



Homes Around The World

Everybody needs somewhere to live. People live in lots of different types of houses all around the world. They have all been designed to keep the owner safe and comfortable in different conditions. Let's take a look at some of them.

Bricks

Lots of houses in Europe and North America are built with bricks. These are very strong and keep the inside of the house nice and warm. These are the houses that we are most used to seeing.

Underground

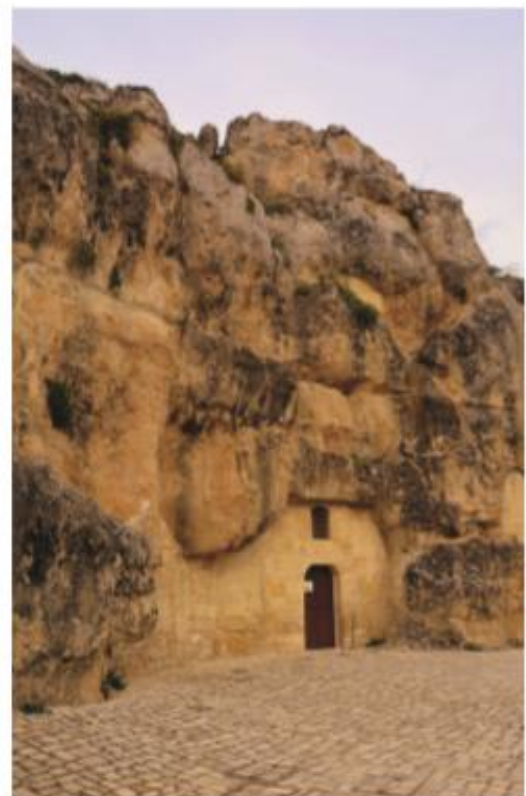
It gets very hot and uncomfortable in Australia. The people who live in a few small towns have an ingenious solution. They have dug their houses underground. These are much cooler and more comfortable.

Caves

The people of some North African countries also need protection from the heat. Some of them have built amazing hideaways in natural caves. Many of these were dug thousands of years ago and are still being used today. Some have even been turned into hotels!

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Where are houses built from bricks?
2. Where does it get very hot and uncomfortable?
3. Where do some people live in caves?
4. What type of snow is used for igloos?
5. What is in front of a traditional Hanok house?



Stilt Houses

It rains a lot in Southeast Asia. It rains so much that some communities build their houses on wooden stilts. This keeps them dry when the land floods. How clever is that? They also have steeply sloped roofs to allow the rainwater to wash away easily. What do you think would happen if they had flat roofs?



Igloos

Lots of people think that Inuit people live in igloos. In fact, they mostly live in regular houses. They do use igloos when they go on hunting trips though. These are made of compacted snow and ice which help to make them very snug places even when it is freezing cold outside.

Hanok

Hanok houses are traditional Korean houses built out of wood. They are colourfully decorated. Traditionally, they were built with a mountain behind them and a stream at the front. They are easily identified by their curved roofs. The wooden floors are sometimes heated in the winter with smoke from a fire.



This is just a small selection of the different types of houses around the world. Can you think of any more?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

I

Why does building a home underground help to keep it cool?

V

In the Hanok section, which word means that the houses are painted?

V

In the Igloos section, what does the word “snug” tell you about them?

S

Why do different houses have different designs?

P

Why do you think Inuit people don't live in igloos all of the time?