Women

The Sioux moved camp every 2-3 months. Women worked hard to make life comfortable. They made the tepees, collected wild berries and plants to serve with meat and created magnificent beadwork and quills.

### Collecting food

Women on the Plains collected a variety of plants to serve with the buffalo meat. Before using metal pots, they used strong bags made out of buffalo stomach lining to cook stew.




### Tepee-making

Tepee-making was the job of the women. It required hard work and great skill. Buffalo hides had to be scraped, softened and stretched. Then they had to be carefully cut and sewn together. On average, a tepee needed 18-20 hides.

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Using the information above, copy and complete the sentences below

1. The Sioux Tribes moved camp every \_\_\_\_\_
2. Women worked extremely hard - the three major things that they did were \_\_\_\_\_ ..
3. The women collected wild plants, this was to \_\_\_\_\_
4. The stomach of the buffalo was used for \_\_\_\_\_
5. Beadwork and quilling skills could help a woman achieve \_\_\_\_\_
6. Quilling was \_\_\_\_\_
7. Hard work and great skill were required for \_\_\_\_\_ 
8. The buffalo hides went through five steps before they were used. These were \_\_\_\_\_ ..
9. A tepee needed many buffalo h\_\_\_\_\_, around 18-\_\_\_\_
10. In my opinion, compared to the work of the men, the work of the women was \_\_\_\_\_ ..

# What was it like in the Tepee?

We have two different sources to help us find out what life was like in the Tepee:

Colonel Richard Dodge (a white American)	Flying Hawk (Sioux chief)
"Since the cooking, eating, living and sleeping are all done in the one room, it soon becomes unbelievably dirty."	"Always clean, warm in winter, cool in summer, easy to move. Indians and Animals know better how to live that white man."



The tepee was very well adapted for the **nomadic** life of the Sioux tribes. It was easy to put up and take down. Women could take down their homes within fifteen minutes. The long poles could be strapped to dogs and horses and the cover could be packed away into quite a small bundle.

## Answer the questions below in full sentences

1. Explain four reasons why the Tepee was an excellent place to live - make sure you say where your information comes from.
2. Explain four things that some claimed made the Tepee 'unbelievable dirty' - make sure you say where your information comes from.
3. Why was the Tepee suited to the nomadic lifestyle of the Sioux Tribes?

## Children

The Sioux Indians lived in large family groups that included all generations - young and old.

A child would call aunts and uncles 'mother' and 'father' as well as his parents!

The Sioux married young - between 12-15 years old. Sioux women usually gave birth to around 3 or 4 children.

The birth took place in the woman's own tepee. The risks of childbirth were high, but the hard working women were fit and coped well.

The children were given a name by a respected older woman or man of the tribe.

### GLOSSARY

Nomadic	Travelling around without a fixed home
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Children did not go to school. They learnt by copying adults. Girls played with deer skin dolls and toy tepees, boys played with miniature bows and arrows. As they got older, they began getting more involved. By the time they were 13 they learnt all that they needed to be an active member of the tribe.

Using all your previous answers together with this worksheet, create a guide to the lifestyle of Sioux women and children. Use your exercise book!  
**You must: TRY TO COMPARE YOUR CHILDHOOD USE YOUR OWN WORDS - DON'T JUST COPY**