

History of shelter 1

The First Homes

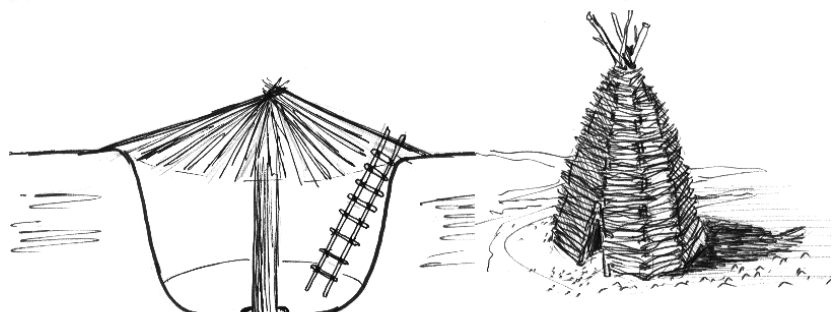
Most people, who do not believe the Bible, imagine that the first people were a kind of half man, half ape, living in caves and having little intelligence. However, Christians know that there were never such beings as ape-men, and that people were created with the same intelligence that people have today.

It is true that some people did live in caves because we see their paintings on the walls, but these people as intelligent as people today. Early people were also able to build structures out of the materials they found around them. Noah, who lived on earth 1500 years after the creation, was capable of building a huge and wonderful boat, capable of staying afloat for 40 days. The people of Babel, who we read about in Genesis 11, were capable of building an enormous tower.

Archaeologists are people who look for things from the past. Some have found remains of early types of dwellings. They have found evidence that people in early times built pit dwellings. To make pit dwellings, holes were dug in the ground and covered with logs, placed horizontally over the hole. Then earth was heaped on top.

Remains of other types of dwellings have also been found. It seems that in early times, people used materials like wooden posts, reeds, leaves, mud and animal skins.

Draw and label 3 types of early homes.



History of Shelter 2

Desert homes

Desert homes must perform two functions. They shield the interior from intense daily heat, and must also store that heat for use during the cool nights. The best material for this is heavy clay or mud, moulded and baked into bricks. Mud bricks slowly absorb the sun's rays during the day, preventing the heat from penetrating the interior of the home. Then, during the cold night, the warm bricks radiate their stored heat and keep the interior warm. There is evidence that mud bricks were used in hot desert areas all around the world.

Another type of desert home is the tent. Tents were used by nomadic people. These are people who move around from place to place. A tent can be taken with you wherever you go. The desert tents, like those of the Arabs, usually have broad canopies over the doorways, to lessen the effects of the sun and wind. Tents were originally made from animal hides which were sewn together. Tents were used by many people around the world, including the American Indians.

1. Why are mud bricks such an effective form of shelter in desert regions?
2. Why were tents a suitable form of shelter for nomadic people?
3. Draw a tent belonging to an Arab from a nomadic tribe. Label your drawing to show the main parts of the tent and the materials used.
4. Compare a camping tent of today with traditional tents. What do they have in common?

History of Shelter 3

Eskimo homes

Eskimos live in the arctic, in the far north of the world.

The arctic climate is harsher than any climate in the world. The only building material available to

traditional Eskimos was the snow itself. The Eskimos, using a semi-circular snow knife, cut long flat blocks of snow and arranged them in an ascending spiral, that became smaller and smaller at the top, forming a dome. The igloo was built from the inside. Cutting blocks from around his feet, the Eskimo would lower the floor level as the dome rose above him. When the igloo was finished, more than half was below the surface. A small tunnel was connected to the igloo. This is where the sled-dogs sheltered. A small hole was left at the top of the igloo to provide ventilation, and to allow smoke to escape.



The inside of the igloo was warm, keeping out the outside cold and wind. Seal oil-lamps provided light and warmth. Blocks of ice were cut for furniture, and covered with animal skins. The temperature of the inside of the igloo was much higher than the temperature outside. The dome shape was excellent for the arctic conditions as the howling winds only swirled around the smooth shape and did no damage.

