

1.3 Tudor Architecture – Tudor Houses, The Globe

Level	Intermediate – upper intermediate.
Time	3 lessons (1 lesson – 45 minutes).
Learning objectives	<p>To familiarize students with Tudor architecture.</p> <p>To make the students aware of the problems involved in designing and building Tudor houses.</p> <p>To show some famous Tudor buildings to the students.</p> <p>To enlarge students' vocabulary and practice it in various situations.</p> <p>To acquaint the students with information and to enable its application.</p>
Resources	<p>Worksheets TA1 – TA4.</p> <p>Twelve pictures depicting different characteristic features of Tudor houses.</p> <p>A picture of the Globe Theatre.</p> <p><i>A Brief History of the Globe Theatre</i> – TA5.</p> <p>Two historical sketches of the Globe.</p> <p><i>The Construction of the Globe</i> – TA6.</p> <p>Four pictures of the construction of the Globe.</p> <p>The Tudor house + enlarged timber framework of the farmhouse.</p> <p>Sheets of square paper.</p>

Picture supplement is available on url:

http://moodlinka.ped.muni.cz/data/100106/Tudor_Architecture_pictures.pdf

Brainstorming

Ask students for as many expressions connected with architecture and the construction of houses as possible. Write the expressions on a large sheet of paper or a blackboard. Pre-qualifying students' knowledge about the subject will help with lesson instruction.

Characteristic features of Tudor houses

Tell the students that their architectural survey will focus on the Tudor period. To enlarge their knowledge, distribute **Worksheets TA1 – TA4** to the students, divided into four groups.

Each group studies the characteristic features of Tudor houses. Students should find any unknown vocabulary in a dictionary.

As students familiarize themselves with vocabulary, the teacher attaches 12 pictures to the classroom walls depicting different features of Tudor houses. Students then walk round and look for the features mentioned on their worksheets.

Discuss the architectonic symbols of the Tudor houses and point out which pictures depict them. Compare the differences between Tudor houses and contemporary houses. (This part of the discussion can be adapted to the level of the students.)

The Globe

Return to the 20th century. Tell students that in 1997, a significant event took place on the embankment of the River Thames in London. The dream of one man was fulfilled and a 353-year-old building was again restored to life.

Show the students the picture of the Globe Theatre. Ask them and discuss:

- Do you know the name of the building?
- What is the function of the building?
- Do you know anything about it?

Write the following questions on the blackboard or copy and distribute them to each student:

- When was the Globe opened for the first time?
- Which famous playwright is connected with this theatre?
- What caused the fire at the Globe?
- When was it officially re-opened?
- How did designers know what the first Globe looked like?

Read the students the *Brief History of the Globe* (**Handout TA5**). While reading, they should take notes to help them to answer the questions. To help the students with the last question and to describe the expression “sketch”, use the enclosed historical sketches of the Globe.

Construction of the Globe

Divide students into four groups. Cut **Handout TA6** into 4 pieces. Give each group one piece and add the picture of the construction that relates to it. Students should study the handout and use the dictionary to look up any unfamiliar vocabulary.

Teacher plays the role of a reporter:

“It is May and the annual anniversary of the opening of the Globe is being celebrated...”

The “reporter” then conducts interviews with the artists and construction workers (the students) who built the Globe. They meet at the amazing stage of the Globe.

Each group chooses the speaker, or the “reporter” can randomly select a representative for each group. To make the situation more natural, students should adopt an appropriate identity (name, age, ...). The “reporter” should ask the questions related to the material from their handout, such as:

- Did you use traditional or modern techniques?
- How did you put the timbers together?
- Which materials did you use to cover the roof?
- Why did you glaze the windows? Were there any difficulties? etc.

Construction of the Tudor house

As the Globe craftsmen were found to be very skillful and experienced, they have been asked by the Association of British Historians to design the Tudor-style houses of a rich merchant, a trader, a shopkeeper, and a poor householder for a London open-air museum.

Leave the students in the same four groups. Each group should be given the orders for the construction of one house mentioned above.

Give each group “The Tudor House”, the picture of a timber framework of the farmhouse (for inspiration) and a sheet of square paper. Students study the handouts and then use the square paper to design the house.

Discussion

Each group presents and explains its design. Then the discussion follows.

- Which materials did you use? Why?
- What was the main problem of the construction?
- Was it difficult, easy? etc.

