



# The Universal Need for Housing

**Directions:** As you read Chapter 1, answer the following questions using complete sentences. Later you can use this reading guide to study for the Chapter 1 Test.

1. What is the basic role of a home? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What are the three basic types of housing and an early example of each type?

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3. What accounted for the fact that individual shelters were very similar in primitive societies?

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4. What led to distinctions in individual housing as communities developed?

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5. Where did the wealthiest people make their homes in early communities and why?

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6. What four physical human needs does housing help meet? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What are some ways in which the physical needs met by housing differ within regions of a country or among different cultures?

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8. What are *psychological needs*? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Which psychological needs are met by housing? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What is the *family life cycle*? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Describe a typical family life cycle in American culture. \_\_\_\_\_

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12. What is *universal design*? Identify at least two groups that universal design is intended to benefit.

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Chapter 1: Reading Guide (continued)

13. What is the difference between *barrier-free design* and *adaptable design*? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. What are three challenges that face builders of housing in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Community Report Card



As noted in Chapter 1 of your *Homes & Interiors* textbook, many people have special needs when it comes to housing. Designers and builders today answer these needs by applying the philosophy of universal design. How well has your community addressed its residents' needs? In this activity, you will find out.

## Part I

**Directions:** Conduct a walking tour of your community to determine whether it meets the needs of older citizens, people with disabilities, and families with small children. Use the checklist below to guide your evaluation. Record additional notes as needed on a separate sheet of paper.

✓ Cuts in curbs at intersections for wheelchairs, walkers, and baby strollers	Yes	No
✓ Street signs large enough to be seen by people with visual impairments	Yes	No
✓ Traffic lights aligned vertically so as to be useful to people with color blindness	Yes	No
✓ Ground-level or ramp entrances to public buildings, such as post offices	Yes	No
✓ Ground-level or ramp entrances to business establishments, banks, etc.	Yes	No
✓ Sufficient parking spaces for vehicles with official handicapped permits	Yes	No
✓ Secure handrails on all public stairways and ramps	Yes	No
✓ Doorways wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and people on crutches	Yes	No
✓ Braille elevator plates in public buildings to aid people with severe visual impairment	Yes	No
✓ Elevator buttons accessible to people of differing heights or in wheelchairs	Yes	No
✓ Restroom facilities in public and private buildings with accommodations for people in wheelchairs	Yes	No
✓ Restroom facilities in public and private buildings with changing station for families with very young children	Yes	No

## Part II

**Directions:** On a separate sheet of paper, write an essay based on your findings. In your essay, mention the needed improvements as well as areas in which your community has been effective in meeting its residents' needs.



## The Earliest Homes

Much of what we know about the early history of housing came to light thanks to archaeologists. These are scientists who study history through the relics and remains of old civilizations. The chart below contains several archaeological discoveries organized by the date they were found.

**Directions:** In the blanks provided, number the discoveries chronologically—in terms of when they actually occurred—beginning with the earliest. Then answer the questions on the following page.

A. ____	October 2000	Remains of what is believed to be the oldest known human dwelling are discovered in a layer of earth in Kamitakamori, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan. The dwelling is thought to be about 600,000 years old.
B. ____	October 2000	A severe drought in Israel's Jordan Valley causes the Sea of Galilee to recede, revealing the well-preserved remains of the oldest brush huts ever found. The six homes are believed to be 19,400 years old. Found within the remains are chipped stone tools, animal bones, a human grave, several hearths, beds made of grass and clay, and an area believed to be a garbage dump.
C. ____	May 2000	Stone tools found within fossil reefs near Africa's Red Sea coast are thought to be evidence of the human species' first beach town. Estimates place the age of the artifacts at approximately 125,000 years.
D. ____	March 2000	Archaeologists uncover the site of what they believe to be the world's oldest artificial structure at Chichibu, Japan, north of Tokyo. The find includes 10 post holes forming two irregular pentagons, which may have been the foundations of two huts. Thirty stone tools are also found scattered around the site, which is believed to be half a million years old.
E. ____	November 1998	Thirteen stone tools are discovered at Tsukidate, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan. The tools are estimated to have been used 600,000 to 780,000 years ago.
F. ____	January 1998	Traces of the oldest human-made shelter are found in sub-Saharan Africa. The structure is estimated to have been built at least 10,000 years ago.
G. ____	October 1998	Highway workers in southern France discover a prehistoric cave with three human skeletons, cooking pots, an ax, and a vase. Archaeologists estimate the items to date between 8,000 and 3,500 B.C.

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### Thinking It Over

1. Where is the oldest known human-built home found? When was this discovery made?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the approximate age of what archaeologists believe to be the beach town? Where was the find made?  
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3. What customs or rituals are suggested by the artifacts found in Israel's Jordan Valley?  
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4. What customs or rituals are suggested by the artifacts found in southern France?  
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5. In your opinion, which archaeological discovery is the most important to an understanding of the origins of human housing?  
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