IN BRIEF



The Canopy Kingdom is a fun story about a pair of twins who decide to build the most incredible treehouse in the world. The tale inspired this pack, which is full of facts about treehouses and construction and has activities related to designing a treehouse of your own.

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- The latest issue of ***Storytime*** is full of new words for children – but how can they find out what they mean? That's the job of the **Storytime Glossary**, which contains the definitions of challenging words from this month's stories. Seeing new words used in context is a great way to build children's vocabularies, so encourage them to look up any term they don't know.

- The questions on this month's **Class Discussion Sheet** are about craftsmanship and making new things. They will encourage pupils to think about designing and creating buildings or products and jobs where people make things. There is also an activity related to building an eco-friendly house!.

- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** challenges pupils to count the questions in an extract from Zack and Zoe's story and teaches them a cool trick to help identify adverbs. (It doesn't work all the time, but it *is* handy!)

- Can your students put the jumbled events of Zack and Zoe's story back in the right order? The **Story Sequencing Sheet** has eleven sections which should be numbered from one to eleven to show the correct order. This can be a tricky exercise as the story is quite long. Children should feel free to reread the tale if they like!

- Once the children have read this month's featured story, they can try retelling it in their own words on the **Storyboard** sheets. This will encourage them to think about what events are important in the tale – and the illustrations will serve as useful reminders.

Continued on page 2...

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1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- We hope that after reading this month's story, your students will be dreaming about what *their* ideal treehouse would be like! The **Planning Your Perfect Treehouse** page gives them a chance to write about it and contains questions to get them started. This ties in with the final two activities in this pack, where pupils can draw their treehouse and colour in an invitation to its imaginary grand opening!

- There are many different tools that get used in construction – how many do your students recognise? Test their knowledge with the **Tools of the Trade!** sheet. Can they fill in the missing letters to spell out the names of various different tools? This could lead to a discussion about other tools and their uses. How many can your pupils name?

- The **Build Your Building Vocabulary!** page is illustrated with a diagram of a house, but can your pupils match each part with a word at the bottom of the page? Do they have all of these things in their own homes, and what are some building parts that are not shown on the sheet?

2. DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY LESSON IDEAS

- Many different treehouses have been built all over the world, and the **Treehouse Fun Facts** page lists some of the most amazing ones! They vary from traditional homes in Indonesia to high-tech cubes in Scandinavia. Which do your pupils like best? Will they inspire their own designs?

- Houses can be made of many different things, and the **What's It Made Of?** page describes different materials and who uses them. There are also questions about eco-friendly construction materials. Can your pupils name any? Finding out about them could be a good online research project.

Continued on page 3...

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3. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- When building a house, keeping track of costs is very important! The **How Much Will It Cost?** page has a picture of a house and information about the prices of different materials. Can your students answer all the questions and work out how much the house will cost in total?

4. ART LESSON IDEAS

- After reading about Zack and Zoe's adventures when creating their amazing treehouse, we're sure your pupils will be keen to design one of their own. They can draw it on the **The Ultimate Treehouse!** page – remember, they can take inspiration from the writing exercise on the **Planning Your Perfect Treehouse** page.

- Once the children have designed their treehouses, it's time to create invitations to a fictional 'treehousewarming' party! The **Treehouse Party Invite!** page has space for them to fill in information and draw their treehouse. They can also colour in the page and add decorations like stickers and sparkles!

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

If you don't know a word or phrase in the magazine, look it up here!

