



# An Egyptian House



The ancient Egyptians used many resources found in their environment to survive. Very little trees grew in the desert so what do you think they used to build their houses? Their houses were made from mud and reeds that grew along the Nile River. Mud bricks were baked in the hot sun until they became as hard as rocks. Keeping cool was difficult in the hot climate.

Egyptians did the best they could to build their houses to keep out the heat. Thick walls helped to keep it cool inside their small houses. Windows were small slits high up on the walls. There were vents in the roofs to trap the cool air. The outside walls were painted white to reflect the hot sun.

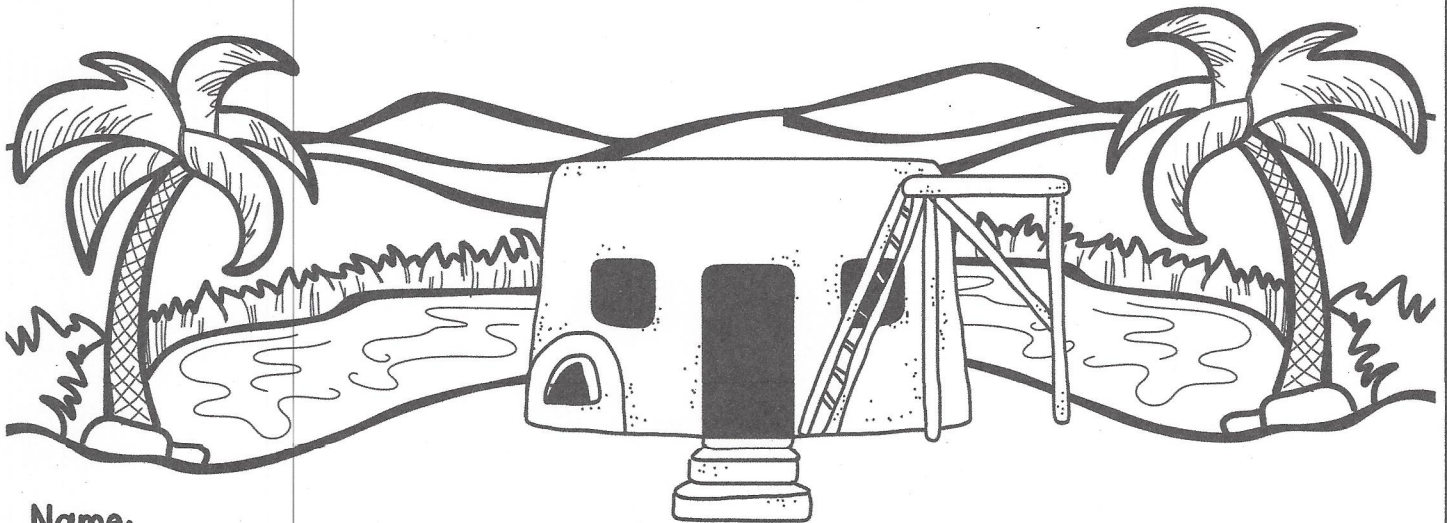
At night, people sat outside on top of their flat roofs to enjoy the cool evening air. People had very little furniture in their houses. It was usually just stools, beds, and a small table. Wealthier families had bigger houses with painted walls, gardens, more furniture, and servants.

Tell 3 ways the ancient Egyptians built their houses to try to keep them cool?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

