

# Topic

Prepare for learning: How are these two houses different?



Poor Egyptian house



Rich Egyptian house

LO: To understand Ancient Egyptian homes.

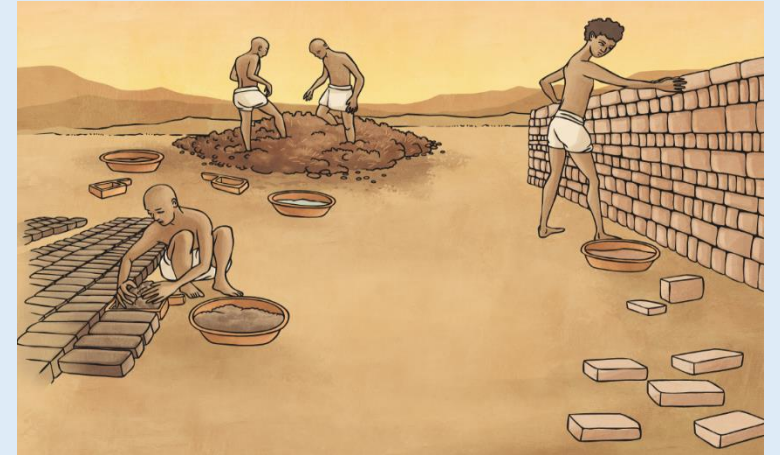
Success Criteria:

- I can identify what an Ancient Egyptian would look like.
- I can compare poor and rich Ancient Egyptian homes.
- I can share my comparisons with my peers.

# What were Ancient Egyptian houses made of?

Almost all of Egypt is a desert and in ancient Egypt, they needed to use any fertile land for growing crops. This means that there wasn't that many trees for building houses. The Egyptians had to use whatever they had around and this included mud and reeds.

Early in Egyptian history, the people made huts for their houses out of mud and **papyrus reeds**. However, houses built close to the edge of the river where water was accessible caused a major problem. Each year when there was flooding in the river Nile, it would wash away the mud huts. The Egyptians decided to start using the mud to create bricks, which were stronger than just plain mud.



**papyrus reeds**



# What did their houses look like?

The houses had front and back doors. Each door was built about 4 feet off the ground to reduce the amount of sand that worked itself inside the house. Most of the houses had three rooms and all of the homes had flat roofs. People often slept, cooked, and ate at the top of their houses' flat roofs.

The windows were cut high to keep out sand. The windows had bars on them to keep out wild animals. They also acted to reduce theft, although crime was very low in ancient Egypt. All windows and doors had reed mat coverings to keep flies, dust and heat out.



# What did a family house look like?



## An Egyptian Family at Home

A flat roof was often used for eating and sleeping.

Most Egyptians built their homes with bricks made of sun-dried mud from the River Nile

Small windows to let in little light and to keep the house cool.

Inside was an entrance hall, a room for social activities, a bedroom, a kitchen and storage space. There was little furniture.

Grains were stored for making bread or beer.

Animals were kept in an enclosed yard.

The home of a typical worker or farmer in Ancient Egypt looked something like this.

# How were the rich homes different to the poor homes?

Poor people had homes that usually had only one row of bricks, but the wealthier people often had two and even three rows of bricks. The mud bricks were cheap to make, but they found out that after a couple of years, they started to crumble. The very richest people had enough money to have homes made out of stone and they also had granite stone gateways. Most of the houses had up to 10 rooms and all of the homes had flat roofs. Many of the homes of the wealthy people were built so that they had a courtyard in the centre. These courtyards had areas to grow fruits and vegetables as well as flower gardens. Some of these homes had indoor toilets and bathrooms.





# A model of a typical Egyptian home dating from around 4000 years ago.



The poorest Egyptians lived in cramped one room houses. Furniture was a luxury and those who could afford it had low chairs and tables made from local wood and beds made out of mud brick.

However, rich Egyptians lived in luxurious villas with many different rooms and furniture made from expensive imported wood.

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# Time, pair, share: Up to how many rooms did a wealthy Ancient Egyptian family house have?

Homes of the rich were bigger and contained at least 10 rooms. The walls were usually painted in blue or yellow and the ceilings were colourful as well. In the rich houses, the floors were covered with mud tiles. They also contained many artefacts which were displayed as ornaments in their home.





# Here are some items from a Egyptian home.



**Querns**  
The ancient Egyptians used stone querns like this to grind wheat into flour.



**Cosmetics**  
Pots like these were used to store make-up and cosmetics. Ancient Egyptians decorated their eyes with black kohl eyeliner. Both men and women painted their eyes.



**Pots**  
Clay pots were used for storing things like water, beer and food.



**Combs**  
Just like a modern comb, these are used for brushing hair. Combs could be made of different materials. Some combs were made of hippopotamus ivory!



**Headrests**  
There were no pillows in Ancient Egypt. To get comfortable wooden headrests like this were used.

Independent task - Using the information you have just read, draw a table in your book and compare rich and poor Ancient Egyptian houses.

Compare rich and poor Egyptian homes



Poor Homes

Wealthy Homes
