



*Tipis at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, 2016. Photograph by Doug McMains*

The traditional homes known as tipis remain an important symbol of identity for the people of Northern Plains Nations. They are uniquely adapted to life on the Great Plains. They can be taken down or constructed in a few hours and are fabricated using a framework of peeled poles, often from pine trees common in the region, and covered in bison hides or lengths of canvas. Tipis are shaped to provide stability against the strong winds common in the region. They can be adapted to accommodate a large or small number of occupants and modified to include insulation in the winter. With an internal fire, tipis can also offer protection from frigid temperatures.