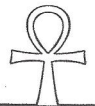
3. \_\_\_\_\_



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# Traveling down the Nile



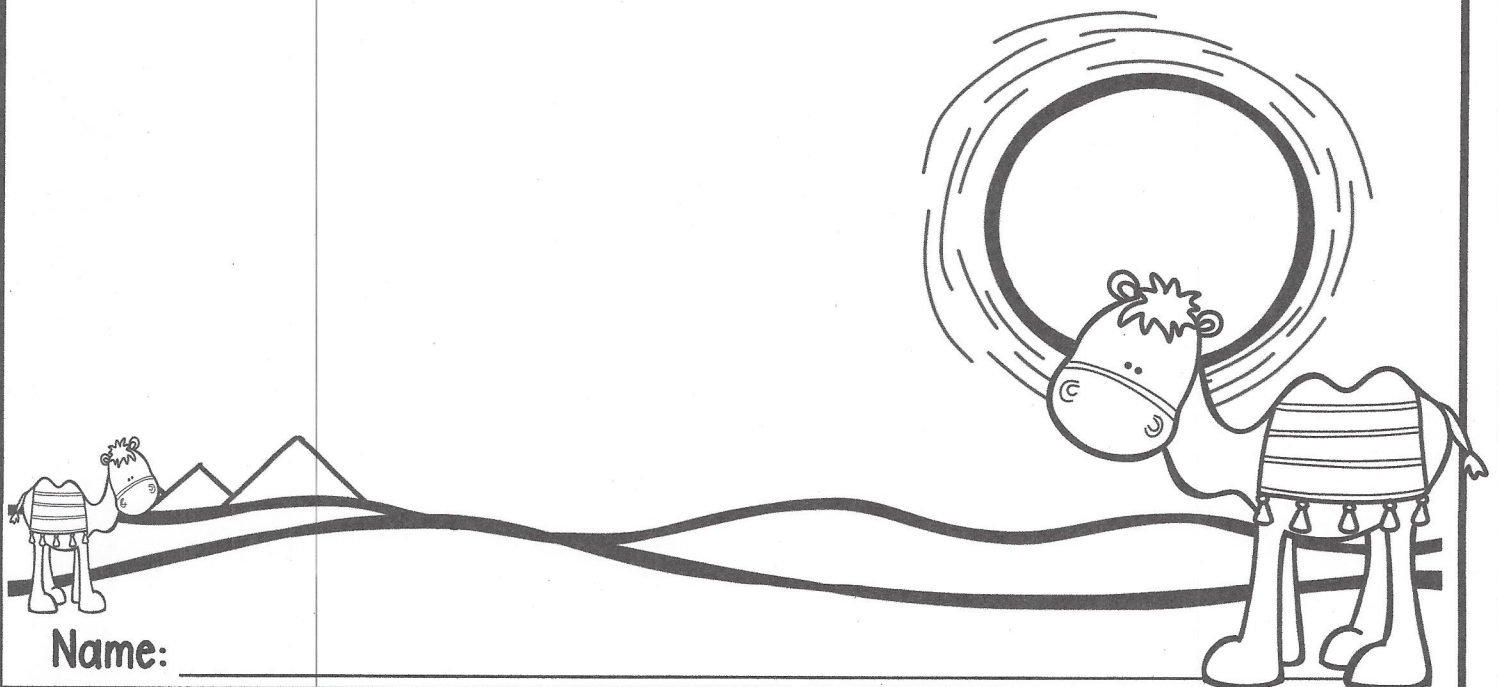
The Egyptians didn't need roads to travel around Egypt. Instead, they traveled by boat on the Nile River. Most cities in ancient Egypt were close to the Nile. As a result, they became expert boat builders. The first Egyptians made small boats from papyrus plants. They steered the boats with oars and poles. These boats worked well for fishing and short distances. Over time, the Egyptian people learned how to make larger boats and ships from wood. These ships were used to carry huge stones to build their enormous pyramids. They sailed up and down the Nile River to sell their goods and trade with other civilizations.

Another popular form of transportation during this time was riding on the back of a camel. Can you imagine sitting 7 feet off the ground on a long-necked, one-humped animal? Camels were well-adapted to the desert habitat and could travel long distances without needing much water. Soon enough, the ancient Egyptians figured out that camels were the best way to travel over land. Camels were faster than horses because they didn't need to stop a lot for water and could carry heavier loads. Would you rather travel by boat or camel?

Do you think it was easier to travel by boat or by camel? Why? Explain.

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