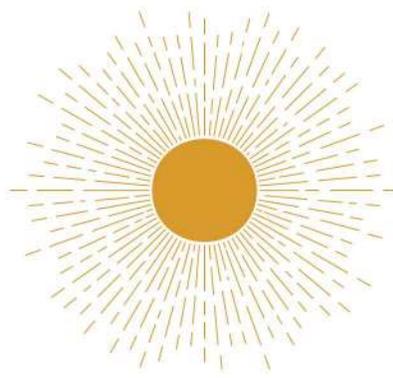


# Indigenous Peoples



# of the Great Plains

Like other regions, there were several tribes that occupied the Great Plains. These tribes included:

- Sioux
- Blackfoot
- Comanche
- Crow
- Arapaho
- Wichita



The Great Plains are covered in wild grasses, attracting herds of bison to graze there. Most of the earlier Indigenous peoples of this region would move from place to place, making them **nomadic**.

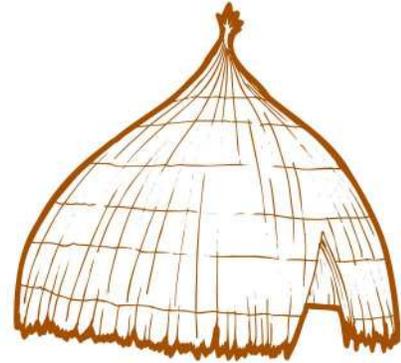
**NOMAD** - Having no permanent home; a person who does not stay in one place for too long.

Because these Indigenous people would move from place to place, their homes needed to be structured in such a way that they could be set up and taken down easily. They designed tent homes called **tepees**, made of buffalo skins. When they set up their tepees, they always positioned the front door towards the east, where the sun rises. Much of what the Indigenous tribes did hailed back to deep spiritual beliefs.



There were a few tribes, such as the Wichita, who were not nomadic. They **homesteaded** and tended to their farms. Their homes were made of grass and were shaped like beehives.

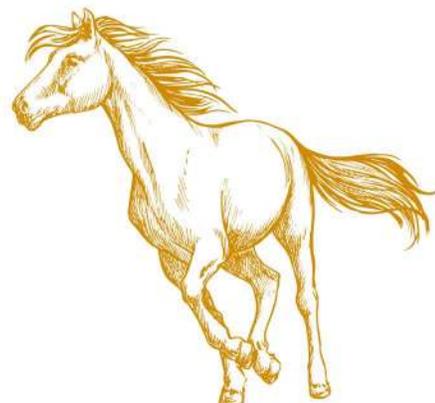
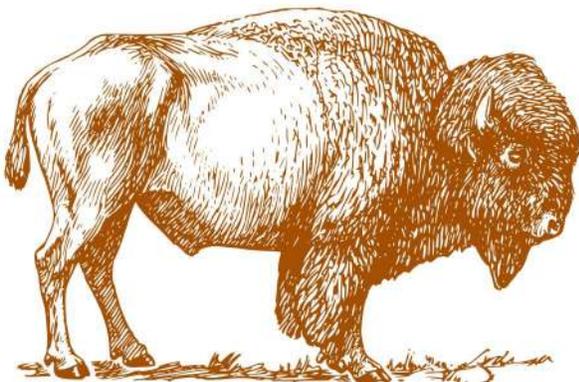
HOMESTEAD - A self-sustaining home built on farmland.

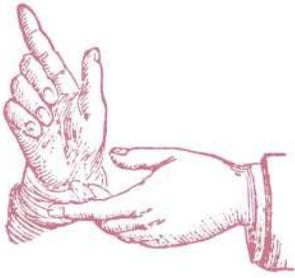


The Indigenous people would use **bison** for meat, shelter, tools, and clothing. They honored their connection with nature and the animals who shared their land. When they killed an animal, they used every part of it.

BISON - a wild ox native to North America and Europe.

In the mid-1700s, settlers from Europe brought horses to the Americas. Certain tribes, such as the Sioux and Comanche, became expert riders and used these horses to expand their hunting grounds.





The Plains tribes spoke many languages. They invented a sign language they could all understand so they could communicate with each other.



Name three tribes who lived on the Great Plains: \_\_\_\_\_

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Define "nomad" in your own words: \_\_\_\_\_

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What were tepees made of? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a homestead? \_\_\_\_\_

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How would the tribes use the bison they hunted? \_\_\_\_\_

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