

Middle school

Objective

Learn about the materials and labor that create a home.

■ PREPARE

You will need the following materials:

- Markers or crayons.
- Pens or pencils.
- A computer with Internet access.
- Printouts of the “Parts and materials” and “Types of work” worksheets for each family member.

■ LEARN

- Explain that houses are built from many different parts and materials. These include wood, metal, paint, windows, sinks, etc. Tell children you will be looking for such parts and materials in a game you are about to play.
- Give a copy of the “Parts and materials” worksheet to each family member. Explain that you are going to watch a video of a house being built. They all should write down as many different parts and materials as they can find in the video.
- Locate the following YouTube video on the Internet: “World Record: Fastest House Build (Habitat for Humanity)” at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwEcW6hH-B8>.
- Watch the video and complete the “Parts and materials” worksheet. You may need to pause or rewind; the video goes fast! It’s okay to watch it more than once.
- After you’ve watched the video together, compare your lists. Talk about what parts and materials everyone has discovered.
- Next, explain that people do many types of work to create a home. These include painting walls, hammering nails, laying carpet, etc. The next game is to see how many different types of work you can see people doing in the video. Give a “Types of work” worksheet to each family member.
- Watch the video a few more times. Everyone should

write down as many different types of work as they can find.

- After you’ve watched the video, compare your lists. See what types of work everyone has discovered.

■ REFLECT

- Think about one room in your home. Talk together about the parts and materials that make up that room. Where did they come from? Were they new or old? Discuss what work you did to “build” that room (paint, wallpaper, fix, rearrange, etc.). Did you “build” the room sustainably? If not, how might you have approached it in a more environmentally friendly way? (For example, you might have used eco-friendly paints or reused old furniture.)
- Visit the Green Build section of Habitat for Humanity’s Web site at <http://www.habitat.org/youthprograms/greenbuild>. Take a tour of the house, and read how each room can be “built” more eco-friendly.
- Take a moment to compare some of the green practices with your own home. Make a list of a few things everyone can do to make your home “greener.”
- Are you planning on remodeling? Do you need to buy a new appliance? Is there some household item you no longer need? Talk about another way you can be environmentally conscious, through Habitat ReStores. Habitat ReStores are outlets that accept home improvement goods to resell to the public at a fraction of the retail price. Visit the following link to read more about them: <http://www.habitat.org/env/restores.aspx>. Your family can be “greener” simply by purchasing goods and materials from a ReStore or making a donation of unneeded goods. Together, decide if your family could make a donation to or purchase from a Habitat ReStore in your area.

Parts and materials

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

Types of work

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____