

# HISTORY AT HOME



## PUTTING THE “HOME” IN HOMESTEAD

Homes 100 years ago were very different than today. Settlers often lived in log cabins that they built themselves, so the cabins tended to be small and often only had one room. The trouble with log buildings is that logs are rarely straight and often have bumps and dips along the surface, which leave gaps in the walls that must be filled to keep the warmth inside and the cold wind out. To insulate their log cabins settlers used a technique called chinking to fill in the gaps in the walls. Small gaps would be filled with burlap and other available materials like old rags. Large gaps could be filled with a mixture of mud, clay, and sand.

The fireplace or stove was the heart of every home. It heated the home, was a source of light, and it was how people cooked their food. If there was a store nearby, and if a settler had the money, they could buy the household items they needed, like furniture. If they didn't have any money and there wasn't a store nearby, the settlers would have to make their own household items.

Mr. Huble was no exception. He built and lived in a small log cabin when he first arrived at the homestead, but once Mrs. Huble arrived with her daughter Ada, and new baby Bertha was born, he realized he needed a bigger home! In 1912 he built the big house you can see at Huble Homestead today. The small log cabin that he and his little family had lived in before the house was finished became the kitchen for the new house. To learn more about the Huble house and its history visit our website at [www.hublehomestead.ca/hublehouse](http://www.hublehomestead.ca/hublehouse), or read our first children's book, *Mr. Huble Builds a House*, available for a limited time at [www.hublehomestead.ca/mrhuble](http://www.hublehomestead.ca/mrhuble).

**If you want to put the “home” in homestead and inspire at-home learning:**

1. **Discuss what a settler's home would be like one hundred years ago. Some ideas to get you started:**
  - a. What were cabins made of?
  - b. Why were early homes so small?
  - c. How could settlers keep their homes warm?
  - d. What types of household items could a person make for themselves?



- e. What sorts of items would need to be bought at a store?
- 2. Compare household items.**
- a. Use the Household Mix & Match activity below to compare what items we have in our households today and what items settler families like the Hubles would have had one hundred years ago.
- 3. Build your own log cabin.**
- a. Use the instructions below to make a log cabin with your children. Choose the option that best fits the time frame and supplies you have available.
- b. Get creative!



# HOUSEHOLD MIX & MATCH

## You will need:

- House template (two copies)
- Images of historical and modern household goods (use the ones provided or find your own online – print at least one copy)
- Glue stick
- Crayons

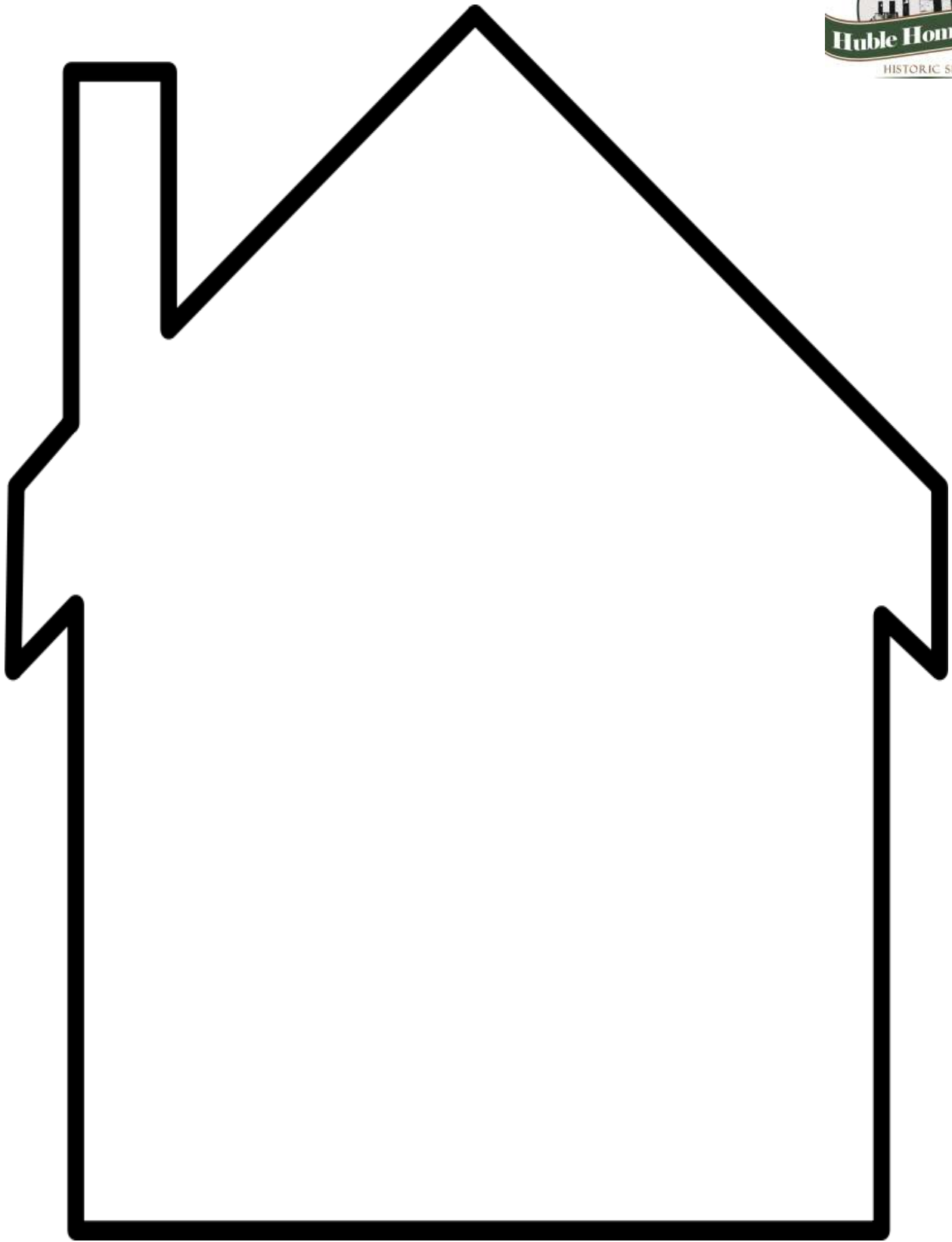
## Instructions:

