

Houses and Homes

Everyone needs to have somewhere they can sleep and feel safe, dry and warm. We all need somewhere to take shelter from the weather. People used to live in caves but over time they learned to build their own shelters, and then homes.

The Celts

The Celtic tribes built roundhouses made from wood and straw, stuck on with mud. This was called wattle and daub. They did not have any windows, and there was only one room where everyone lived



together. Even their animals lived in the same room with them! There would be a fire in the middle of their home, and some of the smoke would escape through a small hole at the top of the roof.



The Tudors

During the Tudor times, people began to care more about what their houses actually looked like. Their property was made from wood and the spaces in between were filled using small sticks and wet clay.

This meant that there was a black and white effect. They also built their houses very close together which made the streets very narrow.

In the Georgian times, people had to pay a heavy tax for windows. The more money you had, the more windows you could afford. Poor people sometimes bricked up their windows so that they did not have to pay the window tax.

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The Georgians

After the Great Fire of London, new laws were made to make sure people used materials that would not burn easily in a fire. These materials were brick and slate, rather than cheaper material like wood and clay. A typical Georgian house was very elegant, with pillars at the front.



The Victorians

During the Victorian times, railways and factories were suddenly being used. This meant that building materials could now be carried by train to different parts of the country. People could build their houses using materials from anywhere instead of always having to use local materials.

Bricks became cheaper and were very available. Rich Victorians even made rooms for their servants to live in the attic!

Bungalows:

A bungalow is a building where all the rooms are on one level, so there are no stairs, and no bedrooms upstairs.



Detached houses:

Detached houses are not joined to any other house.



Semi-detached house:

A semi-detached house means two houses are joined together down one side. This means the two homes share a roof.



Flats and apartments:

These are tall buildings split into individual homes. You might have to go up in a lift or walk up a lot of stairs. They do not have their own garden but some places have a shared garden.



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