

Comanche by Janelle

Where did the tribe live? Where do they live now? The Comanches originally lived in the territory to the west of the Rocky Mountains. They moved around a lot, and later lived in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Today, most Comanches live in Oklahoma.

What did they eat? They ate buffalo, elk, black bears, deer, wild fruits, seeds, nuts, berries, and roots.

What did they wear? The women wore long deerskin dresses, and men wore buckskin war shirts and breechcloths (a long piece of cloth that is worn between the legs and tucked over a belt) with leather leggings. The Comanche wore moccasins, which are shoes that look like slippers and are made of leather. In cold weather, they also wore long robes made of buffalo hides.

What special ceremonies did they have? The Comanche did not have many ceremonies, but one important ceremony they did have was when a boy became a man. The ceremony lasted for days and included physical and spiritual cleansing, meditation, and prayer.

What kind of homes did they build? They built tent-like homes called teepees that were made from a cone-shaped wooden frame and covered with buffalo hide. Since the Comanche were a traveling tribe, these teepees were designed to set up and break down quickly.



Five interesting facts:

1. The present Chief/Chairman of the Comanche is named Wallace Coffey.
2. At first, teepees were built 12 feet tall, but later they were twice as tall because the Comanche had horses to move them more easily.
3. The Comanche refer to themselves as “Numinu” (the people) and not as “Comanche” which means “enemy” in the language of another tribe.
4. Comanche arts and crafts include excellent beadwork and making silver or copper jewelry.
5. The Comanche were thought to be the first Plains Indians to have horses.