

Events and Developments from the Article *At Home in World History*.

1. In the Middle Ages, most structures tended to be cold, wet, and dark.
2. For survival, prehistoric humans tried to get protection from the elements, wild animals, and other dangers by climbing into trees. Some lived in caves.
3. Protection against danger was the main purpose of the fortified castles of the rich and powerful.
4. In the 18th and 19th centuries, manufacturing and the availability of new building materials led to improvements of all kinds of housing.
5. Later Stone Age generations used tools to build shelters out of branches, animal skins, stones, dried clay bricks, and earth – with plant coverings on top.
6. In human history BCE, the natural environment (the climate and resources in different areas) played a big role in housing development.
7. In ancient civilizations such as in Egypt, Assyria, Greece, and Rome, there were houses with flat and slanted roofs, central heating through pipes, and wood framing filled in with hardened materials.
8. Beginning with the Industrial Revolution, people have chosen their living accommodations for a variety of reasons: not only protection but also security, privacy, space, comfort, and modern technology.
9. In the world today, “fair housing” laws may protect against discrimination based on race, sex, health, or lifestyle.
10. In the modern 20th and 21st centuries, there were and are many different kinds of places to live – or simply to sleep at night. These ranged from a family house or apartment to a shelter for a homeless family.
11. Some important features of future housing may be its relationship to nature, its practical or creative use of technology, its networking connections, its decreasing environmental impact, and its ability to produce its own energy.
12. Modern attitudes toward “home” vary greatly. Some people feel “there’s no place like home” while others return to their “home spaces” only when there’s nowhere else to go.
13. Recent natural disasters like earthquakes and extreme weather like hurricanes have made many people homeless. Nowadays, economic problems have also put individuals and families out “on the street.”
14. As in the past, human beings will continue to need homes for survival in the future.

Prehistoric Times/
The Stone Age

The Centuries BCE

The European
Middle Ages

The Industrial Revolution
of the 18th to 20th Centuries

The Modern World

The World Today

The Future