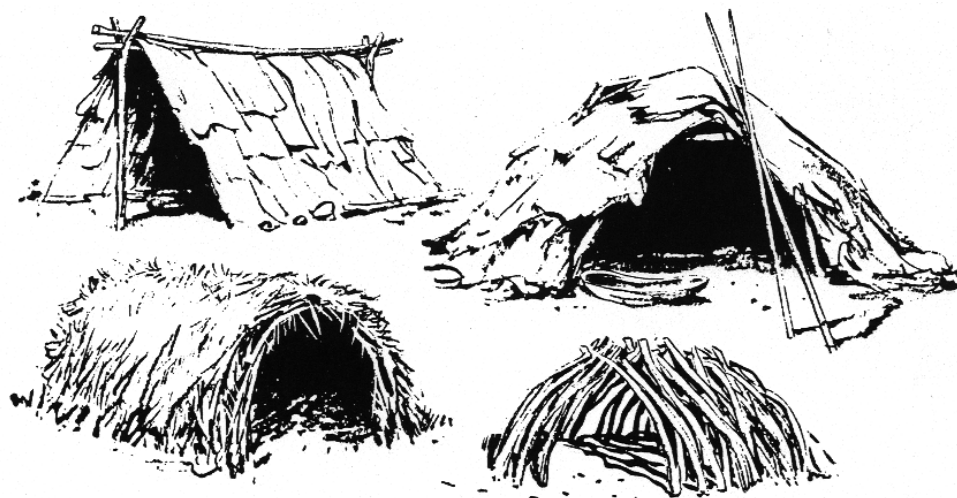
1. Draw a picture of an igloo. Include the details you have read about in the text.
2. How did the Eskimo get the floor level to be lower than the ground outside?
3. What was the small tunnel for?
4. Why was there a small hole at the top?
5. What was the igloo like inside?

History of Shelter 4

Early homes of Australian Aboriginal people

The Australian Aboriginal people moved around from place to place. They understood the land, and never mistreated it. They would never take all the food plants from one place, but left some so there were enough seeds to produce more plants. Their homes were easily built from the materials around them, like bark, grass and sticks. When they moved on, they simply built new homes. Australian Aboriginal people now live in permanent homes made of modern building materials.

Draw and write a description of some of the early Australian Aboriginal homes.



History of Shelter 5

Traditional Fijian homes

Bure is the Fijian word for a wood-and-straw hut.

The traditional Fijian people built bures out of the materials around them. The materials were either stacked together, tied together by rope, or a both. Bures were for the men.

The other type of house was the vale. This was the family house. Both of these buildings were dark and smoky inside, often with no windows and usually only one low door. Vales had hearth pits where the women cooked. The packed earth floor was covered with grass or fern leaves and then carpeted with pandanus leaf or coconut leaf mats.

1. Make a list of 5 materials that you might use when building a bure.
2. There were no nails or screws, so how did the bures hold together?
3. Who used the bures?
4. What was the family home called?
5. What is a hearth pit?
6. Describe the floor of the vale.

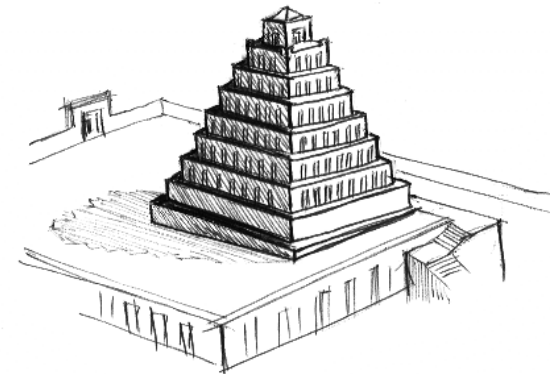


History of Shelter 6

Famous buildings around the world

The Tower of Babel (Babylon, now Iraq)

You can read about this tower in Genesis 11. It was built by the descendants of Noah, who thought they were so great that they could reach heaven. God saw their proud hearts and put a stop to the building by confusing their languages. Because they suddenly spoke different languages they couldn't communicate with one another to finish the building project. It is believed that the tower was a 90 metre high stepped pyramid called a ziggurat.



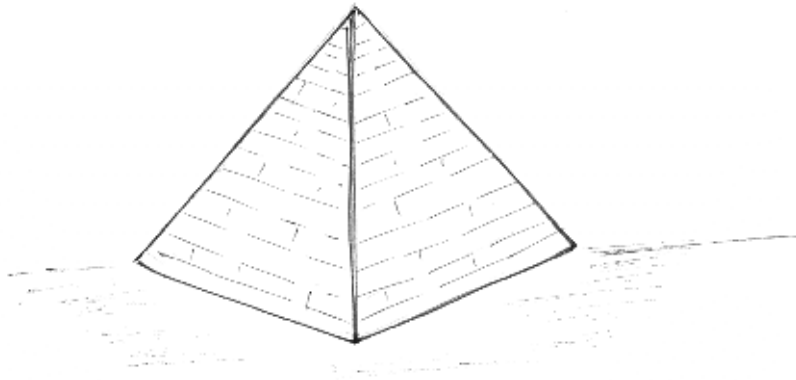
1. Draw the Tower of Babel.
2. Why was the Tower of Babel built?
3. Why wasn't it finished?

History of Shelter 7

Famous buildings around the world

The Pyramid of Giza (Egypt)

Like the people who built the tower of Babel, the Egyptians also wanted to build tall structures to get closer to heaven. The Egyptians worshiped false gods. They buried the pharaohs in the pyramids, along with their treasures, and food for their next life. Without steel or concrete, the only way of building high in ancient times was to pile stone blocks on top of one another. Slaves were used to haul the huge stone blocks. God's people, the Israelites were slaves to the Egyptian pharaoh at the time, but God chose Moses to set them free. The Great Pyramid of Giza was completed about 2550 BC and was 146 metres high.