The Fantastic Bike (Page 6)

- **Balance:** stay upright without falling over
- **Errands:** short journeys to do little jobs
- **Zoomed:** moved very quickly
- **Hornet:** beelike stinging insect
- **Grazed:** scraped
- **Wicked:** cool (slang)
- **Champion:** person who won sports event
- **Became obsessed with:** couldn't stop thinking about
- **Jerseys:** shirts worn by athletes
- **Proud of it:** very happy and satisfied with it
- **Surged:** moved forward with great force
- **Loop:** path that leads back to the start
- **Spectators:** people who watch an event
- **Exhausted:** very tired and worn out

A Nest in the Knots (Page 12)

- **Howling:** making a loud wailing sound
- **Stormy:** as if a storm is taking place
- **Banquet:** big fancy meal for many people
- **Fretted:** worried
- **Gust:** sudden strong burst of wind
- **Swirled:** moved in a spinning motion
- **Whipped:** moved quickly and strongly
- **Tangle:** bunch of knotted strands of hair
- **Took shelter:** found a safe place
- **Hopeless:** with no chance of success
- **Rodent:** member of a family of animals which includes squirrels, rats and mice
- **Perch:** sit

The Four Brothers (Page 14)

- **Hunter:** person who hunts animals for food
- **Trade:** job that needs special training
- **Satchel:** small bag with shoulder strap
- **Cobbler:** person who makes or fixes shoes
- **Embroidered:** decorated with pictures made by sewing with needle and thread
- **Astronomer:** person who studies the stars and planets
- **Frowned:** made an unhappy expression
- **Grinned:** smiled widely, showing teeth
- **Trickster:** sneaky person who plays tricks
- **Quiver:** container used to hold arrows
- **Herald:** person who delivers messages
- **Kidnapped:** taken away by force
- **Terrifying:** very frightening
- **Prospered:** became successful
- **Respected:** admired and treated well

The Rat and the Elephant (Page 19)

- **Bored:** restless because he couldn't find anything interesting
- **Dishes:** different kinds of prepared food
- **Luggage:** bags or cases used for travel
- **Whiskers:** long stiff hairs on animals' faces
- **Highway:** main road between towns
- **Pilgrims:** people on a religious journey
- **Scurry:** move quickly with fast steps
- **Racket:** loud noise
- **Procession:** group of people moving in line during a special event
- **Sleek:** smooth and shiny
- **Strutting:** walking proudly

Continued on page 2...

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

The Canopy Kingdom (Page 22)

- **Inseparable:** always together
- **Lopsided:** not evenly balanced, with one side higher than the other
- **Telescope:** tool for looking at things in the distance
- **Pondered:** thought carefully
- **Confidently:** in a way that showed he was certain
- **Platform:** raised flat surface to stand on
- **Support:** hold up
- **Sturdy:** strong and well-built
- **Spirit level:** tool for working out if things are level
- **Hoisted:** lifted a heavy weight
- **Waterproof:** able to keep water out
- **Corkscrew:** curly tool for pulling out wine corks
- **Observatory:** place for looking at stars
- **Solar panel:** device for making electricity from sunlight

Hina Goes to the Moon (Page 30)

- **Goddess:** female god
- **Fertile:** good for growing plants
- **Lush:** full of healthy green plants
- **Pound:** hit hard
- **Grateful:** thankful
- **Squabbling:** arguing noisily
- **Obligations:** things she has to do
- **Plunged:** fell quickly
- **Grasp:** hold tightly
- **Joyful:** happy
- **Nutritious:** having healthy things in it
- **Magma:** hot melted rock inside Earth

The Grateful Fish (Page 35)

- **Dawn:** when the sun comes up
- **Yeast:** fungus used to make bread rise
- **Aroma:** nice smell
- **Merchant:** person who sells things
- **Eagerly:** with excitement and interest
- **Peculiar:** strange
- **Shriek:** loud, high-pitched scream
- **Talons:** claws of bird of prey
- **Rushing:** moving very fast
- **Swaggered:** walked in a confident way
- **Fumbled:** did something clumsily
- **Frustrated:** annoyed because something was not going right

Brave Li Chi (Page 40)

- **Monstrous:** very large and scary
- **Serpent:** large snake-like creature
- **Lurked:** stayed hidden and waiting
- **Emerged:** came out
- **Lair:** home of an animal
- **Slithered:** moved in a snakelike way
- **Ministers:** people who help or advise government or ruler
- **Yuan:** unit of money used in China
- **Precious:** worth a lot
- **Noble:** brave and good
- **Courage:** bravery
- **Humble:** simple and modest
- **Sniff out:** find by using sense of smell
- **Hissing:** sharp sound of air escaping
- **Ferocious:** fierce and dangerous

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CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

craftsmanship! Craftsmanship is all about creating things with skill and care. Here are some simple questions to help you start thinking like a maker, builder or designer.

