

Early Osage Lodges

I. Pre-lesson: Introductory Discussion Questions:

[black = questions, red = answers]

Lodges:

Let's say you were dropped out in the country outside of your town, in an area of prairie and some woods, with no manufactured materials and with no metal tools, to live for an extended period of time.

How would you find shelter from the sun, rain, wind and cold? What kind of a structure could you build?

Something with a roof and sides.

What materials would you use? What materials are available in nature that could provide shelter?

Trees, tree limbs, tree bark, thick grasses, animal skins

How would you tie these things together into a structure?

Make string or cord from braiding together - either grasses, animal sinew, animal hair

Could you have a fire inside of it - for heating and cooking? How would the smoke escape?

Need a hole in the roof for smoke to get out

What kinds of shelter do you think the Osage people used? (varies)

What does the word "lodge" mean? How had you heard it used?

It can be a type of hotel, such as in a national park. "Lodging" means a place to stay.

Villages:

How are the houses in your town laid out? Are they built in a hodge-podge just anywhere, or is there some type of arrangement?

The houses are laid out in rows - to follow streets, so cars can drive up and down.

The Osage did not have cars to worry about, so do you think they had any special way to organize the layout of homes in their villages? Or do you think people could just build their lodges anywhere?

(various answers - PREVIEW: they *did* have very organized plans - had to do with clans (neighborhoods were built around close kinship units called "clans")

II. Osage Lodges Poster

NOW - Examine Poster - read and see how the Osage solved these problems.