

# Human Habitats

Peta's Dad took her to a building site to help her research how houses are built for her school topic. She talked to Mick the bricklayer, John the carpenter, Eddie the plumber, Alan the electrician and Ed the plasterer.

**Peta:** So exactly how do you go about building a new house?

**Mick:** Well the first thing I do is I measure exactly where everything goes. Then I use a mini digger to dig trenches for the foundations and drains. I build small walls in the trenches, lay pipes for the drains and then fill between the walls with concrete for the base.

**Peta:** All that work and you are still only at ground level!

**Mick:** After the bricks are delivered, I build walls up to first floor level.

**John:** Then it's my turn to start work. I put in joists and floorboards to make the upstairs floor.

**Mick:** Then more bricks are delivered and laid until I reach the roof.

**John:** Then I fit the wooden trusses to make the shape of the roof.

**Mick:** I lay slate or tiles on top of the wood to make the roof waterproof.

**John:** While Mick is doing that, I fit the outside doors and windows to make the house secure and weather tight.

**Alan and Eddie:** That's when we start with the first fix.

**Alan:** I fix wires onto all the internal walls.

**Eddie:** I fix pipes inside the house.

**Ed:** And that's when I start to make a mess! No one likes the plasterer when he is doing his job. I flick wet, sloppy plaster on every wall hiding the pipes and wires finally smoothing it over until not a ripple can be seen.

**Alan and Eddie:** And then we come back for the second fix!

**Alan:** I have to find the end of every cable that is sticking out of the new plaster and decide which needs a switch, which needs a socket and which needs a light fitting.

**Eddie:** I have to decide which pipe is for hot water and which is for cold when I fit the baths and the sinks.

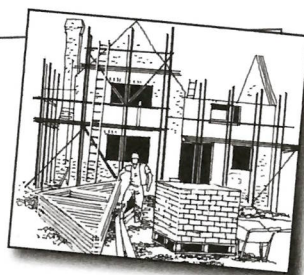
**John:** At the same time I will be fitting the kitchen, the internal doors and the skirting boards.

**Mick:** And I will be laying paths outside and building garden walls.

**Ed:** And I will be tiling the bathrooms and the kitchen.

**Peta:** So who would you say works the hardest on a building site?

**Mick, John, Eddie, Alan and Ed together:** I do!



## Human Habitats

### Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Peta was finding out how a house is built. She talked to Mick who was a

1 **bricklayer.** **carpenter.** **plumber.** **electrician.**

Mick said he used a mini digger to dig

2 **roads** **holes** **trenches** **paths**

for the foundations. John said he put in

3 **doors** **floorboards** **kitchens** **windows**

to make the upstairs floor. Alan, the electrician, fixed

4 **pipes** **wires** **bricks** **slates**

to the walls. Ed, the plasterer, flicked

5 **soapy** **sloppy** **slushy** **runny**

plaster on every wall. Eddie, the plumber, fitted the baths and

6 **carpets.** **TVs.** **curtains.** **sinks.**

### Section B

1 Name the jobs done by these people:

Alan	
John	
Mick	
Eddie	

2 Which tradesman fits doors and windows?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Why do you think 'no one likes the plasterer when he is doing his job'?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 What does the phrase 'until not a ripple can be seen' describe?

\_\_\_\_\_

5 What is 'the foundation' of a house?

\_\_\_\_\_

6 What is a 'second fix'?

\_\_\_\_\_

7 Which tradesman do you think has the hardest job? Give a reason for your answer?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Section C

Draw a plan of your ideal home. Write down what each room would be used for.

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### Section A

- 1) bricklayer
- 2) trenches
- 3) floorboards
- 4) wires
- 5) sloppy
- 6) sinks.

### Section B

1)	Alan	Electrician
	John	Carpenter
	Mick	Bricklayer
	Eddie	Plumber

- 2) John the carpenter.
- 3) It is a wet messy job that can make everywhere dirty.
- 4) The wall must be completely smooth.
- 5) The solid base on which a building is erected.
- 6) Finishing off or the completion of the electrical work/putting sockets, switches and lights on the ends of wires after the plasterer has finished.
- 7) Open ended. Accept an answer with supporting statement that indicates an understanding of what is involved in a particular trade.