4-H Housing Project Book

Finding Your Own Place

Unit 1
This Book Belongs To:

Name _____________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Age ___________________ Number of Years in 4-H _______________________

County __________________________________________________________

Name of 4-H Club __________________________________________________

Number of Years in Home Environment Project __________________________

Grade in School ___________________________________________________
Introduction

Since the beginning of time mankind has needed shelter to meet his physical, psychological, and social needs. Housing has taken many forms, depending on the location and the climate. The form of the housing depends upon its function. For example, very cold climates require housing with walls to keep the cold air out and the warm air inside. In addition, the kind of housing depends on available building materials. Lots of trees led to log houses, tall grass led to grass huts, and ice blocks led to igloos.

Today there are many choices available. It's fun to look ahead and plan for the kind of housing you would like for your home at different times in the future. Your first home may be an apartment or house that you will rent. Later, when you are sure you will stay in the community and have enough money saved for a down payment on a house or condominium, you may plan to buy.

In this project, you will look ahead to sometime in the future, when you will need to find housing. You may want to think what you and your family will be like and what your needs will be: Will you be working? Will you live alone or have a roommate? Will you be married? Will you have children? You will want to consider the needs and wants of everyone to find the right house or apartment.

Objectives

After you complete Finding Your Own Place Unit I, you will be able to do the following.
- Expand your housing vocabulary
- Understand the need for housing and how housing meets the needs of family members.
- Identify housing that will fulfill your future needs and wants.
- Recognize factors that affect housing selection.
- Experience satisfaction from a home that expresses personal creativity and family lifestyle.
- Share what has been learned about housing with others.
- Develop leadership ability, build character and assume citizenship responsibilities.
You can do this project alone or with your 4-H club. Some activities require discussion with others. For these you may want to work with a group. Finish all the activities and complete at least two of the "Things To Do." Complete the project summary when you have finished and write a story. Share what you learn with others through an exhibit, "Show and Tell," or demonstration.

A home is much more than a shelter of wood, bricks, plaster, or window glass. Its creation is shaped by the needs of the individual or family. But without people, a house is only a house.

Why do people live in so many different kinds of houses? Some factors that influence the choice are family structure, family mobility, neighborhood, climate, cost, occupation, personal tastes, and stage in the life cycle. The primary functions common to all housing are safety, security, and a place to rest and recuperate.

Beyond the primary functions a house provides are needs it must meet for you and your family: social needs, such as privacy, status, and recreation; and psychological needs such as beauty, order, and self-sufficiency; and economic needs such as affordable housing and a good investment. The values, attitudes, and needs of each person in a family should be considered when looking for a home. Your home should serve as a foundation for all aspects of your family life. (Some of these words are described on the next page.)

**Home Environment Project**

**Is a House a Home?**

Is a house a home? It could be, but without people a house is only a house.

**Please, Make This House a Home**

I am a house,
Sometimes made of wood, sometimes made of stone.
But what really counts is...
Can this house be your home?
My foundation may be brick and plaster,
But it is your love and care that adds
The joy and laughter.
Let me provide you a place for rest and shelter,
Somewhere to call your very own.
I will give you privacy, comfort and security...
Oh please make this lonely house a home!

**Your Family's Housing Needs**

Make up a "pretend" family who is looking for a home. It could be your family right now or in the future when you leave home.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Family:</th>
<th>Male-M or Female-F</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Name</td>
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</table>
1. Know These Words!

Attitude — n., feeling toward a thing.
Dream — n., a wild fancy or hope; ambition.
Economical — adj., careful use of money or resources; not wasteful.
Lifestyle — n., way or style of living; reflecting attitudes and values.
Means — n., method used to achieve an end; can be money.
Mobility — n., the state of being easily moved.
Need — n., a necessity or requirement.
Physical — adj., pertaining to the body.
Privacy — adj., a place or area for the individual and his or her possessions.
Psychological — adj., pertaining to the mind or emotions.
Realistic — adj., practical; true to life.
Rural — adj., in the country.
Security — n., freedom from danger or risk.
Self-Sufficiency — n., can meet needs without help.
Shelter — n., a place or structure giving protection.
Social — adj., pertaining to society or relations with people.
Status — n., the position of a person in relation to others.
Suburban — adj., residential areas on the outskirts of town.
Urban — adj., in the city.
Value — n., a principle, standard or quality considered worthwhile.
Want — v., desire, wish.

2. What is a House?
What is a Home?

1. In your own words, how is a "home" different from a "shelter"?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. What characteristics of a house would meet your family's social needs? For example: Separate bedrooms would provide privacy.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. Their psychological needs? Example: Enough closets would provide order.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. Their economic needs? Example: A cost that would fit your family budget would provide affordable housing?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
A man’s home is his castle. That is, his home is more than just (3 across) or a place giving protection. But, it is a place for him to (5 down) ... to regain health and strength. Your (13 across), your place of dwelling can be your castle also.

