The Caddo Grass House

Did you know that Indigenous people lived in all different types of houses, not just tipis. The Caddo lived in behive shaped grass houses. Soon we will finish this house by thatching it with long native switch grass. Look closely at the bones of this house. Does iDoes it remind you of another important piece of Caddo culture, a basket?

The Caddo were a matrilineal society, meaning ancestry was traced through women. The houses and the gardens belonged to and were the primary responsibility of Caddo women.

Caddo grass houses could last for decades. The long life of Caddo houses is one reason they are called grass houses and not grass huts. The word hut usually makes one think of temporary structures. These houses were decked out with beds, shelves, cooking hearths, and more. The smoke from the central fire would help keep bugs out of the house and even dry vegetables hung near the top of the house.

When it was time for a new house to be built in a Caddo village, families would come together to help build.. The family whose house was being built would feed all the builders. What plants and animals do you think might have been part of Caddo cooking?

Just One Thing!

Caddo society was a partnership society. Everyone young and old had a valuable role in the community.