

Build a Sod House

Introduction

Settlers who came to the Great Plains from the East were used to building homes with wood. On the Great Plains, however, there were very few trees. The settlers had to use the resources they had and what they had was sod – grass-covered dirt held together by thick roots. They made sod bricks to build homes. Follow the steps below to build a model sod home. Use clay and strips of paper in place of grass, roots, and dirt.

MATERIALS

- Strips of paper
- Clay
- Craft sticks
- Dowels or rolling pins
- Plastic knives

Getting Started

1. Mix strips of paper with clay. Roll the mixture into a slab. This is your “sod.” Cut strips from the slab. Then cut the strips into bricks.
2. Stack the bricks to build a small house. Make sure the structure is tight with no spaces between the blocks. Use craft sticks (popsicle sticks, small sticks, etc.) to build a door frame and two window frames.
3. Make a roof by laying craft sticks over the tops of the walls. Cover the roof with sod.



Checklist

- 1. My structure is sound. There are no spaces between the bricks.
- 2. The only wood in my sod home is in the doorframes, window frames, and roof.
- 3. The roof is covered with sod.

