

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Traditional Structures

Background Information: People have been building useful structures for thousands of years. Early builders probably chose their designs out of necessity and used materials that were available from the area in which they lived. As new technologies became available, structures were modified. Often the design of a structure reveals its purpose.

Investigative Question: What factors influence the shape, size, composition and purpose of a chosen traditional structure?

Procedure:

1. Select a traditional structure you would like to research. You may prefer one made from natural materials, such as an igloo, tipi, earth mound, or other structure built by aboriginal peoples. Or you may choose a structure built elsewhere in the world, such as Stonehenge, the Sphinx, the Great Wall of China, or the Great Pyramid.
2. Collect information about your structures such as: when it was built, what materials were used, it's purpose, who built it, what structural characteristics were used to give the structure strength, durability and purpose.
3. Record and report what you found out in a poster presentation format. Your presentation may be digital or paper.

Observations:

1. Name of this structure	
2. Year(s) it was built	
3. Location of structure	
4. Who built this structure	
5. Classification of structure (circle)	(natural, manufactured) and (mass, frame, or shell)
6. Main materials in this structure	
7. Joints used in this structure	
8. The structure's function	
9. This structure's appearance	
10. Steps to build this structure	

Analysis:

1. List at least 2 sources for the information you find in books or on the Internet during your research.

2. Draw the structure you have researched on a separate piece of paper and label any significant structural features and materials.

3. What was the intended function of the structure? Why did the original builders choose this design?

4. What features of your structure are designed to enhance its appearance (aesthetics)?

5. What scientific (or mathematical) knowledge did the builders apply in designing and building their structure?

Extension:

Build a scale model of the structure you selected.