



WONDERVILLE ACTIVITY

HOME SWEET HOME

There are many reasons why traditional Aboriginal homes looked the way they did. These include how a home was used, the materials used to build the home and the creativity and ingenuity of the people who built it.

Homes have many purposes. For the Aboriginal plains people of Alberta, the tipi provided:

- protection from the environment;
- a gathering place for the community;
- access and storage for seasonal food supplies; and
- a way to express spiritual beliefs.

List the function and purposes that your home provides.



The Aboriginal plains people were *nomadic* meaning that they regularly moved from one area to another. They needed portable dwellings that were easy to set up and take down. The word tipi means "used to dwell" in the Sioux language.

Tipis are very durable structures because they make use of *tensile forces* to hold the poles together. Modern house construction is based on *compression forces* to maintain strength. **Find out more about these two types of forces and explain how each is used in construction.**

Find pictures of homes and other buildings from around the world. For each one describe the following.

- The purpose or function of the building.
- The materials used in construction.
- The types of forces used to maintain the strength and structure of the building.

