

Exploring the Occaneechi in Hillsborough

North Carolina Standards

- 1.B.1 Understand how culture, values, and beliefs shape people, places, and environments.
- 1 B.1.1 Identify cultural practices and traditions in local communities and places around the world.
- 1 B.1.2 Summarize ways that culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse people help shape a community.

Lesson

The Occaneechi were a Native American tribe that lived in the Piedmont region of North Carolina around 1650. The Occaneechi participated in the fur trade along with other indigenous tribes in Virginia and North Carolina. In Hillsborough, the tribe lived along the Eno River in a village called Occaneechi Town. In the village, they ate crops that they grew such as corn, squash, and beans, as well as hunted for food.

Occaneechi Dwelling: The Occaneechi slept in dwellings called Athi's. Athi's, also known as wigwams, were round in shape. These buildings were made from trees, branches and held together by animal sinew.



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Activity

Activity: Create an Occaneechi Athi using construction paper and glue by looking at the pictures of other Native American tribe dwellings.

Materials needed:

Construction Paper

Poster Board

Crayons or Markers

Glue

Questions to consider

- Questions to Discuss:
- How did the Occaneechi use their homes?
- Who slept in these structures?
- What does your home look like?
- What is your home made from?
- How are your home and an Occaneechi athi different?
- How did other Native Americans that you have studied live?
- How was an athi different from other dwellings that Native Americans lived in?

More Information

Explore where the Occaneechi and other Native American tribes lived:

<https://native-land.ca/>

<https://americanindiancenter.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/376/2013/08/NC-Tribal-Map.pdf>

Explore Indigenous Dwellings:

<http://www.native-languages.org/houses.htm>

<https://matadornetwork.com/read/traditional-north-american-indigenous-dwellings/>

<https://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/nativeamerican/housing/index.shtml>

Visit in Person:

Located on the Riverwalk in Hillsborough, NC

<https://visithillsboroughnc.com/things-to-do/replicavillage/>

<https://historichillsborough.org/occaneechi-indian-village/>

Learn more about the Occaneechi here:

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/occaneechi-tribe/>

<https://obsn.org/history/>

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