

Step 3: Building a Tepee

Show the children the brown paper templates, the twigs, the pebbles, the sand, the weeds and the styrofoam trays. Tell them that they can **make their own model tepee and fire pit.**

Describe how the tepee can be made by **cutting out the stencil and gluing it to form a cone.**

Before gluing the tepee together, **designs or pictures can be drawn on the outside using charcoal.** Point out the charcoal sticks and tell the children that such sticks can be made from burnt wood. Charcoal is a natural drawing tool. It can be used when there are no stores to buy crayons. Tell the children that their Indian tepee scenes will be decorated only with items that could be found out in the woods, like the cranberries and the charcoal. You might suggest that they can use their **red felt markers** since there would have been red berry juice with which to paint decorations.

The tepee can be placed on the styrofoam tray, and a twig or two can be inserted into the hole in the center of the roof of the tepee and pressed gently into the styrofoam tray to represent the supporting poles. **The fire pit can be made** outside the tepee by outlining a circle with pebbles and filling the pit with twigs. **Sand** can be spread over the surface of the tray to represent the ground.

Point out the **unbleached cotton** and mention that the children might use it to make a mat or a blanket. They will cut the cloth to the desired size, and then to dye it, they will **dip it into the cranberry juice.** The dyed cloth might serve as a mat for the entrance to the tent, or it might be a blanket that is hanging to dry in a nearby bush. Bushes can be added from the selection of weeds available.

