

oi HOUSEHOLD WORKBOOK



ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DESIGN A HOUSE INSPIRED BY THE OI'S JARMO HOUSE MODEL

What kind of home do you live in? Ancient people lived in homes that were not so different from ours. In ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, many people lived in small houses made out of mud bricks that were dried in the sun. Take a look at this model of a house that the OI excavated at the ancient site of Jarmo (C1638):

Just like today, **some houses were one story tall, and others had multiple floors.**

Some houses had flat roofs so that people could use the roof as a second living space. In ancient Egypt, people often slept on the roof because it was cooler!

These **holes in the roof** would **not have existed on the actual house**—they are there in the model so that we can look inside of the house and see how the roof was built by piling a layer of mud over sticks and reeds.

Houses were made of **layers of mud bricks** that were allowed to dry in the sun. Mud bricks were cheap, easy to make, and created thick walls for insulation against hot and cold weather. This model shows the walls partially built so we can look inside.

Most houses had a **courtyard** that would have been entirely surrounded by walls. People could spend time outside if it were too hot in the house, and at the Jarmo house, they could have kept their animals like chickens and goats in the courtyard.

There was **no glass for windows**, so windows were kept small to let light in without creating a large hole in the wall.

A **built-in oven and chimney** allowed people to bake bread and cook at home.

Houses usually had **only a few rooms**. This one had two, with a hole in the wall between them instead of a doorway! Holes like this would allow someone to move between rooms while perhaps keeping pests like mice out.



A side view of the Jarmo House model.

MAKE YOUR OWN HOUSE MODEL

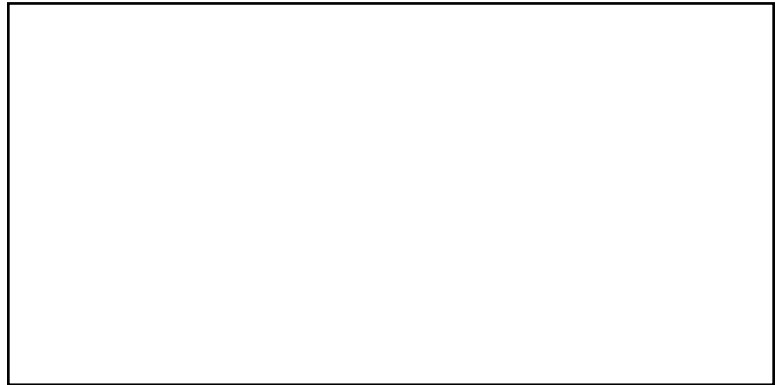
Think about where you live. What are some characteristics or features of your home (windows, doors, roof, yard, balcony, multiple stories, etc.)? Why do you think your home has those things? For example, your home probably has glass windows that you can look out of and that let in light, but that keep out the cold, rain, or wind from the outside.

Using the ideas from the Jarmo House and your own home, create a house model for an imaginary house! Use these steps below to get started.

1. What environment will your house be in? Will it be hot or cold, wet or dry, windy? Will it be in a forest, on a mountainside, or in the desert?

2. What features do you want your house to have? Will people be able to sleep on the roof like in an ancient Egyptian house? Will your house have a courtyard like the Jarmo House? Will it have any features like the home you live in now?

You can make a list, draw a picture to help plan your house, or see what your materials inspire you to do.



3. Collect materials to build. Ancient people used what they had, and you will too! Collect recycled materials like cardboard, egg cartons, toilet paper tubes, jars, plastic tubs, and paper. You will also need scissors and glue or tape to put your house together. You can decorate your house with markers, crayons, or colored pencils.

How can these materials become your house? Can a piece of cardboard be a wall, a piece of paper become a roof, or a toilet paper tube become a piece of furniture or a chimney?

4. Build your house model!

Share a picture and a description of your house with us by tagging us on Facebook @OrientalInstitute, Twitter @OrientalInst, or Instagram @TheOrientalInstitute, or by emailing us at oi-education@uchicago.edu.

MUDBRICK HOUSE. PALACE. STONE HOUSE. REED HOUSE.

Uncover your ancient future with this OI-themed MASH game. We've filled in the options for you below. To discover your fate, follow these steps:

1. Draw a spiral in the empty space below, as big or as small as you want. Draw a line through the spiral and count the number of times the line crosses the spiral.
2. Using that number, count through all of the choices, starting with Mudbrick house at the top of the page. When you reach your number, cross out the choice that you land on. Continue counting until there is only one choice left in each category, skipping any options you have already crossed off.
3. When you have found your fate in each category, search for the registration numbers listed by each option in our online database to learn more about your ancient future!
 - a. Go to oi-idb.uchicago.edu
 - b. Type or copy and paste the registration number for the object (Example: A7368)
 - c. Check the box "Images Only"
 - d. Press Submit



Husband/Wife

- Hammurabi (C478)
- Sennacherib (A7368)
- Nefertiti (C280)
- Amunirdis (E14681)

Transportation

- Chariot (A11256)
- Horse (A17299)
- Camel (A60936)
- Boat (E17973)

Kids

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 8

Pets

- Frog (E22658)
- Falcon (E10504)
- Bull (A24065)
- Lion (A7482)

Job

- Musician (A9345)
- Royalty (A32818)
- Potter (E10628)
- Manicurist (E10815)

City

- Amarna
- Kerma
- Megiddo
- Persepolis

A Woman Sitting Before a Table

From an ivory plaque used to decorate furniture, found at Nimrud.
8th century BC Iraq Museum, Baghdad.

A sphinx decorates the bottom of her throne.