1. Draw the pyramid of Giza
2. Why did the Egyptians bury the pharaohs with food and treasure?

History of Shelter 8

Famous buildings around the world

The Colosseum (Rome, Italy)

About 2,000 years ago, the city of Rome was at the heart of a vast empire. The Romans built huge arenas called amphitheatres. Men called gladiators fought each other or wild animals, while people watched. Sometimes Christians were put in the arena with wild animals. The Colosseum, in Rome, was the biggest amphitheatre they built. It had room for about 50,000 people. The Romans sometimes flooded the Colosseum and watched ships fighting each other in sea battles.

The Colosseum had three layers of arches and the arena was oval shaped. There were about 80 entrances, and tickets had the right entrance number stamped on them. Slaves and women sat on wooden benches at the back. The other seats were marble.



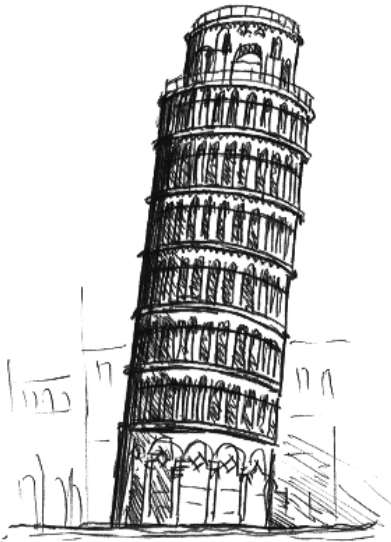
1. Draw the Colosseum.
2. What was it used for?
3. What did the Roman government do to Christians?

History of Shelter 9

Famous buildings around the world

The leaning tower of Pisa (Italy)

The 55 metre high leaning tower of Pisa in Italy was built between 1174 and 1350. Unfortunately it was built on soft ground without proper foundations. As a result, the soil has settled unevenly, making the tower lean about 5 metres towards the ground.



1. Draw the leaning tower of Pisa.
2. Why is it leaning?

History of Shelter 10

Famous buildings around the world

The Eiffel Tower (Paris, France)

Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, a French engineer, was one of the first to realise the great possibilities that iron had in building. Using iron was the first step to building skyscrapers. Eiffel made the highest iron building ever, for the Paris exhibition in 1889. It was 300 metres tall.

1. Draw the Eiffel Tower
2. Why was the Eiffel tower built?
3. What was it made from?
4. What did people learn from the building of the Eiffel Tower?



History of Shelter 11

Some important building structures

Engineers are people who work out the strength of a building. They must understand the strength of the materials and the forces that will make a building stay upright. Bridges, towers, domes, arches are some of the structures built by engineers.

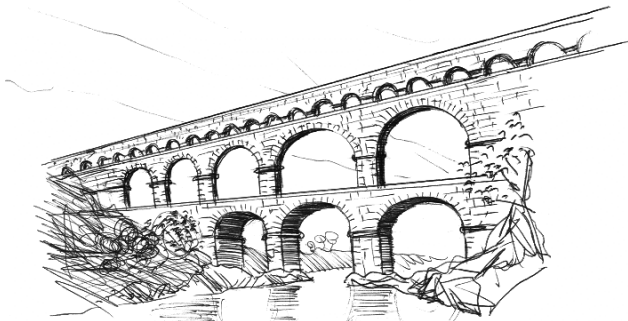
Arches

The Romans were the first to use the arch. They put an arch shaped wooden frame on top of two stone pillars. Stones were tightly packed together around the frame. Sometimes a wedge-shaped stone at the top held the other stones in place. This was called a **keystone**.

The arch is a very strong shape. It can support a heavier weight than a post and beam.

The Romans also used arches for strength in the building of aqueducts. An aqueduct is a canal built on top of a bridge made of arches. The series of arches support the canal of water above.

1. Why do builders use arches?
2. Draw pictures of buildings that have arches.



History of Shelter 12

Some important building structures

Roof frames

Making a strong waterproof roof can be the most difficult part of building a house. Flat roofs often leak. A sloping roof works better because the water runs off, but the roof must be strong enough to support the weight and stand up to high winds.

Triangles

If we look around us, we will see that many structures are triangular in design. Unlike the square frame, the triangular frame is rigid and will not change its shape.

Domes

It was the Romans who learned to make domes. They made a frame from wood and poured concrete over the wooden moulds. When the mixture dried, the framework was taken down.

The top of the dome was made of a slightly different mixture to make it lighter. At the top of the dome was a window called the eye. The dome was very strong.

1. Draw and describe the best kind of roof to keep the rain off.
2. Draw a building with a dome shaped roof.
3. What are some dome-shaped things that we use?

