

Homes

Curriculum links

The resource can contribute - either explicitly or implicitly - to the study of History, Art, Science (materials) and English (reading) at KS1.

Overview

Archive section

This episode explores how homes have changed within living memory in the UK, ie within about the last 75 years. It covers:

- how domestic tasks once done by hand are now commonly done by appliances
- changes in the materials used to build new homes
- how modern lifestyles impact the design of homes and multifunctional spaces.

The quiz

The quiz shows three kitchens from contrasting decades. The children are invited to identify the 1950s kitchen.

The interview

The interview is with architect, Ian Simpson.

Ian recalls his home when he was growing up in the 1950s and 1960s and describes sharing a bedroom with six siblings, living in a terrace with a back yard, and living above his parents' café. He remembers the outdoor toilet and bathing in a tin bath in front of the fire.

Ian considers some of the differences between old and new homes, including factors like the materials used for construction, the location and size of new homes, and the trend towards high-rise buildings.

He also describes modern housing estates offering more space for front and back gardens and compares older homes which had smaller windows with more modern homes that tend to have larger windows allowing more light inside.

Ian now lives in an apartment at the top of a tower in a city centre.



Follow-up activities

Local walk

If possible, take your class on a local walk near your school. Find two locations where you can stop and look at residential homes and ideally take some photos.

Ask the children to make a list of the things that are similar and different about the homes, especially thinking about materials.

If you can't do this, you could look at photos taken of local homes.

When do the children think they were built – a long time ago or recently? Why?

Questions sheet

Use the [questions sheet](#) and invite parents or grandparents to visit your classroom. Practise the questions with the children before the interview day and ask the visitors about their homes.

If this is not possible, you could use this as a home learning activity.

Sorting worksheet

Use the [sorting worksheet](#) to match the different kitchens to the decades on the timeline. Some children might add information about other rooms or items in the home that were discussed in the interview or from their own knowledge.

Other areas of the curriculum

Art (Key Stage 1)

Use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination.

Use the prompt 'Home sweet home' to inspire a painting of a group or selection of homes. Your children could be inspired by:

- Valeriane Leblond
- Gerard Laplau
- Kyffin Williams
- 'Coronation Street' by LS Lowry
- 'After Lunch' by Patrick Caulfield which combines a photographic image of a castle with blue and mainly black lines to depict the rest of the image.

Science (Year 1)

Describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials.

Gather some of the materials used in homes and ask children to observe the materials carefully and notice the properties of each.

Ideally show the children glass windows, tiles for roofs - eg slate, wood, plastic uPVC, brick, stone. The children might notice whether the materials are colder to touch, rough, smooth, hard, strong, transparent or opaque etc.

Ask where in a home the different materials are used.

English (Year 1 and 2)

Understand both the books that they can already read accurately and fluently and those that they listen to by: drawing on what they already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher; making inferences on the basis of what is being said and done; answering and asking questions. Participate in discussion about books.

You could read books related to homes and buildings with your class and use it as an opportunity to infer what might happen in the story and to ask and answer questions.

You could use the first part of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, where we are introduced to the Bucket home; or you could use a story like *Brick* by Joshua David Stein or *The Building Boy* by Ross Montgomery.