1. What does it mean to 'make something well'?

2. Why do you think people plan and draw designs before they start building?

3. Can you think of a job where people create new things, like clothes, buildings or toys?

4. If you could design and build anything, what would it be?

AN ECO-HOUSE!

Your challenge is to build a house with true craftsmanship!

What materials would you use to make it sustainable?

What colours and textures would make it special?

How could you get water and electricity for it?

Where would you build it?

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NAME _____ CLASS _____

READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Find questions, a verb and an adverb in this extract!

"The twins spent ages discussing their treehouse design. How big would it be? Could it have coloured roof tiles?

"We definitely need a BIG window so we can see all the way to the park!" Zach declared.

"Maybe Dad will let us put the telescope up there?" Zoe pondered. "I can bring the fairy lights from my bedroom. And do you think we can fit a pool in the treehouse?"

1. Which word in the first sentence of the extract means 'a long time'?

2. How many of the sentences in the extract are questions? What punctuation mark shows you that a sentence is a question?

3. In the second paragraph, which word is an *adverb*?

4. In the last paragraph, which *verb* (doing word) means 'said in a thoughtful way'?

SPOT THE ADVERBS!

Many adverbs have the same ending! Can you work out what this ending is and circle all the adverbs below?

Quickly Walk
Bus Cat Smartly
Carried Nervously
Happily Sad

ANSWERS: 1. 'ages'. 2. 4 – and you can tell they are questions because they end with a question mark (?). 3. 'definitely'. 4. 'pondered'. **Spot the Adverbs!** Quickly, smartly, nervously, happily.

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STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Can you put the events of Zach and Zoe's story back in the right order? Number the sections below in the order in which they should be read.

They pestered their father to help. He said they had to draw up a plan first, so they thought of ideas and started drawing a treehouse. ☐

After that, they glued waterproof rubber to the roof. August from down the street suggested that they make a slide, so they did! ☐

Zoe went to the attic and got a box. She took out Christmas lights and bunting which she strung up in the tree with help from her father. ☐

Zach and Zoe were twins, and they did everything together. One day, they decided that they wanted to build a treehouse! ☐

Then, the twins got busy painting! They covered the treehouse with bright colours and got lots of paint on themselves, too! ☐

Dad was a building expert, and he started building a big platform in the tall oak tree in the garden. Zoe and Zach helped him. ☐

Finally, their amazing building was finished! The twins and their dad stood back and admired the best treehouse in the world. ☐

Marcus and Jemima suggested putting on a rope swing and Miss Taylor thought they could add an observatory at the top, too. ☐

On Saturday morning, they woke their father up and showed him the plan they had drawn up. He laughed and agreed to help them. ☐

The next things the twins added were a tube maze for their hamsters, bird feeders to attract birds and a solar panel for electricity. ☐

The three of them added a wooden frame and used a spirit level to check that it was level. Then, they cut out windows and added a roof. ☐

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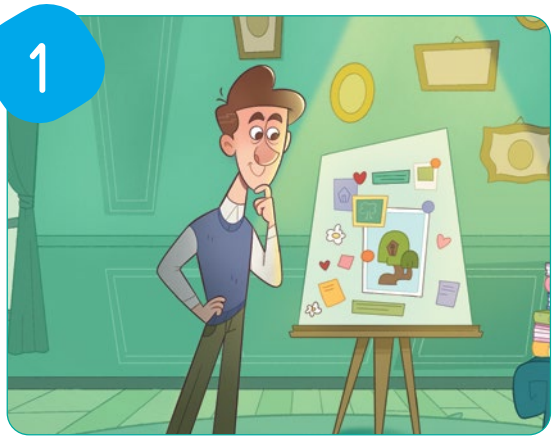
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STORYBOARD

1 OF 2

Tell the tale of Zach and Zoe and their treehouse in your own way!
Write about what happened to them under the pictures below...