TA1

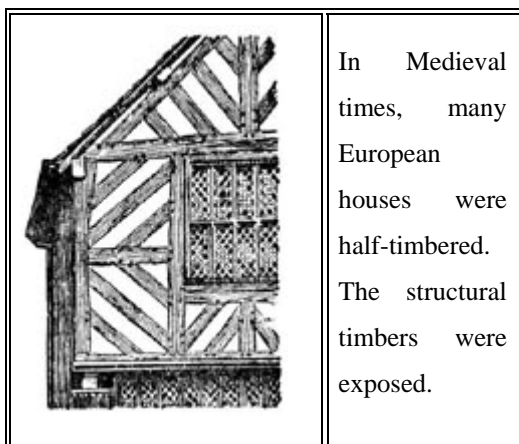
Tudor Architecture - 15th century and 16th century

The Tudor period is the time when the Tudor family came to the throne. Henry VIII is the most famous Tudor king.

The materials used to build houses depended upon the wealth of their owners. Stone and brick were very expensive and could only be afforded by the very rich. Castles and churches were always built of stone.

Characteristic features of Tudor houses:

- Made from a **wooden framework** of beams, which are uneven and can be seen on the outside.
- **Stones or bricks** were used to fill spaces between the beams.



Middle-class houses were typically built with a wooden timber framing. Either brick or plaster was then used to fill in the spaces between the wood. The wooden timbers were coated with black tar to protect them from rotting. Tudor houses are known for their “black-and-white” appearance.

Vocabulary:

Beam a long piece of wood, used to support weight, especially as part of the roof in a building.

Timber wood that is prepared for use in building.

Plaster white powder that is mixed with water and becomes very hard, when it dries.

Coat to cover.

Tar a thick black liquid that becomes hard when cold.

Rot to decay.

°SWINGEHURST, Edmund. *The History of the Kings & Queens of England & Scotland*. Leicestershire: Armadillo Books, 2002. ISBN 1 84322 058 X.

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/tudor_manor_houses.htm , 15. 1. 2005.

<http://architecture.about.com/library/bl-tudor.htm> , 15. 1. 2005.

TA2

Tudor Architecture - 15th century and 16th century

The Tudor period is the time when the Tudor family came to the throne. Henry VIII is the most famous Tudor king.

The materials used to build houses depended upon the wealth of their owners. Stone and brick were very expensive and could only be afforded by the very rich. Castles and churches were always built of stone.

Characteristic features of Tudor houses:

- Sometimes first floor hangs out over the ground floor. This is called a **jetty**.
- Steeply **pitched roof** covered with thatch or clay and tiles.



Tudor architecture focused on details. Changes in architectural style resulted in shrinking of the buildings; they became more intimate.

A common sight in Tudor England was the overhanging upper floor, which was built to avoid taxes set on street space used.

Vocabulary:

Pitched roof a roof that is pitched is sloping rather than flat.

Clay heavy, sticky soil that can be used for making pots and bricks.

Tile a flat, usually square, piece of baked clay that is used in rows for covering roofs.

Avoid to keep away from something.

Tax money that you have to pay to the government.

Thatch straw used to make a roof.°

°SWINGEHURST, Edmund. *The History of the Kings & Queens of England & Scotland*. Leicestershire: Armadillo Books, 2002. ISBN 1 84322 058 X.

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<http://www.britainexpress.com/architecture/tudor.htm> , 15. 1. 2005.

TA3

Tudor Architecture - 15th century and 16th century

The Tudor period is the time when the Tudor family came to the throne. Henry VIII is the most famous Tudor king.

The materials used to build houses depended upon the wealth of their owners. Stone and brick were very expensive and could only be afforded by the very rich. Castles and churches were always built of stone.

Characteristic features of Tudor houses:

- **Tall, narrow** windows.
- **Small** window panes.

Windows and doors were small, but plentifully decorated. The most remarkable kind of window in the Tudor period is the **oriel** window, a multisided window featured on upper floors.



Oriel with small window panes.

Vocabulary:

Window pane a single sheet of glass in a window.°

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http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/tudor_manor_houses.htm , 15. 1. 2005.

<http://architecture.about.com/library/bl-tudor.htm> , 15. 1. 2005.

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TA4

Tudor Architecture - 15th century and 16th century

The Tudor period is the time when the Tudor family came to the throne. Henry VIII is the most famous Tudor king.

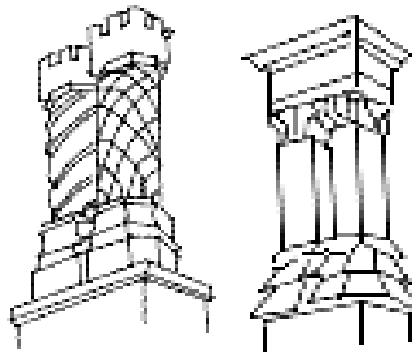
The materials used to build houses depended upon the wealth of their owners. Stone and brick were very expensive and could only be afforded by the very rich. Castles and churches were always built of stone.

