

Shelter-So Alike and Yet So Different

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Promoting Geographic Knowledge Through Literature
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Overview - There are as many different types of shelter as there are regions, cultures, and natural resources.

Grade Level - K-5

Geographic Theme- Human-Environment Interaction, Place, and Region

National Geography Standards -

Environment and Society #14 How human actions modify the physical environment.

Places and Regions #4 The physical and human characteristics of places

Connection to Curriculum - Social Studies/Geography, Language Arts

Learning Objectives

The student will:

1. Recognize that there are many different forms of shelter.
2. Understand that in early times, shelter often was determined by the natural resources of the area.

3. Understand that in modern times, shelter is determined by available building materials.
4. See similarities and differences in shelter from one culture or region to another.
5. Give examples of changes in shelter over the years.
6. Give reasons why shelter changes in an area.

Procedure

1. Students will brainstorm the term "shelter" and list examples of shelter.
2. On a world map they will locate South America-Panama- the approximate location of Sabana Grande.
3. In writing journal, they will predict what the shelter of the people of this village would look like.
4. Read The Little Painter of Sabana Grande by Patricia Maloney Markun.
5. In writing journal, compare prediction to the actual house of the village. Draw and color one of the village houses.
6. On the world map, find Sweden.
7. Discuss the locations of the two places (Sweden and Sabana Grande) and how the climate would differ.

8. Read A Very Cool Place to Visit from "Time Magazine for Kids". (attached)
10. In journal, draw a scene showing the shelter referred to in the article about the hotel in Sweden.
11. Read to the class This is My House by Arthur Dorros, discuss the variety of shelters described.
12. Independently or in groups of 2-3, use magazine pictures or draw pictures showing one form of shelter from long ago, 3 forms of shelter used today but from three different cultures, and one form of shelter we might have in the future.
13. Do a venn diagram comparing your family's shelter to a type of shelter that is very different, give at least three similarities and three differences.

Materials

The Little Painter of Sabana Grande story by Patricia Maloney Markun, "Time for Kids" article A Very Cool Place to Visit, (attached) world map, magazines, art supplies, venn diagram, writing journal, This is My House by Arthur Dorros

Time

3-4 45 min. periods

Assessment

Venn Diagram

Teacher evaluation of shelter picture project

Teacher observation of class discussion

Extension of the Lesson

In drawing or a written summary give a report on one of the extension books available

Read Cactus Hotel by Brenda Z. Guiberson and give examples of animal shelters

Make a list of materials that could be used for shelter

Construct a shelter using the materials around you (do not forget recyclable materials)

Do a creative writing telling how your life would change if you lived in a very basic shelter like a cave, hut, tent, car.

Draw a shelter that you would like to live in and explain in writing why.

References:

Markun, Patricia Maloney The Little Painter of Sabana Grande 1993 Simon & Schuster

Dorros, Arthur This is My House 1992 Scholastic

STUDY SKILLS

Read a Map

The country of Panama lies in Central America. It is home to a great many plants and animals. Sabana Grande is a village in central Panama. Like many other villages in Panama, Sabana Grande is a rural community—a place of farms or open country.



Use the map to answer these questions.

- 1 What is the capital of Panama?
- 2 What country is on the western border of Panama?
- 3 What are the three cities closest to the Panama Canal?
- 4 In which direction is Sabana Grande from David?
- 5 Why do you think Panama has been called the "crossroads of the Americas"?

Chill Out!

TIME
FOR KIDS

Sometimes on a winter night, the cold creeps in. It creeps under wool blankets. It creeps into the warmest pajamas. It creeps inside the heaviest socks. *Brrrr!* It finds a set of toes to nip.

At one hotel in Sweden, the cold doesn't have to sneak in. Guests *know* it will nip at their toes, fingers, and noses. Welcome to the Ice Hotel! The building and some of the furniture are made of ice and snow.

Why would anyone spend money to stay in a hotel like this? Kerstin Nilsson, who works there, says people love the beauty of the place. "It is pure winter—white and fresh snow." And she says there are "beautiful northern lights in the sky." It is also very quiet.

Guests sleep on beds made of ice and covered with reindeer skins.



A reindeer greets visitors as they arrive at the hotel.



This isn't an ice hotel. It's an ice palace! It was built for a winter carnival in Harbin, China.

Each guest gets an extra-warm snowsuit and a sleeping bag for the night. Guests need all the warm things they can get. The hotel's 100 beds are made from ice blocks covered with reindeer skins.

You have to warm yourself up before you get into bed. "Do some push-ups at bedtime," says Johan Woutilainen, a hotel worker. Once inside their sleeping bags, guests stay warm through the night.

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CONNECTION

When visitors leave in the morning, they get a special card. It proves they have conquered the cold by staying at the hotel.

Each spring, when the weather warms up, the hotel melts. When winter comes, a new hotel is built from fresh ice and snow. Once again, the Ice Hotel is ready to welcome people into the cold.

NICE ICE EXPERIMENT

Here is a cold experiment you can do even in the middle of summer!

What You Need

- ⊗ table salt
- ⊗ an ice cube
- ⊗ a piece of string



What You Do

1. Place one end of the string on the ice cube.
2. Sprinkle some salt over the string and the cube.
3. Wait a few seconds. Gently lift the string. The cube will come up with it.



Why It Works

Salt warms the ice and makes it melt. When the salt melts away, the ice freezes again.

