Early Spanish and Iroquois Housing: Similarities and Differences

Through pictures and descriptions of Iroquois longhouses and Spanish adobe houses, students will find the area and perimeter of the homes and identify similarities and differences in the design of the homes.

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Grade Level: 4
Duration: 2 class periods

Overview
Early Spanish colonists and Native Americans used materials from the earth to build their homes.

Purpose
In this lesson students will compare a Spanish colonial home and a longhouse of the Iroquois. They will explore the similarities and differences between the two types of housing including materials used, size, and design.

Materials
- Diagrams and description of Iroquois longhouses (made into a transparency)
- Photograph and description of a Spanish colonial home (made into a transparency)
- Plan of a Traditional Adobe House map (made into transparency)
- US Map (made into transparency)
- Paper, pencil
- Longhouse and Spanish Adobe Homes Assessments

Arizona Geography Strand 4
CONCEPT 4: Human Systems
GRADE 4
PO 4 Describe the cultural characteristics (e.g., food, clothing, housing, sports, customs, beliefs) of Arizona’s diverse population.

CONCEPT 5: Environment and Society
GRADE 4
PO 1 Describe human dependence on the physical environment and natural resources to satisfy basic needs.

GRADE 7 EXTENSION ACTIVITY
PO 5 Solve problems involving the area of a circle.

Arizona Math Standard
STRAND 4: Geometry and Measurement
CONCEPT 4: Measurement - Units of measure - Geometric Objects
GRADE 4
PO 8 Determine perimeter of simple polygons. (e.g., Square, rectangle, triangle).
PO 9 Determine area of squares and rectangles.
Early Spanish and Iroquois Housing: Similarities and Differences

- Comparison Assessment and Answer Key
- Longhouse and Spanish Adobe Homes Answer Keys
- Grading Rubric for questions 6, 7, 8 on Longhouse and Spanish Adobe Homes Assessments

Objectives
The student will be able to:

1. Compute the area and perimeter of an early Spanish colonial home and a longhouse.

2. Identify similarities and differences between the homes.

3. Have a student locate where the two types of homes are found.

Procedures
Prerequisite Skills: Students should have experience computing area and perimeter.

SESSION ONE
1. Distribute worksheets: Iroquois Longhouse and Spanish Adobe Homes.

2. Read the information on the Iroquois longhouse. Show and discuss the transparency of the diagrams and descriptions of Iroquois longhouses.

3. Read the information on the Spanish colonial home. Show and discuss the transparency of the photograph and description of a Spanish colonial home as well as the transparency of Plan of a Traditional Adobe House map.

4. Have a student locate the two types of homes on a transparency of a US map.

5. Discuss the similarities and differences between the two types of homes. Include a discussion of the materials used and the house design.

SESSION TWO
6. Review the similarities and differences of the two homes.

7. Administer assessments.

Assessment
There are three different assessments in the student packet:
- Longhouse Activity Sheet
- Spanish Adobe House Activity Sheet
- Comparison Activity Sheet

There are also keys for each sheet, and a rubric for grading the math portions.

Geography assessment:
- First 5 questions Longhouse
- First 5 questions Adobe
- First 4 questions Comparison

Each question is worth 1 point. Students who obtain 11 out of 14 possible points have mastered the geography.

Math assessment:
- Questions 6-8 Longhouse
- Questions 6-8 Adobe

Each of these 6 questions is worth 4 points, with the math rubric sheet explaining how to grade the math questions. Students who obtain 19 out of the possible 24 points have mastered the math.

Extensions
Students could build a model of an Iroquois Longhouse. See the following website.
www.nysm.nysed.gov/IroquoisVillage/buildingmodel.html

Students could build a model of an adobe house. See the following website.
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Students could calculate the living area of the adobe house given the patio has a length of 67 feet and a width of 52 feet, or students could calculate the living area of the adobe house given the patio dimensions on the plan. (This second option would require that students think a bit for themselves, looking at the plan for a template).

Students could lay out an entire village of longhouses. Then estimate the total population of the village based on the total area measured.

Determining the Area of a Circle
(Added by Dennis Rees, Peoria School District)
Students can practice determining the area of a circle by using circular home styles.

Materials
- Celtic Round Houses reading
- Graphic of Celtic Round House with Celtic Round House Floor Plan
- Celtic Round House Assessment
- The Native American Tipi reading
- Graphic of Native American Tipi with Tipi Floor Plan
- Tipi Assessment
- Comparison Assessment
- Answer keys to assessments

Sources
- www.nysm.nysed.gov/IroquoisVillage/constructiontwo.html
- www.peace4turtleisland.org/pages/longhouse.htm
- www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/96ranchos
- www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/brief05.htm
- www.nmcm.org/features/hfae/adobe/intro/index.htm