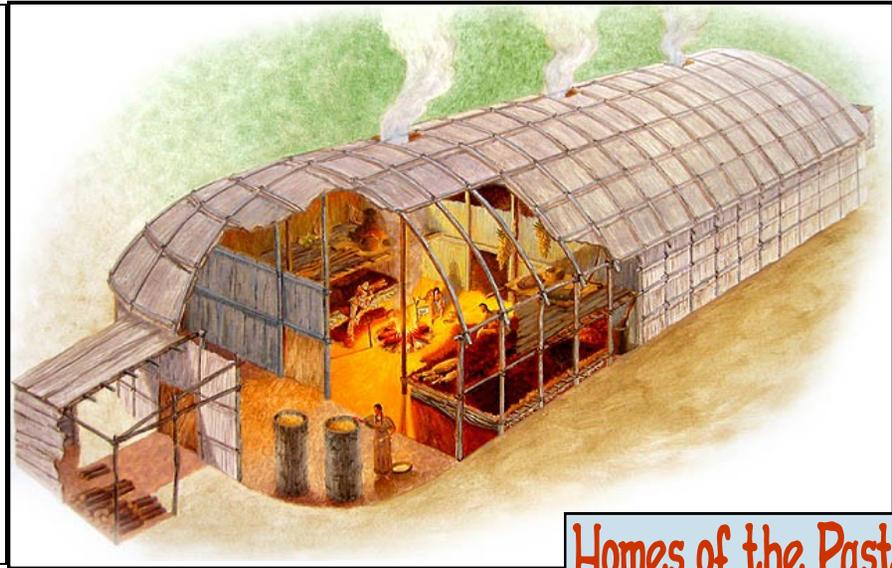


Cut out, fold and add your own information or use the information given.

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Homes of the Past

Their houses are called longhouses because they were longer than they were wide. Longhouses have door openings at both ends. During the winter, these openings would have been covered with skins. There were no windows on the longhouse walls. We know this because the explorers and missionaries wrote that the insides of the houses were dark due to lack of windows. The longhouses were built by the men in the village.

The wood for the houses was cut down in the spring when it was still flexible and brought to the village. The ends of the posts were sharpened into points using stone axes, and some were charred or burned to make it last longer in the ground. The walls of the longhouse were made from elm bark that was cut into rectangular slabs to be used for roof shingles and wall siding.

These homes contained one large extended family. All the women and children living in a longhouse were of the same clan. Numerous longhouses in an area created a village. The village was sometimes protected from intruders by a palisade (an 18 ft. tall wooden fence).