The
UNIVERSAL HOUSE

Energy, Shelter, &
the California Indian

Activity Guide
3rd — 6th Grade

Revised January 2002
P180-99-001

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Sue Foster, *Graphic Design (2000 revision and Web Resource)*

Bill McGuire, *Production assistance*

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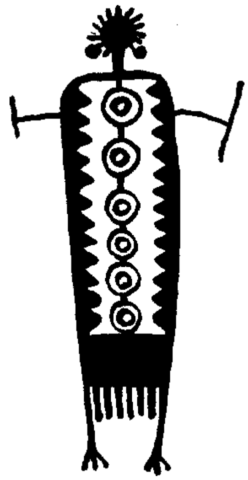

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UNIVERSAL HOUSE

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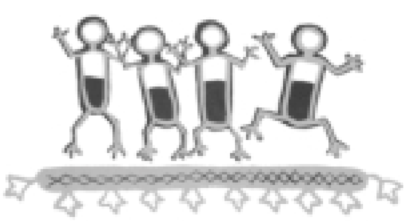


Their villages will be good.
They will plan many things.
They will be full of knowledge
. . . and their intentions will be good.

POMO CREATION MYTH

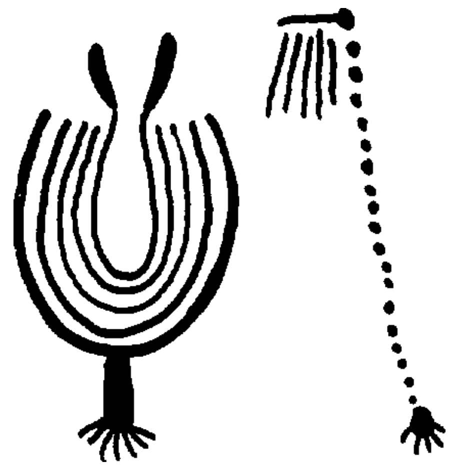
Humans are part of the biosphere
And are dependent on it . . .
They need to exercise judgement,
Care, and planning, in their use
Of natural resources

SCIENCE FRAMEWORK FOR CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INTRODUCTION

It is not incidental that this activity guide, *The Universal House: Energy, Shelter, and the California Indian*, was released in the fall. October has been designated "Energy Awareness Month" while November is "Native American Heritage Month." More than simply being appropriate to each occasion, this guide links energy awareness with resource management and traditional California Indian cultures for 3rd – 6th graders. The synthesis of these topics offers students and teachers a unique opportunity to examine cultural and scientific information as well as contemporary issues with respect to shelter, community and energy efficiency. *THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE* combines cooperative, hands-on activities with background information and learning extensions.

We've brought a spectrum of skills to bear on the subject, incorporating science, social studies, art, math and language arts. We encourage you to be flexible and creative with this activity guide. In designing and constructing it, we built upon themes, concepts and learning processes outlined in *Science Framework for California Schools* (1990) and the *History-Social Science Framework*. From the *Science Framework*, lessons have been built around the themes of Energy and Systems and Interactions with organized questions from Physical, Earth and Life Sciences keyed to each activity. While not specifying *History-Social Science Framework* concepts, 4th to 5th grade students study California from pre-Columbian times to the present with particular emphasis on how early people of California used natural settings without significantly modifying the environment.



We urge students to keep a journal, folder or folio (a Home Work Book) over the course of this unit. Doing so will help them focus, track, interpret and evaluate both the subject and their own comprehension. In addition, it will provide you as a teacher, means for "authentic assessment" of progress and performance. Another option is to introduce additional variables into the activities. For example, extending the "shoe box house" from the *Orientation* activity to test other factors in shelter design that affect energy efficiency: color of walls and roof, window size, insulation, scale of house, etc. The Activities, either as hands-on experiments or in their journals, provide another means of assessment. Student performance may also be assessed on individual tasks assigned throughout the activities.

Above all, be creative — stay the course but take the initiative and encourage your students to do the same. In the process, we hope that *The Universal House* will engender an awareness, understanding and appreciation of not only the subjects at hand, but the role that traditional wisdom and the students themselves play in shaping their communities, the environment and the future.