Today you may decide to live in the (4 across) of your city. Tomorrow you may want more of the inner city (3 down) contacts with society. Your (8 across) or ability to move will dictate whether you will do one or both. Wherever you choose to live you must consider what you (2 down) or what your necessities are for your way of living or (12 across). Sometimes what you (11 across) or desire clouds your view and you end up with only a wild fancy, just a (7 down).

Take another look and decide what you (10 across) the most, what is worthwhile to you. Be (6 down), choosing what is practical for you. Consider your (14 across) or body needs and your emotional or (9 across) needs. And be (1 down) not wasting your money or resources. Keep these points in mind and turn your house into a castle.
Match Column A with Column B. Place the letter of Column A's match in the blank.

**Column A**
- Factors that Influence Housing Choices
- Primary Housing Functions
- Psychological Needs
- Economical Needs
- Social Needs

**Column B**
- a. Investment, Affordable
- b. Beauty, Self-sufficiency
- c. Recreation, Privacy
- d. Personal Taste, Cost, Neighborhood
- e. Provide safety and a place to rest
Read the following situations relating to values and housing. Circle the letter which best describes the value held important by the persons involved. Write your reasons in the blanks.

1. Sandy and Janice are to begin new jobs with the same firm next month. They decided to share living quarters. They both have cars, but they wanted an apartment within walking distance. They selected a modestly furnished apartment that would not require much decorating. What do you think is the value they held important for their housing? Why?
   a. status                      b. safety                      c. economy

2. Bernard and Genease married six months ago. They have been living in an apartment complex just five minutes from their parents’ homes. They have been considering buying a house. They want it close to their jobs, but not too close to their parents. What value do you suppose prompted their decision? Why?
   a. independence                b. safety                      c. creativity

3. Vicky just graduated from high school three months ago. She is an unwed mother of a two year old ... Shaundra. Vicky worked part time while in school. Her mother kept Shaundra for a small fee. Vicky's bookkeeping training helped her get a full time job and a promotion upon graduating. Vicky’s parents’ home had plenty of space for them but she decided to rent a small apartment close to her job and her parents. What value do you think Vicky based her decision on? Why?
   a. convenience                b. health                      c. responsibility

4. Marcel is in tenth grade. He is enrolled in his first woodworking class and machine shop. He likes both courses although he has only made “C’s” on his projects. Marcel presently lives with his divorced mother. He hopes to start building his own house soon after he graduates from high school. He has been saving his money earned from his afternoon paper route of two years. What do you think Marcel’s choice for housing is based on? Why?
   a. security                   b. dreams                     c. cleanliness
Select a home. How does this home meet your family needs? Decide for yourself by rating the following with an "E" for excellent, "G" for good and "F" for fair. Survey your family and see how their answers compare to yours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IS IT CLOSE ENOUGH TO . . .</th>
<th>My Response</th>
<th>Family Member-Name</th>
<th>Family Member-Name</th>
<th>Family Member-Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job Site</td>
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<td>Friends</td>
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<td>Stores and Shops</td>
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<td>Recreation Areas</td>
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<td>Fire, Police</td>
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<td>Public Transportation</td>
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| IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD . . .   |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Attractive                  |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Quiet                       |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Well-Kept                   |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Safe                        |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Friendly                    |             |                     |                     |                     |

| IS THERE ENOUGH SPACE FOR . . . |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Working at home              |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Parking                      |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Relaxing                     |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Expanding                    |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Gardening                    |             |                     |                     |                     |

| INSIDE THE HOUSE . . .       |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Easy to clean                |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Low Maintenance              |             |                     |                     |                     |
| Secure                       |             |                     |                     |                     |
Avoid These!!

- Dumps
- Gas Stations
- Noisy Traffic
- Air Pollution
- Factories
- Run-Down Houses
- Unpleasant Odors
- Railroads
- Air Traffic
Complete at least two of the following. Share what you learn with others.

1. Choose a house in a neighborhood different from yours, and using the checklist "Does This House Meet Your Needs?" decide if it would be a good choice for your family. Attach the checklist to the project book.

2. Make a bulletin board or poster showing one or more of the things to avoid when selecting your home's location. See "Avoid These." Take a photograph or draw a picture of your bulletin board or poster and attach it to project.

3. Visit an open house or select a home from a magazine, and list the features that appeal to you and why. Also list the features that do not appeal to you and tell why they don't appeal to you. Attach this to the project book.

4. In a magazine, newspaper, or book, find a house design for each of the following values:
   - economy
   - privacy
   - status
   - recreation
   - beauty
   - safety
   - creativity
   - efficiency

5. Ask two friends to assist you with this activity. Each of you list five features that you desire in your future home. Record your answers. You may use the chart below. Compare and discuss your responses. Record your answers in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURES</th>
<th>YOUR NAMES</th>
<th>REASONS</th>
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*Open House—a house on display, open for your inspection.
1. What was your main objective?


3. How did you share what you learned?

Acknowledgements

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