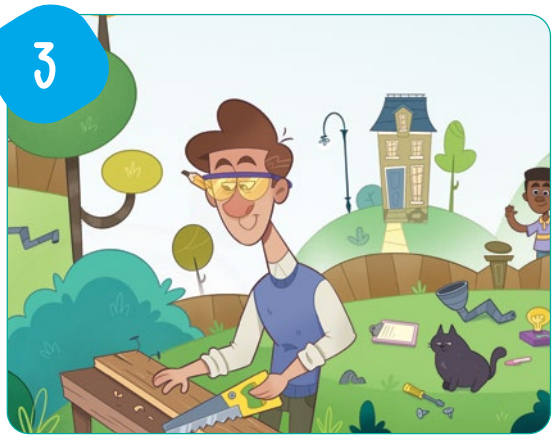
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STORYBOARD

2 OF 2

5



6



7



8



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PLANNING YOUR PERFECT TREEHOUSE

What would your amazing treehouse be like? Answer all of the questions below – and then write a paragraph describing it!

1. How big will it be?
2. Where would you build it?
3. What materials would you make it out of?
4. What colour will it be?
5. Who will help you?

6. Does it have any special or unique features?
7. How will you get up there?
8. What activities will you do there once it's ready?
9. It's the best because...

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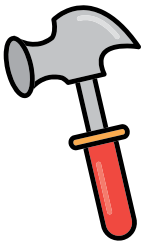
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TOOLS OF THE TRADE!



When you do a job, it's good to have the right tool to do it with! Can you name these tools by filling in the missing letters below?

