



NATIVE AMERICAN

• HERITAGE MONTH •

Makers Play: Tepees

We will be taking a look at several different homes used by various Native American cultures. In this activity, we will be looking at the tepee. Tepees were the homes used by the Plains Tribes. The tepees were made from several long wooden poles to make a conical frame and then covered in animal hides, and maybe even bark and canvas. The tepees were great homes for the Plains Tribes because they could easily be taken down and reassembled, which worked with the nomadic lifestyle they lived. Many tepees were decorated using bright colors and portraying animals. Create your own miniature version in this activity.

1



Gather materials:

- 3 Similar Length Sticks (skewers or wooden dowels)
- Brown Paper Bags
- Oil Pastels / Crayons
- Scissors
- Glycerin
- Glue Stick
- Hot Glue
- Water
- Small Bowl
- Sponge / Brush

2



Cut your brown paper bag into a semicircle.

SPONSORED BY  **Capital One**
café



3



Cut another small semicircle in the middle of the straight edge. This will make it look like a rainbow.

4



Crumple up your paper into a ball.

5



Put it into a bowl of water to wet it.

6



Open it back up and leave it to dry.



7



Once dry, use your oil pastels or your crayons to decorate it. You can use bright colors and include various animals if you'd like.

8



Combine 2 tablespoons of glycerin to 3 tablespoons of water and mix together.

9



Use a sponge or brush to spread the mixture on your tepee and let it dry for 24 hours. This will give your paper a shine that makes it look more like the animal hides typically used on tepees.



10



Put 3 sticks together to make a kind of tripod. Secure together with hot glue or a rubber band.

NOTE:

Make sure it is the right size to fit your semicircle.



Once dry, wrap your semicircle around your sticks so that the ends meet, and secure them with glue. Make sure to adjust your semicircle around your sticks until you've placed it in the best position before you glue.

NOTE:

If needed, you can also add glue or tape at the tip of your tepee to secure your semicircle to your sticks.

12



Cut a 1-inch slit on the opposite end to create your door, and you're done!