1. Cut out two copies of the house template.
2. Colour and decorate one side of one template to resemble your own home. Decorate the second house to look like the Huble house, other historic house, or a log cabin.
3. Colour and cut out the sample images. See if you know what each historic item was used for!
4. Glue the items onto the inside of the appropriate house. Some items belong only in the historic home or the modern home and some items could go in either (or both if you have printed two copies of the images).

## HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

Brainstorm and print more ideas if you want!





# BUILD YOUR OWN LOG CABIN



## Option #1

### You will need:

- Paper towel rolls (or handmade rolls of paper)
- Glue or scotch tape
- Scissors
- Cardboard
- Construction paper (or thin cardboard)



### Instructions:

1. If you don't have paper towel rolls, roll pieces of paper into log shapes and secure the ends with glue or tape.
2. Use the cardboard as a base for your cabin. Glue the paper rolls onto the base to start your walls. Stack the rolls as high as you want your cabin to be. Try cutting some the rolls shorter to leave gaps for windows or doors.
3. Use construction paper or thin cardboard to make a peaked roof. You can fold one piece in half or tape two together depending on the size of your cabin.
4. Decorate the cardboard base or paint the house to make it look like an old-fashioned log home!

# BUILD YOUR OWN LOG CABIN



## Option #2

### You will need:

- Popsicle sticks
- Glue
- Cardboard
- Cereal box (or thin cardboard)
- Scissors
- Cotton balls (optional)



### Instructions:

1. Build the floor by gluing two popsicle sticks down a few inches apart on the cardboard base. Make sure they are on the cardboard base where you want your cabin to be. These are the base of your cabin floor. Put some glue all along the tops of these two sticks.
2. Starting at one end, lay another popsicle stick across both of the base sticks. This is your first “floorboard”. Lay more popsicle sticks alongside the first until you have a nice line of “floorboards” and you’ve reached the end of the two base sticks.

**TIP:** To help yourself build the walls, number the walls clockwise from 1 to 4. Depending on the size of your floor and the length of your popsicle sticks, your walls can either rest on the floor you’ve built, or just outside the floor. Use a dot of glue in the corner of each stick as you lay it down.

3. Place the first two popsicle sticks for your walls along the walls numbered 1 and 3 (the front and back of the cabin). The next two sticks will go along walls 2 and 4 (the sides of the cabin). You will add popsicle sticks to two walls at a time, alternating between your odd numbered walls and your even numbered walls. As you build the walls be sure to place the ends of each new stick on top of the ends of the sticks you already have down. By making sure you are



always overlapping the ends of the sticks at the corners of your cabin you will leave a small gap between each stick along the length of the walls.

4. If you wish to include windows or a door, cut shorter popsicle sticks. Be sure to glue a small piece between the sticks at the ends where the door and window openings will be, otherwise your walls will sag!
5. When the walls are as high as you want them to be, make a roof. Out of the cereal box, cut a rectangle that is the same length as the walls, and almost twice as wide as the front of your cabin. Fold it in half to make the peak, and glue the edges along the side walls of your cabin.
6. Now cut two triangles from the cereal box to make the front and back peaks. You can cut and glue popsicles flat onto these pieces to look like logs if you want. Glue the peaks onto your roof and the tops of the walls to complete your cabin.
7. If you want to keep working on your new cabin, use cotton balls as chinking to fill the gaps between the sticks that make the walls.
8. Draw a grid of rectangles onto your roof if you want it to look like it's been finished with shingles or wooden shakes.
9. Try decorating the cardboard base to look like the yard of a settler's homestead!



# BUILD YOUR OWN LOG CABIN



## Option #3

### You will need:

- Pretzel sticks
- Crackers
- Wax paper
- Cardboard
- Peanut butter (try icing, Wow butter, or melting chocolate as alternatives)



### Instructions:

1. Cover the cardboard with wax paper before building your log cabin. This will be your base.

**TIP:** To help yourself build the walls, number the walls clockwise from 1 to 4. Use peanut butter as glue in the corner of each pretzel stick as you lay it down.

2. Place the first two pretzel sticks for your walls along the walls numbered 1 and 3 (the front and back of the cabin). The next two pretzels will go along walls 2 and 4 (the sides of the cabin). You will add pretzels to two walls at a time, alternating between the odd numbered walls and the even numbered walls. Be sure to place the ends of each new pretzel stick log on top of the ends of the pretzels you already have down. By overlapping the ends of the pretzels at the corners of your cabin you will leave a small gap between each pretzel along the length of the walls.
3. Build your cabin walls as high as you like. Use peanut butter as chinking to fill the gaps between pretzels to seal the walls.
4. Use two large crackers to make a peaked roof. Use smaller chunks of pretzel to fill in the triangle-shaped gap at the front and back. Use the peanut butter to glue it all together.
5. Try decorating the wax paper base to look like a settler homestead!