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Mudbrick Houses in the Sahel Region

In the Sahel region of Africa, the climate is hot and dry for most of the year. Because of this, the people living in the area have developed special homes to keep cool and protect themselves from the harsh environment. One of the most common types of houses is made from (1)_____, a material that is ideal for this climate.

Mudbrick houses in the Sahel are usually built using bricks made from a mixture of mud and straw. The bricks are left to (2)____ in the sun until they are hard enough to use in construction. This process is simple but effective, and the bricks are strong enough to build sturdy walls.

The shape of these houses is often rectangular or square, with flat (3)____ designed to make the most of the available space. The walls are thick to provide insulation, keeping the interior cool during the day and warm at night. Many houses also have small (4)____ to let in light and allow air to circulate.

Inside, the layout is quite simple. Most houses have just a few rooms, including a main living area and a separate room for sleeping. The floors are usually made from (5)____ or smooth earth, which is cool and easy to maintain. There is little furniture, as most activities, such as sitting and sleeping, are done directly on the floor, often using woven (6)____ for comfort.

The (7)____ is often done outside the main house, in an open courtyard or separate structure. Here, meals are prepared using a simple stove made from clay or stone. This setup prevents smoke from filling the house and keeps the interior clean.

One of the key features of mudbrick houses in the Sahel is their adaptability. Over time, the walls may develop (8)____ due to the dry climate, but these can be easily repaired with more mud. This makes the houses durable and easy to maintain.

Outside the house, there is usually a small (9)____, where families grow vegetables and keep animals. This area is often enclosed by a low wall made of the same mudbrick material as the house, providing protection from the wind and animals.

The design of mudbrick houses reflects the needs of the people living in the Sahel. The combination of simple materials and practical design helps them survive in an environment where resources are scarce and the climate is unpredictable. Despite their simplicity, these homes offer (10)____ and comfort to the families who live in them.

Word Bank

roofs, cooking, windows, mats, shelter, mud, garden, dry, clay, bricks, cracks