



An Unbroken Circle

Stone circle or tipi ring sites are found on the western grasslands and in bordering mountain ranges from Canada to Mexico. Tipis were used by Plains Indian tribes for thousands of years and no other site type provides a better symbol for this nomadic lifeway. The rocks we see today were placed around the base of tipis during windy conditions. There are several million rings scattered across the Plains landscape.

While of great value for scientific investigations, we also should see these rock rings as the location where families lived and prepared meals, raised children, and dreamed. These ancient rings provide an unbroken connection to the tribes of today. Tribal Elders said it is no accident the tipi is round, just as there is a circle in the curved horns of the buffalo and in the blue sky around the horizon — all are part of the sacred circle of life.

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