

# NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES: GREAT PLAINS

Research some defining characteristics of Native American cultures in the Great Plains.

## Environment

*Where is this region?  
Describe its physical features.*

It is an area stretching across the center of North America from the Rocky Mountains to the Missouri River. It has flat grasslands with few trees.

## Nations

*List some examples of Native American nations in the Great Plains.*

The Lakota, Pawnee, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Crow, Dakota, Blackfoot, and Sioux were some of the Native American nations in this region.

## Food

*What did Native American peoples in the Great Plains eat?*

Buffalo, deer, elk, antelope, fruits, seeds, and roots were some of the foods eaten in this region.

## Technology

*Research some of the tools common to the Great Plains.*

Bows, arrows, and spears were some of the tools used in this region.

## Housing

*Look at this example of a Lakota dwelling.  
Research why the Lakota chose this type of home and what materials they used to build it.*



This is a tipi (or tepee). The Lakota used long poles tied together at the top and spread out at the bottom to make the tipi's upside-down cone shape. The outside was then covered with a large bison hide. Tipis were efficient to put up and take down quickly.

## Culture

*How did hunting influence art and lifestyle in the Great Plains?  
Research some examples.*

Horses allowed people to leave permanent villages and travel over the Great Plains to hunt bison. The bison hides were often decorated with hunting scenes. Great Plains people often decorated the things they used for daily life, including tipis, clothing, parfleches (carrying cases), pipes, and musical instruments.