

## How a Grass House Was Built

Storytelling, or oral history, is one way of passing information from one generation to another. It is a **primary source**, which is a first-hand account of an event, person, or place. More than 100 years ago historian George Dorsey collected a story about how

the Wichita built grass houses from a Wichita chief named Jim. Dorsey wrote what Chief Jim told him in the book, *The Mythology of the Wichita*. This illustrated story is a short version of what Chief Jim said.



**1** The Wichita lived in villages in beehive-shaped houses.



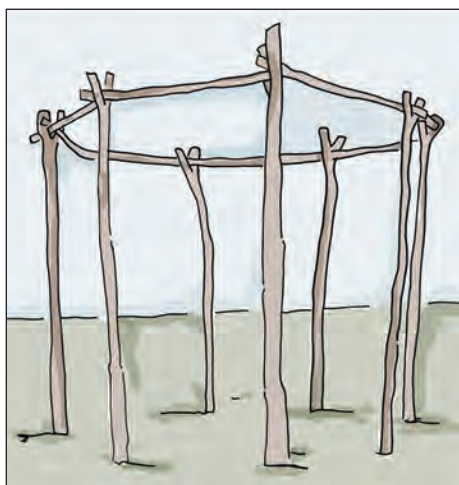
**2** The whole family shared in collecting logs, poles, and grasses.



**3** The women and children built the house.



**4** In building a grass house, big cedar posts are put upright into the ground.



**5** Cedar poles are used to connect the upright posts.



**6** Long, thin cedar poles are leaned against the frame to form a circle.