

HOME IS A SPECIAL PLACE

English for Palestine | Unit 2, Period 5 | Home is a special place

Safety and comfort

Human beings have always needed somewhere safe and comfortable to live - somewhere away from the world outside. Our ancient ancestors often used caves. Later, they learned to build houses and they designed them to keep out wild animals and bad weather.

The Masai people

Think of the Masai people of East Africa. Long ago, they began building their houses together in circles. They were very simple, but each joined the next, and together they became a strong wall. At night, they brought their cows and goats into the centre, safe from dangerous animals. Some Masai have continued living in communities like this until today.

Homes and climate

In the past, people also found natural ways to protect themselves from difficult climates. In cold, wet places, traditional houses were often low with thick walls and small windows that faced away from the wind and rain. In the hot, dry Middle East, the thick, white walls of traditional houses protected people from the sun's heat.

Our homes today

Today, most people have moved to live in modern buildings, but one thing has not changed. We still need somewhere away from the outside world, a place to relax with family and friends. We want our house to be a home - a safe, happy, comfortable place at the centre of our lives.

A special place

When we have known a happy family home, we never forget it. Even if life takes us far away, we always remember that special place. In the words of the old saying: "East or west, home is best".

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

English for Palestine | Unit 2, Period 5 | Home is a special place

Choose A, B, C or D in the answer box for each question.

1. What have human beings always needed?

- A. Expensive furniture B. A safe, comfortable place to live
C. Large gardens D. Modern cars

2. Where did our ancient ancestors often live?

- A. In caves B. In hotels
C. In flats D. In castles

3. Why did people design their first houses?

- A. To store cars B. To attract visitors
C. To keep out wild animals and bad weather D. To sell food

4. Where do the Masai people live?

- A. South America B. Northern Europe
C. East Asia D. East Africa

5. How did the Masai arrange their houses?

- A. In straight lines B. In circles
C. In pairs D. In squares

6. What did the joined Masai houses form?

- A. A strong wall B. A wide road
C. A large bridge D. A deep cave

7. Which animals did the Masai bring into the centre at night?

- A. Horses and sheep B. Dogs and cats
C. Cows and goats D. Lions and tigers

8. Why did they bring their animals into the centre?

- A. To sell them B. To wash them
C. To feed visitors D. To protect them from dangerous animals

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

English for Palestine | Unit 2, Period 5 | Home is a special place

Choose A, B, C or D in the answer box for each question.

9. What were traditional houses like in cold, wet places?

- A. Tall with thin walls B. Low with thick walls
C. Open without roofs D. Large with glass walls

10. What were the windows like in cold, wet places?

- A. Small B. Huge
C. Broken D. Round

11. Which direction did these windows face?

- A. Towards the rain B. Towards the strongest wind
C. Away from the wind and rain D. Towards the sun's heat

12. How does the passage describe the Middle East's climate?

- A. Cold and wet B. Cold and dry
C. Hot and wet D. Hot and dry

13. What protected people from the sun's heat in the Middle East?

- A. Large windows B. Thick, white walls
C. Thin, dark walls D. Glass roofs

14. Where do most people live today, according to the passage?

- A. In modern buildings B. In caves
C. In traditional Masai communities D. In tents

15. Who do we want to relax with at home?

- A. Tourists and guides B. Shopkeepers and customers
C. Family and friends D. Drivers and passengers

16. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. All houses look the same B. Modern houses are always large
C. Everyone should live in a cave D. Homes give us safety, comfort and happiness

TRUE / FALSE AND ONE-WORD ANSWERS

English for Palestine | Unit 2, Period 5 | Home is a special place

17-22: Choose True or False. 23-30: Type ONE word from the reading.

17. Ancient ancestors often used caves as places to live.

18. The Masai brought their cows and goats inside individual houses at night.

19. All Masai people have stopped living in traditional communities.

20. Traditional houses helped people cope with difficult climates.

21. People no longer need protection from the outside world.

22. People remember a happy family home even when they move far away.

23. What did ancient ancestors often use as homes?

24. What shape did the Masai build their houses in?

25. What colour were traditional Middle Eastern walls?

26. What do we want to do at home with family and friends?

27. The Masai brought their cows and _____ into the centre at night.

28. Complete the saying: "East or west, home is _____."

29. Find the opposite of "thin" in the description of traditional walls.

30. Find the opposite of "forget" in the final paragraph.