

HOMESTEAD SHELTERS

Introductory Set

Ask students to describe various structures that people from around the world live or lived in. This should lead to a discussion that includes shelters such as tents, teepees, igloos, etc. Why do people build different types of dwellings? As a class discuss the relationship between land, climate and shelter. What information did students gather during their visit on this topic?

Procedure

Make a list of at least 3 different types of structures that homesteaders utilized. Describe each in detail.

Historic Palmer-Epard Cabin:

<http://homesteadcongress.blogspot.com/2010/05/homesteads-unique-palmer-epard-cabin.html>

Sod Houses: <http://bit.ly/a3P5k5>

Prairie Settlement: Nebraska Photographs and Family Letters, 1862-1912

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/prairie-settlement/history4.html>

In groups, discuss the different types of structures built by homesteaders and why they chose those structures. Have each student select one of those types of shelters and create an accurate 3-D visual of it using Google Sketchup. The scale, building materials, and surrounding landscape should all be historically accurate, considering the time and location.

Finally, each student will compose a 1-2 page explanation of how their visual is accurate and represents the building materials available to the homesteaders of that area, as well as the limited time frame available to homesteaders to build that shelter.



(above left) Earthen Lodge (Photo Courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society)

(above right) Palmer-Epard Log Cabin at Homestead National Monument of America

(left) Sod House