

# Wattle and Daub

Native Americans who lived in different regions lived in different types of homes.

American Indians in the northeastern part of the U.S. often lived in small shelters called **wigwams**. A wigwam looked like a small dome. It was made by bending tree **saplings** into a frame, then covering it with grass, tree bark or animal hide. A single family would live in a wigwam.

Other northeastern tribes lived in **longhouses**. Longhouses were similar to wigwams but much larger. A longhouse might be big enough for 10 families and have six different places for fires.

Indian tribes in the southeastern U.S. usually lived in “wattle and daub” houses. These houses were created by weaving wood, vines and rivercane together in a frame, then coating it with mud (known as **daub**). The roof might be made of grass or bark.

A wigwam, longhouse, or wattle and daub house might take days or weeks to build. People might live in them for many years.

Since Plains Indians followed buffalo **herds** as part of their lifestyle, they wanted shelters that could be built fast and were easy to move. Plains Indians preferred **tipis**. Tipis are sort of like wigwams, except they are pointed instead of round at the top. Like wigwams, the frame of the tipi was wood, while the roof and walls were covered in animal skin.

A tipi could be taken down, moved, and rebuilt easily and quickly (like a tent). That’s why Plains Indians preferred them—so they could follow the **migratory** path of the buffalo. 🌟