



Graphic #3 label

Wichita Grass Houses

During the spring, summer, and early fall the Wichita Indians lived in villages of grass houses. During the late fall and winter, when they left their villages for extended buffalo hunts, they lived in tipis.

Wichita villages contained many grass houses, constructed with materials gathered from the surrounding environment. A well-maintained house might last ten to fifteen years and house ten to twelve people.

The Wichita cultivated extensive gardens for food in addition to hunting game and harvesting wild plants. They grew corn, beans, pumpkins, squash, and sunflowers. Large pits dug into the ground provided places to store food preserved by drying and smoking.

Image source: Photograph collection, State Archives, Kansas State Historical Society. E99 W6 D9 *13
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