

Maasai homes

Maasai homes are good for the environment in that they are made from local materials and there is not a lot of energy required to make one. Here we can see a typical Maasai home.



The Maasai are historically a nomadic tribe and they used to move around with their cattle in search of good grazing grounds. As a result, their homes are made from resources, tools and techniques that they have found locally.

The walls are made from a mixture of mud, grass, sticks, water, ash and cow dung and the cow dung ensures that the roof is waterproof.

Inside their homes would be one room and in this space, the family would cook, eat, sleep and relax with their families. They would also store their food, fuel, and other valuables and sometimes baby animals.

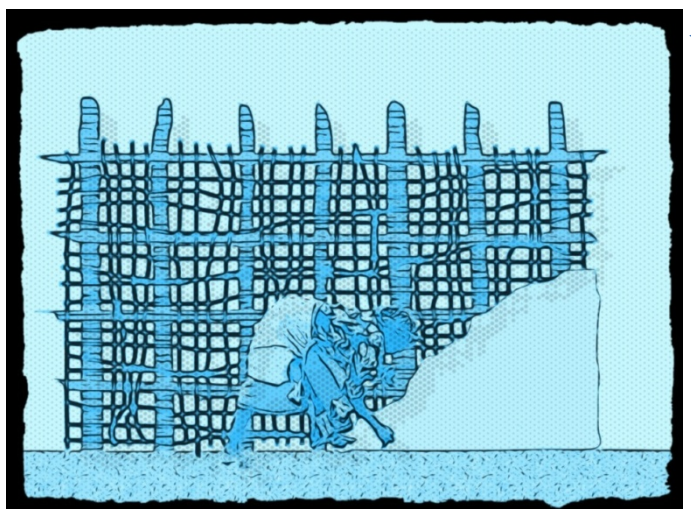
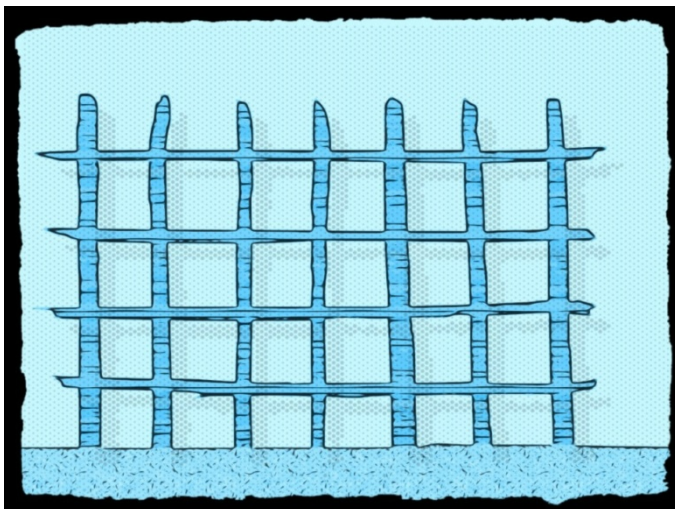
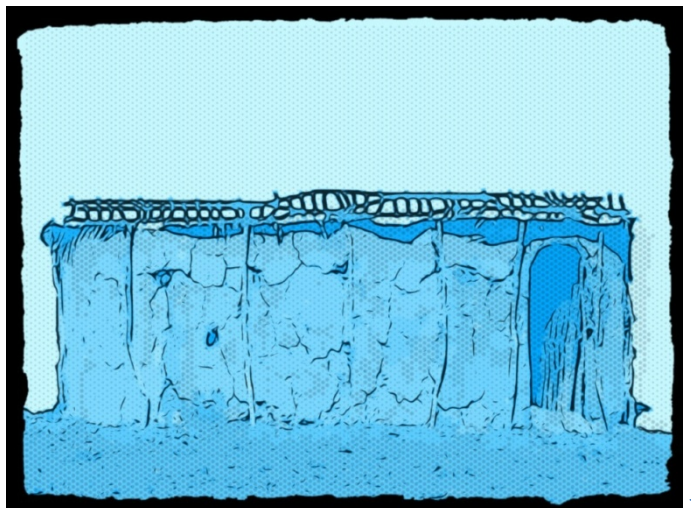
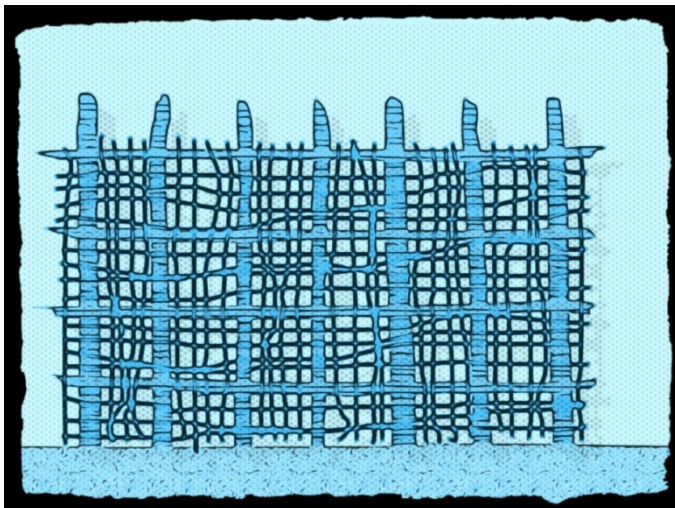
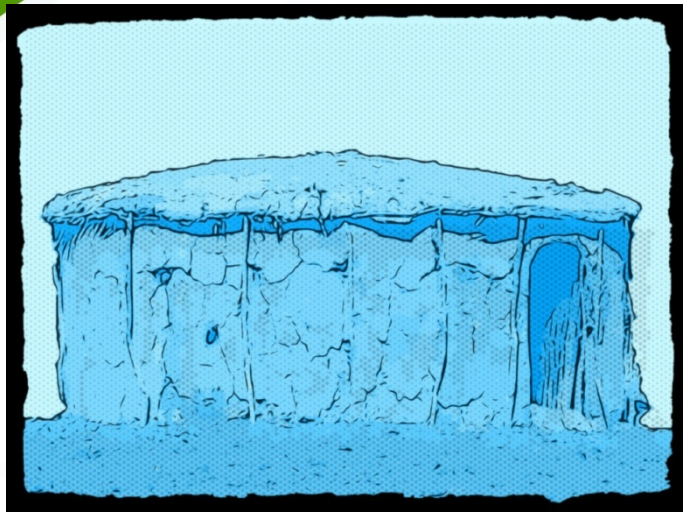
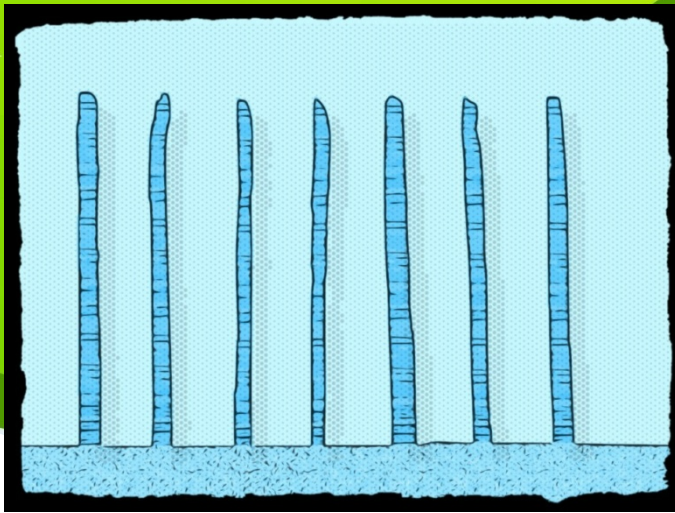
Homes would be built together in groups of 6-20 to make a village. Surrounding the whole village would be a fence, built by the men, that is made from the thorny acacia tree. It is a formidable barrier. At night, the animals would be brought inside the thorny fence to protect them from predators.



What predators would the animals need protection from?

Your Task:

Look at the pictures and descriptions of a Maasai home being built on the next page. Cut them out and stick them, together with their description, in the correct order.



Thin sticks are woven in between the thicker ones to make the walls of the house.

More big branches are woven in between these to make a framework for the house.

The flat roof is covered with a plastic sheet. Then the same mixture used for the walls is mixed with grass and added.

Thick branches, taller than grown people, are taken from the forest. These are planted in holes in the ground.

When the walls are finished, strong branches are woven to make a frame for the roof.

Women make a mixture of cow dung, ash, soil and water to apply to the walls.