ABORIGINAL DWELLINGS

SHELTERS

Humpies are Indigenous shelters made from natural materials like stringy bark, paper bark, palm leaves, cane, grass and sticks.

A Humpy in South Australia

Stringy bark was used to make humpies to last a couple of days, months or years.

Often they would be decorated on the inside of the bark with ochres.

Sometimes nets or stone tools like a grinding stone were too heavy to carry so some things would be left in the old humpies until next season.

In hot climates, long grass would be woven around a dome shaped frame of sticks and small logs. This would be very cool in hot weather because the grass could be soaked with water.

A humpy in hot climates

Lean-to humpies were made by leaning sticks up against logs or a tree.

In cool climates, fires were built near or inside humpies to keep people warm, and to keep mosquitoes and other animals away.