

Name _____

Early Plains Indians in Nebraska

Grades 3-6

Journey upstairs to our **People on the Plains Exhibit** to see how Plains Indians lived 150 years ago. Remember, this is not how the Plains Indians live today. They have modernized just like us!

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There were three tribes in Nebraska that we call the "Plains Indians." First, we are going to learn about the Dakota! Look for the traveling family and their horse.

This family is getting ready to set up their tipi. What are tipis made of? _____ It took 12-15 of these hides to build one tipi!

The horse is pulling a _____. It was used to carry their belongings. Who owned these? The males or the females? _____

The Dakota were a nomadic tribe. That means they moved from camp to camp. Before the horse, they could only travel about _____ miles a day. After horses were introduced to them, they could travel up to _____ miles a day when in an emergency.

Look at the Hoe Farmers of Nebraska Exhibit right by the traveling family. Look at the left hand side for the Oto.

What were their houses called? _____ We will learn more this type of home later on.

Another Plains Indian tribe that lived in Nebraska were the Pawnee. Look at the jewelry display on the other side of this case.

There were no modern tools, so they had to use what was readily available to them. This is why many of their tools are made of stone. What are two tools in this case that are made from stone?

1.

2.

Like the Oto, the Pawnee also lived in Earth Lodges. Go past the log cabin to our Earth Lodge display to learn more about them.

Pawnee lived in the lodge with their parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and their prized horses. There could be up to 50 people living in one house!

How long did it take to make an Earth Lodge? _____

How long did an Earth Lodge usually last? _____

Because they lived in one location for a long time, they were able to farm. Find the Nebraska's First Farmers Exhibit by the tractors.

What were two crops they planted?

1.

2.

Answer Key

There were three tribes in Nebraska that we call "Plains Indians." First, we are going to learn about the Dakota! Look for the traveling family and their horse.

This family is getting ready to set up their tipi. What are tipis made of? **Buffalo Hides** It took 12-15 of these hides to build one tipi!

The horse is pulling a **Travois**. It would be used to carry their belongings. Who owned these? The males or the females? **Females**

The Dakota were a nomadic tribe. That means they moved from camp to camp. Before the horse, they could only travel about **6** miles a day. After horses were introduced to them, they could travel up to **30** miles a day when in an emergency.

Look at the Hoe Farmers of Nebraska Exhibit right by the traveling family. Look at the left hand side for the Oto.

Why did the Oto come to Nebraska? **Striped of all their land and given land by the Big Blue River**

What were their houses called? **Large Earth Lodges** We will learn more about this type of home later.

Another Plains Indian tribe that lived in Nebraska were the Pawnee. Look at the jewelry display on the other side of this case.

There were no modern tools, so they had to use what was readily available to them. This is why many of their tools are made of stone. What are three tools in this case that are made from stone? **Arrows, hide scrapers, bowls, whistles, knives, drills**

Like the Oto, the Pawnee also lived in Earth Lodges. Go past the log cabin to our Earth Lodge display to learn more about them.

Pawnee lived in the lodge with their parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and their prized horses. There could be up to 50 people living in one house!

How long did it take to make an Earth Lodge? **Several Months**

How long did an Earth Lodge usually last? **10-15 Years**

Because they lived in one location for a long time, they were able to farm. Find the Nebraska's First Farmers Exhibit by the tractors.

What were two crops they planted? **Sweet corn, red flour corn, blue flour corn, beans, squash**