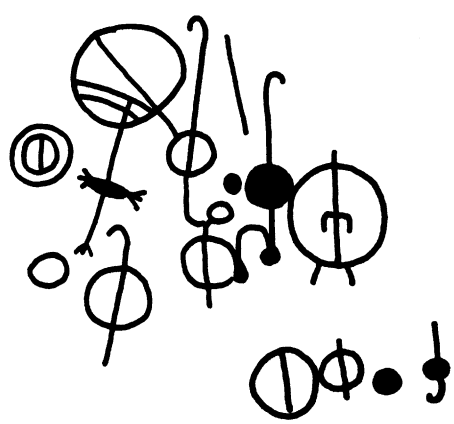
STUDENT PRECONCEPTIONS

Guide students in a comparison of the meaning of house/home, neighborhood/community, and environment/habitat.

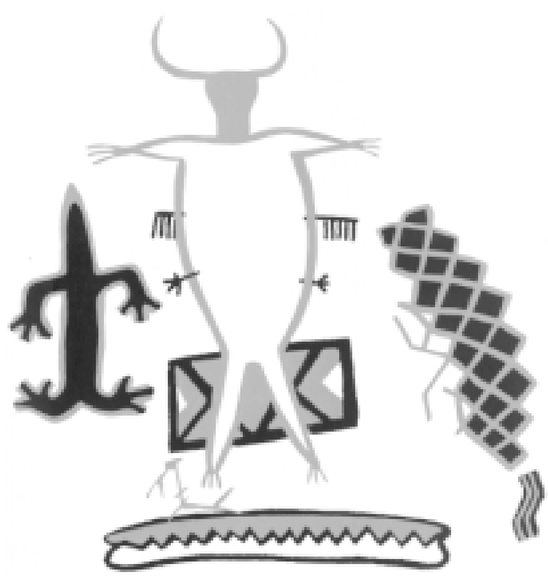
Have students describe in writing and in pictures their idea of a UNIVERSAL HOUSE as though it were an actual building. Ask them to consider:

- What "neighborhood" is it in?
- What is the view from the Universal House?
- What is its "roof" made of? Its "floor?"
- Name the materials it is made from. Are they renewable or non-renewable resources? Why?
- How is it insulated from the outer environment?
- How is the UNIVERSAL HOUSE lit?
- How is it warmed? Cooled?
- Who lives there?

Share some examples of California Indian creation myths. Good sources for these are *Whispers from the First Californians* and *The Way We Live* (see Resources, page 34 and 35).



Traditional houses and lives of California tribal groups were often patterned after the concept of a “universal house” — the earth and sky shelter the living. California Indians were provident planners. They built with the sun, wind, and earth; with seasonal cycles and native materials; with practical skills and common sense; creating a modest but elegant architecture, sustaining and sustainable.



OVERVIEW

What is ENERGY?

California Indians accepted that many different forces, spiritual to physical, were at work in the world. But rather than deny or attempt to resist these forces, they acknowledged them, learned from actual experience, and then applied the lessons to their lives in practical and graceful ways.

Today, we often fail to notice whether or how something is working, until it's not. So too, we tend to take energy for granted. We use all we want whenever we want — until we can't. When it ceases or runs out, when we can't afford it, when something breaks or isn't working, only then do we recognize its importance.

In essence, energy is the capacity to do work — the passage of energy from one body to another enables things to move, grow or otherwise interact.

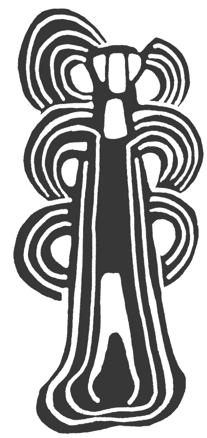
All life requires energy. And yet, it is a difficult concept to explain, for while it has practical, predictable and daily applications in our lives, it is also an inconstant and abstract quantity — constantly changing form.

Whether as uncontrollable hurricanes and earthquakes, or as habitually commonplace as light and locomotion, energy is a critically important part of our world — causing, affecting, and enabling every aspect of our lives.

Energy makes the universe go and grow. It's sunlight — the difference between day and night. It's the electric light. It's factories and fruit trees. It's thunder and lightning and it's HBO. It's planes, trains and freeways, and it's the whole world spinning in space. You know energy exists because you can see it, hear it and feel it — for light, heat, sound and motion are all forms of energy.

Some sources of energy are naturally renewable and virtually inexhaustible (such as solar and wind power) while other sources are nonrenewable (such as fossil fuels like oil, coal and natural gas) and cannot be replaced.

Traditionally, California Indians understood both the benefits and the responsibilities that arise from our relationship with the ecosystem and its resources. They also understood the fundamental role that sun, wind and renewable resources play in heating, cooling and lighting our homes.