Characteristic features of Tudor houses:

Tall thin chimneys were often topped with decorative chimney pots. Tudor chimneys were also patterned, often with symmetrical patterns.

In authentic Tudor buildings, the chimneys seem to attract the most attention. One of the reasons for the increased use of chimneys was the widespread adoption of coal as fuel. Previously, wood smoke had been allowed to escape from the interior through a simple hole in the roof.

Chimneys were often grouped together and columns were curved, twisted and decorated with various brick effects.



Tudor chimneys

Vocabulary:

Chimney pot a short wide pipe that is placed on top of a chimney.

Fuel any material that produces heat or power, usually when it is burnt.^o

^o SWINGEHURST, Edmund. *The History of the Kings & Queens of England & Scotland*. Leicestershire: Armadillo Books, 2002. ISBN 1 84322 058 X.

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A Brief history of the Globe

In 1598 a new theatre was opened in London. It became known as the Globe Theatre.

This new theatre was owned not only by William Shakespeare, but also by a number of actors. At that time, Shakespeare became a resident playwright. Most of his plays were performed at the Globe.

In 1613, the original Globe Theatre burned to the ground. Responsibility has been placed on a cannon shot during a performance of *Henry VIII* that set the thatched roof on fire. Fortunately, all 3,000 members of the audience got out safely through only two small doors.

After the destruction of the Globe Theatre, work was immediately begun in order to construct a new theatre, also called the Globe, which opened a year later.

The new Globe was built upon the foundations of the old one, but this time with a tiled roof.

The theatre continued operating until 1642, when it was closed down by the Puritans (as were all the theatres, and any place where people might be entertained).

In 1644, the Globe was razed in order to build new houses.

The year 1996 saw the return of the Globe Theatre to the south bank of the Thames.

It was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in May of 1997.

Without the dream of Sam Wanamaker, the work of many people, and the historical evidence of the first Globe, such as sketches and prints of the interiors, and various descriptions of the theatre, including the text of Shakespeare's plays and the original Globe's foundations, the Globe would have never been able to exist again.^o

^o *Shakespeare's Globe: The Guidebook*. Reading: Spinney Publications, 1999.
SWINGEHURST, Edmund. *The History of the Kings & Queens of England & Scotland*. Leicestershire: Armadillo Books, 2002. ISBN 1 84322 058 X.
<http://www.enotes.com/shakespeare/47517> , 15. 1. 2005.
http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Globe_Theater.html , 15. 1. 2005.
<http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Depts/HUA/TT/Globe/toc.html> , 15. 1. 2005.

The Construction of the Globe



- In order to construct the new Globe Theatre, it was necessary to first understand the method in which the original theatre had been constructed. In the 16th century, craftsmen spent most of the time by cutting down suitable trees and forming them into basic shapes. Each timber was laid out flat on the ground in the forest and carefully marked before they were moved to London. In the 1990s the same traditional techniques were used to build the new Globe. Specially chosen twenty huge oak timbers were raised 32 feet into the air to form the main frame of the new Globe. The theatre was put together without the use of nails, screws or glue. Wooden pegs were employed to hold the timbers together.



- Once the timbers were set up, the infilling of the walls began. The narrow gaps in the laths were filled with plaster. The whole was finished with a white lime wash. Elizabethan plaster used a mixture of sand and animal hair. The new Globe used a similar mixture.

The original Globe had many open windows in the galleries. These windows served to provide the audience with fresh air. However, during the first few performances at the new theatre, these windows allowed all the outside noises to come into the theatre. The obvious solution was to glaze over the windows.



- In Elizabethan times, straw or water reeds were used to cover the roof. Craftsmen decided to follow this tradition. However, after the Great Fire, thatching was banned in the capital. The new Globe is the first building in London since 1666 to have a thatched roof. But precautions were taken to meet modern safety standards, e.g. the reeds that form the roof were treated with specially formulated chemicals that retard burning and fireboard was placed under the thatch.



- The interiors of the Elizabethan theatre were a blaze of colour. To the Elizabethans, the theatre was an image of the universe. The stage was the Earth, where humans played out their comedies and tragedies. Behind the stage lay Hell, out of which devils could appear, and above were the Heavens. The stage area of the new Globe was painted in countless colour tones. The ceiling of the Heavens was decorated with stars, sun and moon. Although it is hard to believe, all the stage is made of oak.^o



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