

Name: _____

The Tipi

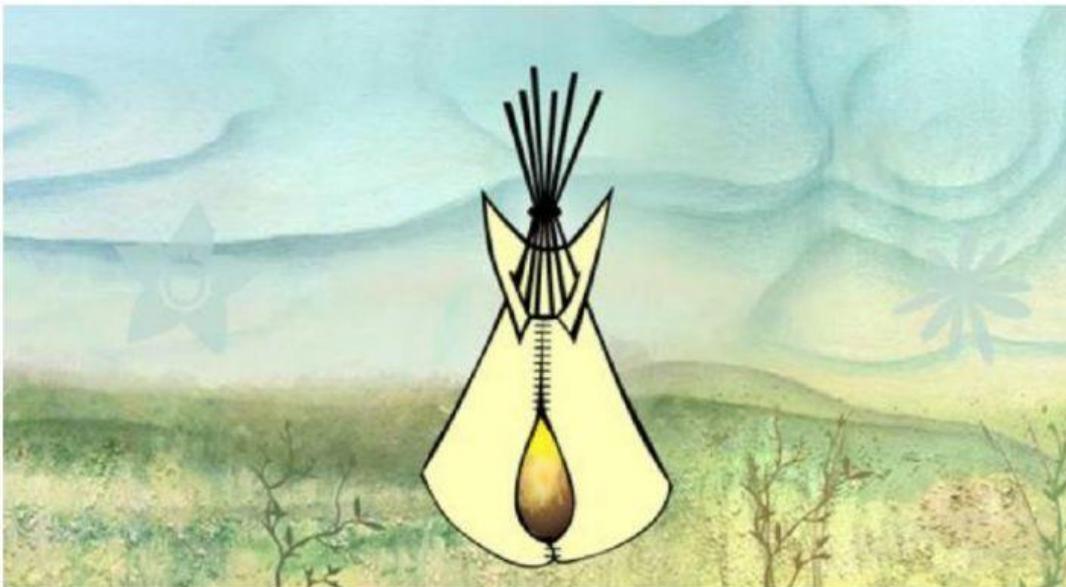
Adapted from writing by Cree Elder, Mary Lee

My mother taught me to make a tipi.

The meaning of the tipi connects to the Medicine Wheel: spiritual, physical, emotional and mental and the four directions: West, South, East, North.

The tipi is also a symbol of the women: my mother and great grandmother and Cree women everywhere.

In honour of these women, I will share some of these tipi teachings with you.



The tipi teachings are passed on; I can only share how it was told to me.

My mother said that women were named after the fire in the centre of the tipi. This fire made warmth and comfort in the tipi.

A tipi cover is like an old woman with a shawl. As it comes around the tipi, it holds all the values of community that the women hold. No matter how many

children and great grandchildren come into that circle of hers, she always still has room.

If you put the tipi up right, the poles never show on the bottom. The tipi stands with dignity, just as years ago, women always covered their legs with the skirt.

The tipi is also a symbol of the sacred circle of life. When we put the flaps up, it teaches us how to embrace life itself.

It's like a woman standing there with her arms out, saying "Thank you" to everything.

That is what the tipi is - it is the spirit and body of woman, because she is the centre of family and community.



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Comprehension Questions:

1. Another word for tipi is:
 - a. Boat
 - b. Tent
 - c. Camper

2. The tipi is a symbol of:
 - a. Women
 - b. Men
 - c. Children
 - d. Everyone

3. The tipi teachings were:
 - a. Passed on
 - b. Written in books
 - c. Put on the internet

4. A tipi cover is like a:
 - a. Blanket
 - b. Shawl
 - c. Bedsheet

5. A tipi always has:
 - a. Food
 - b. Room
 - c. Beds

6. The fire is built:
 - a. Beside the tipi
 - b. In front of the tipi
 - c. Inside the tipi

7. A tipi is a symbol for a woman saying:
 - a. Please
 - b. Thank you
 - c. Have a nice day

8. If you put the tipi up right, the poles:
 - a. Show on the bottom
 - b. Don't show on the top
 - c. Never show on the bottom