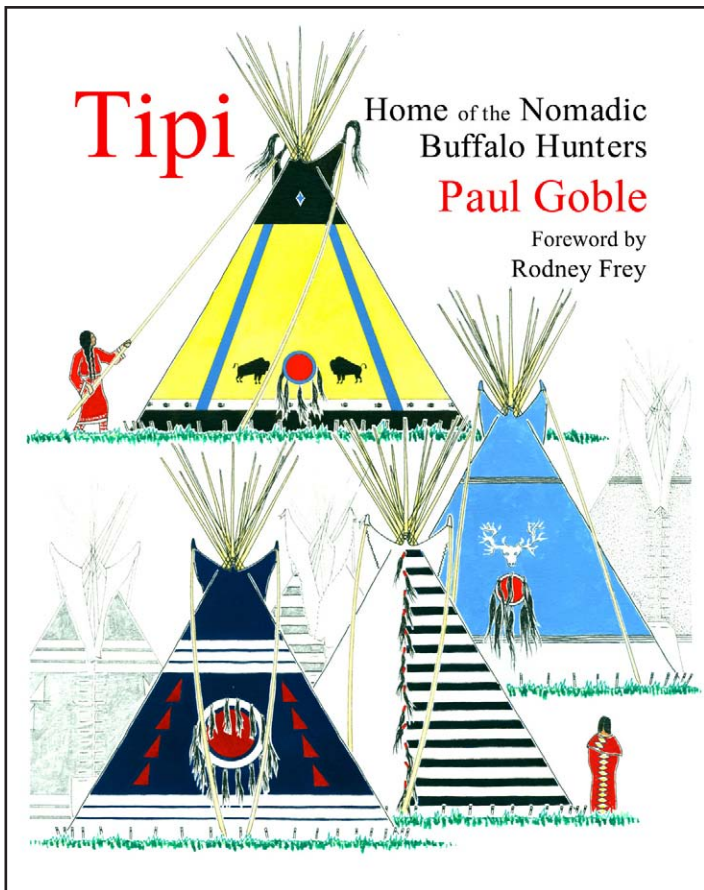


# TIPÍ — WISDOM TALES DISCUSSION GUIDE



Winner of the Silver Midwest Book Award for  
“Child/Young-Adult Non-Fiction”  
Winner of the Silver Midwest Book Award for “Nature”  
ForeWord Book of the Year Award Finalist  
for “Juvenile Nonfiction”  
Winner of the Silver Benjamin Franklin Award  
“Interior Design, Children’s/Young Adult”

“*Tipi* is an instant classic. It bids fair to supplant the Laubins’ [*The Indian Tipi*] as the ‘Bible’ on the subject. It is immediately the best resource for painted-tipi imagery ever published.”

—Mike Cowdrey, author of *American Indian Horse Masks*

“Blends traditional insights into tipi construction and development with a retelling of old-timers’ stories and a blending in of art to make for a fine survey of construction techniques, decorations, cultural meaning, and more.”

—*Midwest Book Review*

## SUMMARY

- An award-winning book about the American Indian tipi by Paul Goble, winner of the prestigious Caldecott medal
- With a Foreword by Rodney Frey, Professor of American Indian Studies, University of Idaho
- Contains detailed instructions on the construction and set up an American Indian tipi. Readers will also have a chance to draw and build a tipi of their own through the book’s “cut-out and color” section.
- Presents dozens of cover designs from historical tipis, some dating back to the pre-reservation “buffalo days” of the 19th century
- Gives the American Indian spiritual and cultural meanings of the tipi designs
- Features over 100 illustrations and drawings

## ABOUT THE BOOK

“When I was a little boy, my mother made me a small tipi and painted it with Native American symbols. It excited my interest, and made me want to know more. This book is the kind of book I began looking for, but never found. So I have made it for you.” With these exciting words, award-winning artist, Paul Goble opens his fascinating book, *Tipi: Home of the Nomadic Buffalo Hunters*.

Through his beautiful and compelling artwork, he skilfully examines the construction and design of the tipi, which was more than a simple home for the Plains Indians, but was rather a way for them to express their belief in their connection to the entire natural world around them.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul Goble is an award-winning author and illustrator of over 40 children’s books. His book, *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses*, won the prestigious Caldecott Medal. For more than four decades, he has participated closely in the life of the Plains Indians of the American West and has met old-timers who knew the pre-reservation days and shared the friendship of many tribal elders.

❖ **Wisdom Tales** ❖  
Stories from Around the World

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1) What materials were used for making a traditional tipi? Why were changes to the materials required in the 1880s? What are the similarities and differences between the traditional tipi, the tipi from the 1880s onwards, and the homes they live in on the reservations today?

2) What is the significance of painting dreams on the tipi? Why are different animals depicted on the tipi? Does today's society have any similar customs?

3) A closed tipi door is considered "locked," though it is a blanket or canvas that could easily be moved. Why didn't the Native Americans worry about crime, as we do today? (see p. 23).

4) Why was the tipi the property of the woman? What if a woman no longer wanted a man to live with her?

5) What are the differences in tipi designs between different tribes such as the Lakota, Cheyenne, and Blackfoot?

6) How did the Native Americans keep their tipis cool in the summer and warm in the winter? What did they do to help decrease the smoke in the tipi?

7) What is the difference between a three-pole tipi and a four-pole tipi?

8) Describe the daily living activities of a Native American man and woman?

9) In seeing the quotes throughout the book, what are some of the values that Native Americans held, and still hold to this day?

10) "Over the thousands of years Indian peoples lived and hunted on the Plains, they left very few marks on the land: the occasional tipi ring, indication of a fireplace, scattered pieces of shell, or flint where they chipped arrowheads, small piles of stones leading to a buffalo pound, an overgrown hilltop pit where they caught eagles; nothing more." Why is this significant? How does the majority of society differ today?

