

Program Description:

Students discuss features of houses and shelters and the materials they are made of. They read the book *This is My House*, by Arthur Dorros, which shows drawings and tells about different kinds of shelter in many parts of the world. They discuss the materials and particular features of each house and connect them to the environment the house is in. Each student builds their own house out of wood, adding features that are important to them.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will understand that shelters are built from different materials and have different features, depending on the environment they are built in.
2. Students will select from materials and put parts together to build a realistic house.
3. Students will make independent choices of features they want in their house and using available materials, create those features .

Alignment with Connecticut Core Science Curriculum

- K.1** *Objects have properties that can be observed and used to describe similarities and differences.*
- Some properties can be observed with the senses, and others can be discovered by using simple tools or tests.
- K.4** *Some objects are natural, while others have been designed and made by people to improve the quality of life.*
- Humans select both natural and man-made materials to build shelters based on local climate conditions, properties of materials, and their availability in the environment.

Key Vocabulary: *shelter, materials, environment*

Preparation for Visit:

This program can be used as a stand-alone experience, but works particularly well in a unit focused on shelter and materials. Some experience and vocabulary you may want to provide students with before their visit include:

- Understanding of the concept of “shelter” for humans as including houses, apartments, tents, and other less familiar places to protect us from weather and other dangers.
- Experience identifying the materials that different objects are made of.