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# Homes on the Move

## Grade 1 Lesson Plan

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**Lesson #3:** Homes on the Move

**Duration:** Two 45 min periods

**Subject:** Science, Social Studies

**Topic:** First Peoples and Shelters from the Past and Present

### Overview

Students learn about the importance of different types of shelters that First Peoples have used in the past. They explore tipis and the significance of this shelter to First Peoples in communities around the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark (TRUGG) and the Peace Region. Students then create a model of a mini tipi (or other portable shelter).

### Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how local First Peoples, such as Kelly Lake, Saulteau, and West Moberly, have met their basic need for shelter in the past
- Construct a tipi (or other portable) shelter in collaborative groups
- Make real life connections between basic needs and the traditional practices of First Peoples in the TRUGG and Peace Region

### Curriculum Connections

Please see the *TRUGG Education Toolkit Curriculum Connections Matrix* for specific connections of this lesson to the B.C. Curriculum for Grade 1.

### Materials

- Tent, tarp or other portable shelter for the hook activity
- Access to the Internet, a computer and digital projector
- Access to the Internet and the YouTube video: ‘How to Make a Model Tipi’
- Bags or other small containers

- Tipi/shelter building materials, such as:
  - Popsicle sticks
  - Toothpicks
  - Bamboo skewers
  - Tape
  - Glue
  - Scissors
  - Floss or string (to tie the tipi together at the top)
  - Markers
  - Cardboard cut into 5.5 diameter circles (for the base of the tipi)
  - String
  - Sticks/twigs gathered from the outdoors
- *Tipi Template* Student Handout
- Chart paper and felt pens
- *Traditional Shelters of First Nations People in the TRUGG* Student Handout
- *First Peoples of the TRUGG and Traditional Shelters* Slideshow and Teacher Notes

## Teacher Prep

- Preview the tipi building YouTube video ‘How to make a model tipi’.
- Print and photocopy a class set of the *Traditional Shelters of First Nations People in the TRUGG* Student Handout.
- Print and photocopy a class set of the *Tipi Template* Student Handout.
- Invite parent volunteers to attend and assist the class in building tipis (as desired).
- Assemble materials needed to build tipi/shelter models and divide them into Ziploc bags for students to use.
- Review the *First Peoples of the TRUGG and Traditional Shelters* Slideshow and Teacher Notes.
- Review the *Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark* Teacher Backgrounder.
- Set up a camping tent (or other portable shelter) in the classroom so that when students walk in this is the first thing they see.

## Background Information

A tipi (or teepee) is a cone-shaped tent, traditionally constructed of animal skins and wood poles with smoke flaps at the top of the structure. Historically, tipis were used by First Peoples across the Great Plains and Canadian Prairies in North America. While still used by these peoples, tipis are now more commonly used for ceremonial purposes.

First Nations and other Indigenous peoples around the TRUGG and other areas in Northeastern B.C. historically favoured the tipi when migrating through the seasons. Tipis are noted for their durability and can be constructed relatively quickly upon settling in a new location.

Students will likely have some familiarity with more modern portable shelters, such as tents and tarps. Connecting these shelters with traditional forms will help them think about how we have met our basic need for shelter throughout history.

Please see the *Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark Teacher Backgrounder* for more background and details on the Geopark.

## Lesson Activities

### Introduction/Hook:

1. Ask students to name something they have used as a temporary shelter. Brainstorm different types of homes and temporary shelters (e.g. tent, tarp etc.) that we have today. Draw and label these on a white board. Explain to students that one type of temporary shelter that our local First Peoples in the TRUGG (e.g. Kelly Lake, Saulteau, and West Moberly) use is the tipi.
2. Present the *First Peoples of the TRUGG and Traditional Shelters Slideshow* (using the Teacher Notes as needed). Discuss the range of portable shelters that people use in the world today.

### Activity 1:

1. Ask students to name something they have used as a temporary shelter? Brainstorm ideas of different types of homes and temporary shelters (e.g. tent, tarp etc.) that we have today. Draw and label these on a white board. Explain to students that one type of temporary shelter that our local First Peoples in the TRUGG (e.g. Kelly Lake, Saulteau, and West Moberly) used was the tipi.
2. Present the video on tipi building, accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQf3cBpDvfU&t=41s>. Pause the video and discuss key points, as needed.

### Activity 2:

1. Announce to students that they are going to build a model of their own tipi or other portable shelter. Brainstorm a list of materials that will be needed with students.
2. As a class, go on a nature walk to collect sticks/twigs, etc. that could be used to create a model of a tipi or other

shelter. Ask students to consider what materials First Nations people would have selected from your area to build a full-sized tipi. (Note: If you are unable to go to an outdoor area and find natural materials easily, simply provide materials – see Lesson Materials).

3. Once back indoors, provide the bags of additional materials and ask students to begin constructing their tipi (similar to the one shown in the video). You can continue playing the video in the background for student guidance.
4. Distribute the *Tipi Template Student Handout* and ask students to create an interesting design for the outside of their tipi. Provide time for students to complete construction of their tipis or other portable shelter.
5. Distribute the *Traditional Shelters of First Nations People in the TRUGG Student Handout* for completion as students finish their model tipi or shelter.

## Closure:

1. Once students have completed their tipis, convene a gallery walk where half of the class sits with their tipis on display and the other half walks around and observes the structures. Once they have seen them all, ask students to switch roles.
2. Congratulate students on their efforts and review how important tipis were as a traditional shelter for First Nations in the TRUGG and how such shelters can sometimes help us to meet our basic needs.

## Assessment/Evaluation

- Observe and assess student understanding as they create their tipi/shelter model.
- Review and assess the *Traditional Shelters of First Nations People in the TRUGG Student Handout*.

## Extensions

- Invite parent volunteers to bring in 2-3 tents and help construct them. Clear the classroom and make room for the construction of these tents. Have parent volunteers take groups of students and build a tent or tipi together.
- Explore the kinds of portable shelters used by other cultures in the world, today and in the past.