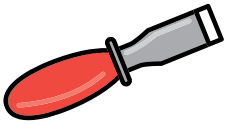
1. H A _ _ E R



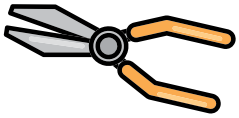
2. B _ U _ H



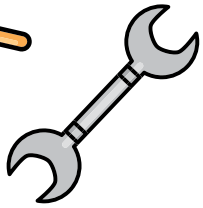
3. C _ I _ E L



4. _ L I E R _



5. S _ A _ N E R



6. D _ _ L L



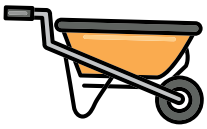
7. S _ O _ E L



8. S C _ E _ D R _ _ R



9. _ H _ E L B _ _ R O W



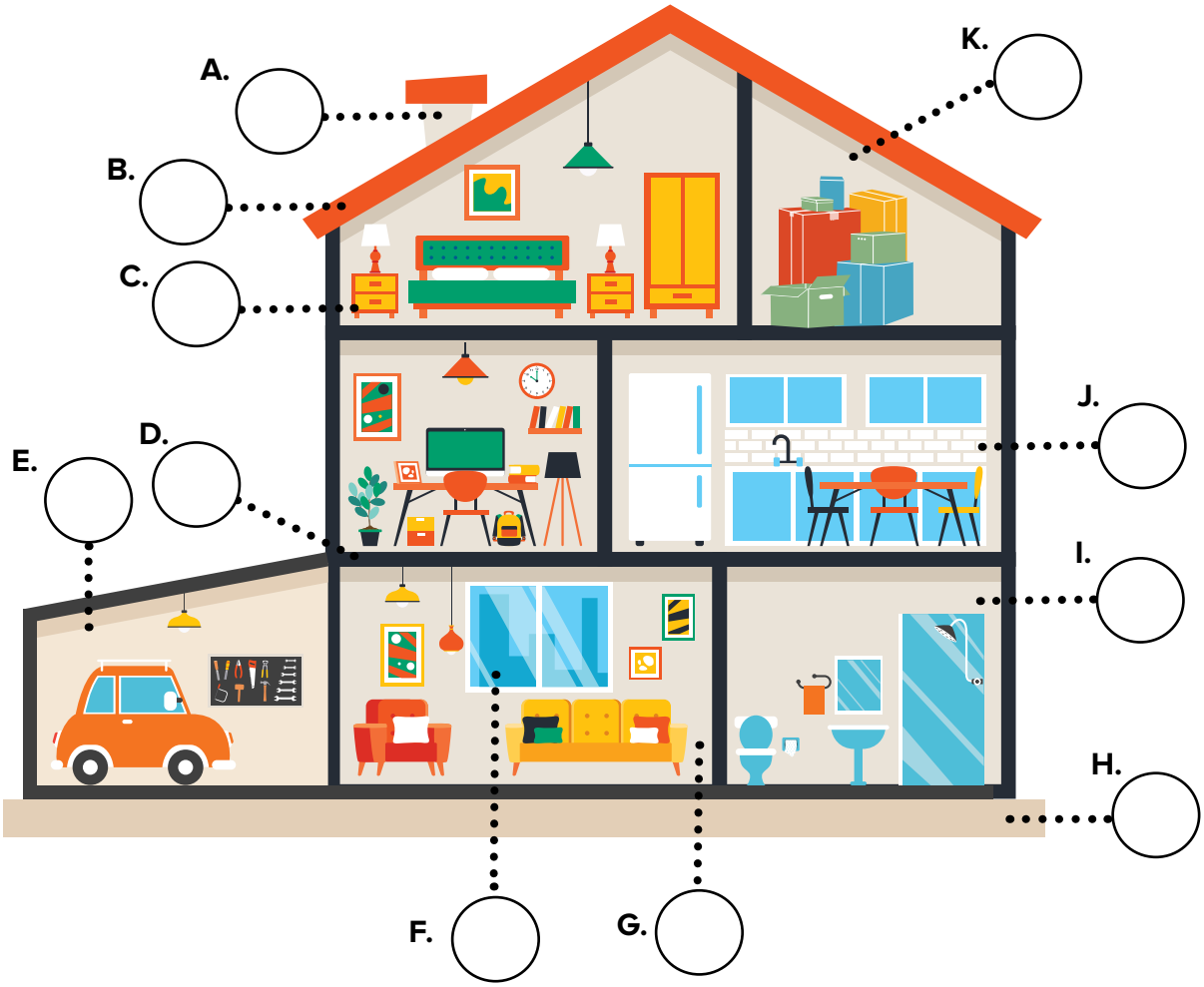
ANSWERS: 1. hammer, 2. brush, 3. chisel, 4. pliers, 5. spanner, 6. drill, 7. shovel, 8. screwdriver, 9. wheelbarrow.

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BUILD YOUR BUILDING VOCABULARY!

Do you know all the different parts of the house below?
Match each one with a word at the bottom of the page.



1. ATTIC
2. GARAGE
3. BEDROOM
4. BATHROOM
5. KITCHEN
6. ROOF
7. FOUNDATION
8. FLOOR
9. LIVING ROOM
10. WINDOW
11. CHIMNEY

ANSWERS: A. 11, B. 6, C. 3, D. 8, E. 2, F. 10, G. 9, H. 7, I. 4, J. 5, K. 1.

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TREEHOUSE FUN FACTS

Treehouses aren't just for playtime! Here are amazing treehouses that people actually live in.

Living the High Life!

