



NATIVE AMERICAN

• HERITAGE MONTH •

Makers Play: Wigwams

Wigwams, common with the Algonquian tribes in the Northeast, also known as wickiups in the Southwest, are round, domed huts. The curved surfaces of the

wigwam made them an ideal shelter in many different types of climates and even the worst of weather conditions. These homes were usually built using animal hides, bark, brush, and grass. Some homes would also have a smoke-hole at the top to allow for a fireplace. Try to make your own miniature version with us!

1



Gather materials:

- Cereal Box
- Brown Construction Paper
- Glue
- Paintbrush
- Stapler
- Shallow Dish
- Scissors

2



Using your cereal box, cut 3 cardboard strips that are 1 x 11 inches. Cut another strip that is 1 x 16 inches.

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3



Form the longest cardboard strip into a circle and staple together. This will be the wigwam's base.

4



Next, staple the 3 shorter strips to form a dome.

5



Rip the brown construction paper into 1-inch thick strips and then tear them further to create 1-inch squares. They don't have to be perfect, just approximately the same size.

6



Pour glue into a shallow dish and use the paintbrush to glue the construction paper pieces to the cardboard strips.

NOTE:

Allow pieces of paper to overhang off the strips. Once the cardboard pieces are covered, allow your project to dry before continuing.

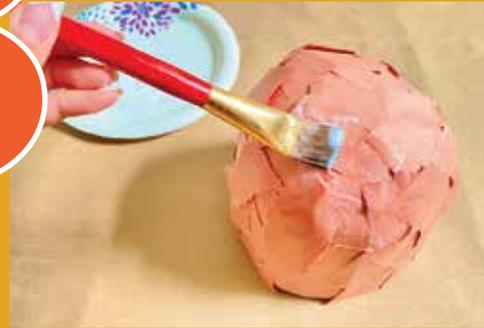


7



Continue gluing on your construction paper "bark" or "hide", allowing it to connect and overlap to fill in any empty spaces. You may need to let it dry a bit as you work depending on how much glue is used. Continue the process until the whole thing is covered in brown paper.

8



When finished, use the paintbrush and cover the entire outside of the wigwam with one more layer of glue. This will help make it stronger.

9



Once it is dry, it is time to cut your door and a smoke hole at the top. Cut a u-shaped door at the front of your wigwam. Then, use the tip of your scissors to slowly and carefully poke a hole at the top. You can wiggle them and turn your scissor blades to make the hole round.