

4th Grade Lenape Shelter TLA

Problem Situation

The first people to live in this area were the Native Americans known as the Lenape. The Lenape were part of a group of Native Americans who lived on or near the Delaware River. During the time when the Lenape lived in this area it was important for them to have shelter from bad weather and animals. Their houses were very challenging to build since there were only a few things available to build them. They did not have the concrete, bricks, wood, nails and other materials we have to build with today. Instead they used wood and bark from small trees, stones, and other natural things from the land around them. Up to twelve families could live together in the houses they built.

Solution

Design and make a model of a shelter that up to twelve families could live in. Use only materials that are found in nature such as rocks, trees, bushes, etc. Each group of students will design a shelter for one of the following areas: Northern New Jersey, Alaska, Florida, Arizona.

Resources

- Time:** 3-4 forty minute blocks
Problem: 10-15 minutes
Ideas to Solve the Problem: 10-15 minutes
Build One: 70-90 minutes
Testing: 20-30 minutes
Redesign/Wrap-up: 10-20 minutes
- Energy:** Human energy used to build the device
- People:** Groups of 3-5 students
- Knowledge:** Class discussions about the concept of shelter and Native American life
Print materials, Software materials, Internet resources will be added after a survey of fourth grade teachers and librarians is conducted
- Materials:** Cut up pieces of paper (leaves or bark), craft sticks and/or tooth picks(tree trunks), glue (mud), yarn and/or string (rope)
- Capital:** None
- Tools:** Scissors (Celts – tools used by Native Americans), anything else that is safe to use that would model something from the time period

Other Criteria

- ◆ The shelter must have separate areas for each of the twelve families to live.
- ◆ The shelter must be able to stand up to rain, wind, snow and other weather common to the area.
- ◆ The shelter must have at least two ways to get in and out.

- ◆ The shelter must be able to keep animals out.
- ◆ The shelter must use only natural materials common to the area.
- ◆ The shelter must provide space for food storage and bathroom.

Student Design Log