The Korowai people of Papua in Indonesia build their homes in trees to avoid flooding and dangerous animals. These lofty houses are as high as 40 metres off the ground!

Eco-Treehouse!

The community of Finca Bellavista in Costa Rica is made up of treehouses and stilt houses. (Stilt houses are built on tall poles instead of trees.) The homes are designed to be eco-friendly and are connected by zip lines. That would make visiting your friends into a thrilling forest adventure!

Going High Tech!

The famous Mirrorcube Treehotel in Sweden looks like a silvery cube in the forest. It reflects the trees around it so it almost seems to disappear! It is very modern inside, and even has WiFi!

The Largest!

The Big Treehouse was built in a campsite in Iowa, USA. It has 12 levels including birdwatching and meditation areas. It's big and getting bigger all the time because the person who built it keeps adding new sections!

Arctic Adventure!

In Finland, you can stay in treehouses that are inside the icy Arctic Circle! The houses are warm and snug but offer wonderful views of the snowy landscape. You might even see reindeer or the Northern Lights!



The Tallest!

The Minister's Treehouse in Tennessee, USA, was over 30 metres high and was built around a huge oak tree. It was a popular tourist destination and many people got married there! It was closed because of fire safety problems and burned down in 2019.

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WHAT'S IT MADE OF?

This page has fascinating facts about what we can use to make houses and other buildings.

BUILDING MATERIALS

- **Clay**: used to make BRICKS!
- **Trees**: used to make BOARDS!
- **Stone**: used to make BLOCKS!
- **Horse poo**: used to make WATTLE AND DAUB!
- **Reeds**: used to make THATCH!

MODERN MATERIALS

CONCRETE is made by mixing cement powder with sand, gravel and water! When dry, it becomes as hard as stone.
STEEL is made by mixing the metal iron with carbon. It is used to make strong and flexible metal beams that are useful for constructing tall buildings like skyscrapers.
GLASS is made by melting sand into clear, flat sheets.

WHO BUILDS WHAT?

- **A bricklayer** builds walls with bricks and mortar.
- **A carpenter** builds wooden structures like doors and floors.
- **A stonemason** uses stone blocks to build walls.
- **A dauber** makes walls with a mixture of straw, mud and poo.
- **A thatcher** makes and repairs thatched roofs using reeds.

GREEN BUILDING CHALLENGE!

Can you create a list of eco-friendly building materials that help protect the planet? Think about materials that:

- **are made from natural or recycled items**
- **use less energy to create**
- **are designed to last a long time**
- **make the building sustainable in any other way you can think of!**

We suggest doing some online research for ideas and talking to people you might know who work in construction!

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HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?



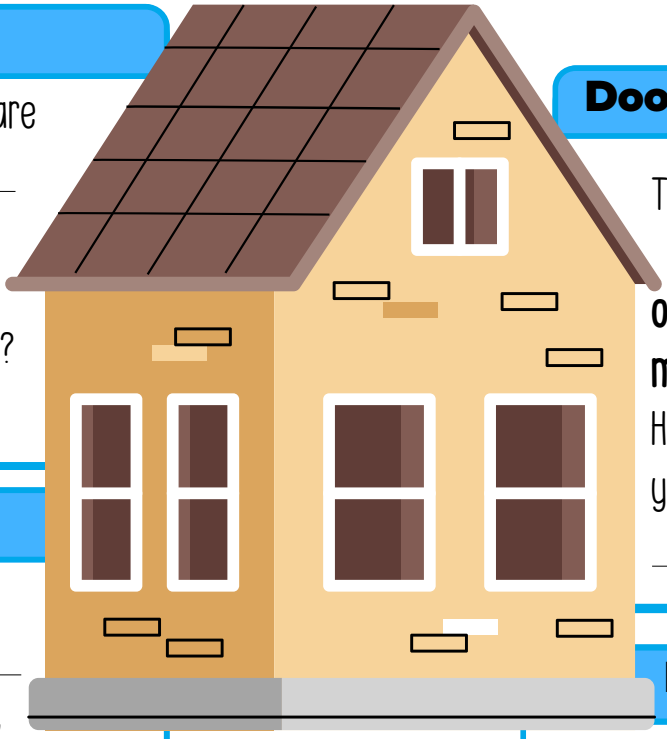
Can you work out how much it will cost to build the house below? Count up how many there are of all the different parts and how much they will cost. Add all the costs together to get a total!

