

# TIPIS | TEPEES | TEEPEES

HOLLEY  
TIPIS  
TEPEES  
TEEPEES



HISTORY  
AND  
DESIGN  
OF THE  
CLOTH  
TIPI

Linda A. Holley

**Linda A. Holley** has spent most of her life studying tipis and Native American culture. She graduated from Florida State University with a BS and MS in Art Education/Constructive Design. In 1970, she became an art, science, and history teacher, but she is now retired after thirty-four years. She has over thirty years of experience making tipis.

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Tipi encampment in the Czech Republic, one of many Indian encampments held throughout Europe from England to Russia.

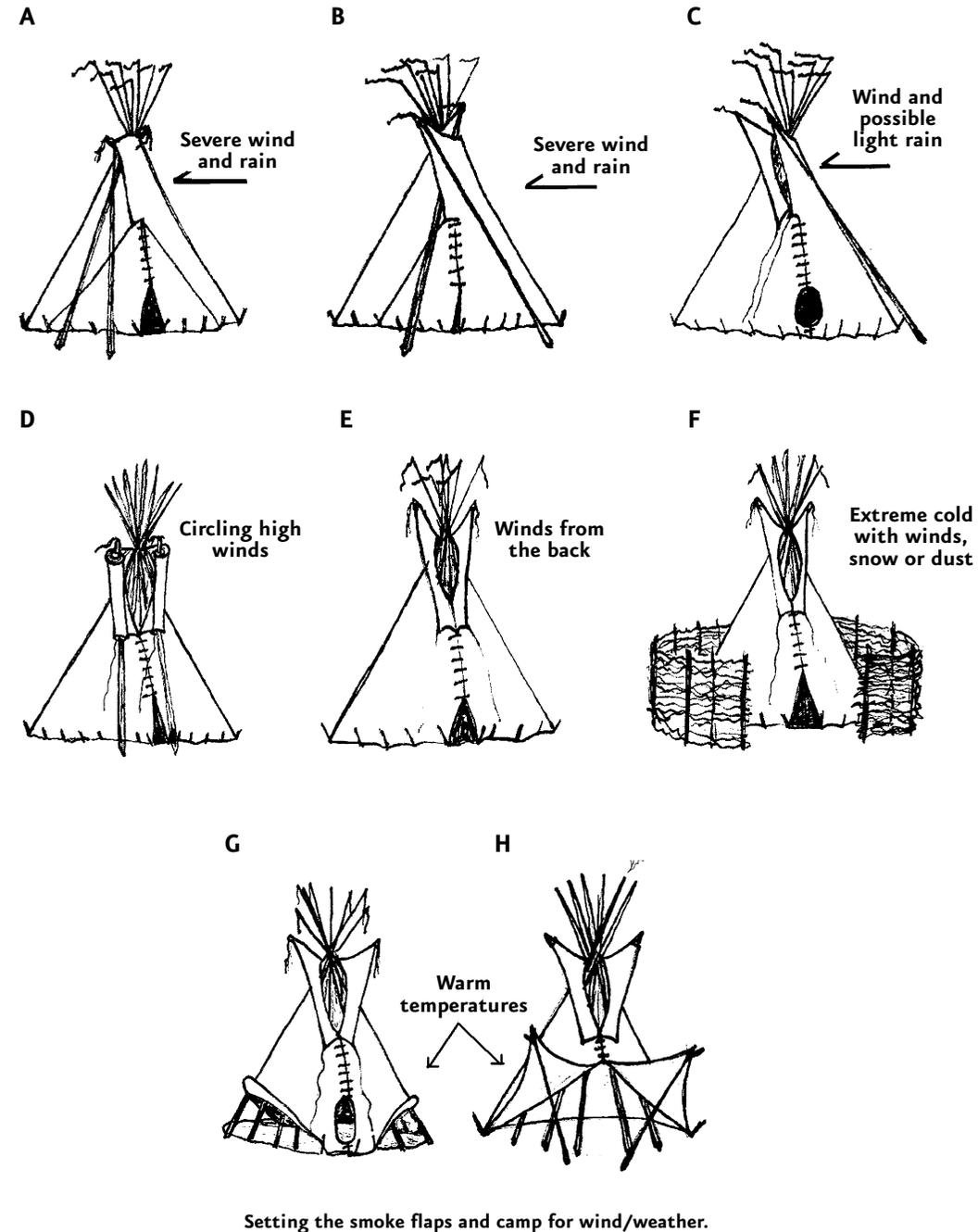


Cane windbreak around Cheyenne or Kiowa tipi. The windbreak helps keep the hot western winds and dust from getting into the tipi.

# Living in a Tipi

## Smoke Flaps

Long ribbons fluttering from pole tips aren't simply decorative; they're the wind socks that help to determine which direction prevailing winds are blowing. This allows you to set your tipi's smoke flaps accordingly. The diagrams show eight ways to adjust or use the flaps to adapt to the weather. Figures A through C show the placement of flaps when wind and rain are coming from the sides; F shows the placement when winds are from the back. Figure G has the flaps wide open and the sides of the tipi are rolled up or spread out to act as a sun shade. Rolling up a side of your tipi cover and dropping portions of the liner will provide your camp with both shade and breeze on those hot, sticky July/August afternoons. On the shady side of the lodge, roll the side of tipi cover up to a height of four feet or so. Prop the rolled-up cover on a couple of forked sticks. On the opposite side, drop the liner and side that best takes advantage of any cross breeze. Figure D comes from a picture listed as "circling winds" when both flaps are shown rolled up on the poles. I only saw this once on a Cheyenne lodge. Most interesting is Figure G that shows the use of reed walls made of cattails or sunflower stalks built around the tipi to keep the high winds and dust out. In Oklahoma photos, many Cheyenne and Kiowa tipis were seen with this surrounding wall. Outside were arbors of willow and reeds.



Setting the smoke flaps and camp for wind/weather.

This gave shade for cooking and just sitting around. Depending on the part of the country you live, there are different solutions to rain and wind problems.



**Above Left: Anadarko, Oklahoma, 24-foot tipi.**

**Above Right: Karl Miller Tipi, National Powwow, Crescent City, Illinois.**



**Left: Modern Sioux lodge, 1999.**

**Right: Nomadic tipi makers.**

