

Everyday life in the UAE has changed a lot over the years, but one thing has stayed the same: the climate. People living in the UAE have had to find ways to live comfortably in very hot and dry conditions. These days, we use air conditioning to keep cool, but in the past people used natural materials, and some clever building methods, to keep the heat out.

Traditional homes in the UAE were perfectly suited to the climate. People who moved with the seasons made their winter tents with camel or goat hair. These tents were cool on the inside, and easy to transport from place to place. In the summer months, the same people often moved to the coast, and their homes were made with palm fronds. This made the homes both light and airy – perfect for summer.

Other people who lived in coastal areas made the walls of their homes with a mixture of coral or seashells, chalk and water paste. People who lived further inland made the walls of their homes with mud blocks. In both cases, the walls could stay cool in hot temperatures.

Ventilation was another important thing for keeping a home cool, and many traditional buildings in the UAE had a windtower, which helped cool air to move around the home.

2 Read the article again. Find the following:

- 1** a modern method of keeping the indoors cool *air conditioning*
- 2** two good things about tents made with camel or goat hair
- 3** two qualities of homes made with palm fronds
- 4** three materials used to make walls in traditional homes by the sea
- 5** the reason why many traditional buildings had windtowers.