Windows

How many windows are there? _____

Each one costs £5, so how much will you pay for windows?

_____



Doors

There will be **2 doors** in this house. **Each one costs twice as much as a window.** How much will you pay for doors?

_____

Roof tiles

How many roof tiles are there? _____

Each one costs £2, so how much will you pay for tiles?

_____

Mortar

There will be **50 bricks** used in this house. You will need one bag of mortar for **every 5 bricks**. **Each bag costs £4**, so how much will you need to pay for it?

_____



Add up all the costs to see how much you will pay for materials:

Windows: _____

Doors: _____

Roof tiles: _____

Mortar: _____

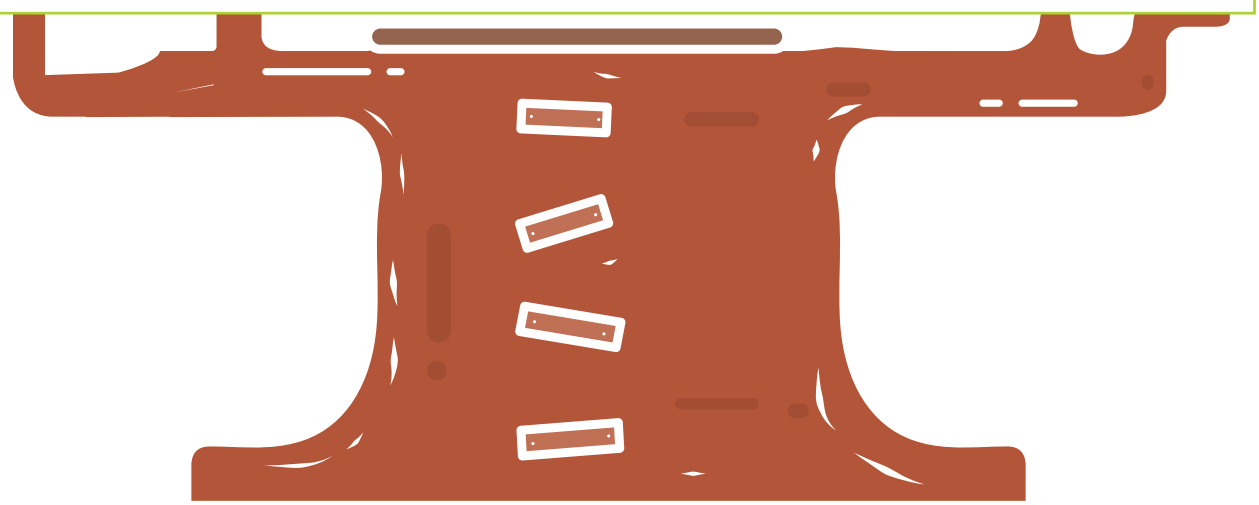
TOTAL: _____

ANSWERS: There are 5 windows which will cost £25. There are 2 doors which would cost £20. There are 20 roof tiles, costing £40. You will need 10 bags of mortar, costing £40. The total cost of the house would be £125.

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THE ULTIMATE TREEHOUSE!



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TREEHOUSE PARTY INVITE!

Cut out the invitation and fold it in half along the dotted line. Draw your treehouse on the front and colour and fill in the invitation side. Feel free to add stickers or other decorations, too!

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR TREEHOUSEWARMING!

Date: _____ Time: _____

Address: _____

Please bring: _____

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