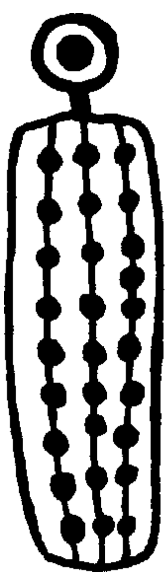
OVERVIEW

What is ENERGY?

In their houses and communities, they took advantage of the very same energy principles that are available to us today: ORIENTATION, SHADING, INSULATION AND THERMAL MASS. By applying these principles to the design or retrofit of our buildings, we can reduce energy demand, cut energy costs, and create comfortable places in which to live and work.

Growth is the fuel that drives the economic engine of the United States. Since the Industrial Revolution, our population has continued to explode, as has the demand for energy. Our modern society indulges in a reckless appetite for expensive and limited fossil fuels, and yet our choice of energy sources is largely based on political and economic factors, rather than scientific ones. As consumption of these fuels increases with every turn of a thermostat and every flip of a switch — supplies are running out.

The impact of fossil fuel use on the environment has many people concerned. But if we want to move non-renewable fossil fuels to renewable alternatives, we must understand how and why we decide to use what we do — as a society and as individuals. We should more closely match the characteristics of the energy source we choose to its eventual use. Instead of depending on non-renewable energy sources, ORIENTATION, SHADING, INSULATION and THERMAL MASS are all practical, efficient means of conserving energy and better methods of heating and cooling our homes.



SCIENCE FRAMEWORK CONCEPTS

Physical Science

D. Energy: Sources and Transformations
D1. What is energy and what are its characteristics?
D2. What do we do with energy? What changes occur as we use it?

Earth Science.

B. Geology

B3. What are the responsibilities of humans toward natural resources?

Life Sciences

A. Living Things
A4. How do humans interact with other living things?

What is ENERGY?

Excerpt from the 1990 Science Framework for California Public Schools, page 28, "some major Themes of Science"

Energy is a central concept of the physical science, and it pervades biological and geological sciences because it underlies any system of interaction. Energy can be taught as a bond linking various scientific disciplines. Defined in physical terms, energy is the capacity to do work or the ability to make things move. In chemical terms, it provides the basis for reaction between compounds. In biological terms, it provides living systems with the ability to maintain their systems, to grow and to reproduce.

In the physical sciences, ENERGY can be explored in its many manifestations (heat, light, sound, electricity, etc.), in conversions from one form to another. Energy is perhaps the most important theme to the physical sciences because all physical phenomena and interactions involve energy. Whether one discusses the energy of heat, light, sounds, magnetism, electricity, or the conversions of energy from kinetic to potential, electrical to heat or sound, or even the products formed by the combination of an acid and base, energy is involved.

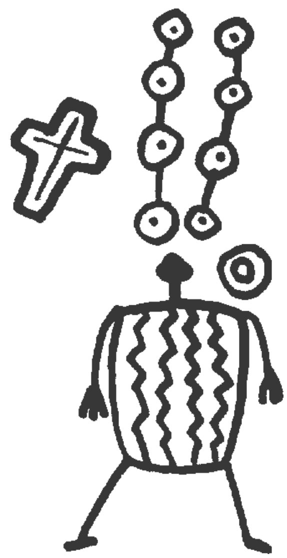
In the biological sciences, the flow of energy through individuals is what drives metabolism, growth and development. The flow of ENERGY through ecosystems is how organisms interact through the trophic levels of communities. Because all life requires energy, biochemistry is really the study of how energy facilitates biochemical reactions that allow the body to synthesize biochemical molecules — the basis of growth.

In the earth sciences, the flow of Earth's energy comes from two sources. First, there are forces within the Earth, fueled by nuclear reactions within the mantle and core, that translate through the crust and are responsible for the processes that drive mountain building, continental drift, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. Second, there are the forces on the surface of the Earth, such as wind, precipitation, physical and chemical reactions, and the activities of loving organisms (mostly driven by the Sun's energy), that alter the face of the Earth and are responsible for many geological processes.

The theme of Energy is important to considerations of ethical behavior and the relationships of science and technology to society. Sources of energy on Earth include solar, wind, and water power, geothermal energy, nuclear energy, and fossil fuels. Some sources of energy are virtually inexhaustible, such as solar, wind, water, and nuclear. Renewable sources are those that can be recycled and replaced such as water power. Non-renewable sources are those that cannot be replaced, such as fossil fuels. Students should appreciate these distinctions, the limitations of some sources of energy, and the need to conserve them or avoid their use.

DEFINITION

En•er•gy
The capacity for doing work and for overcoming inertia.
Greek derivation: *Energeia* coined by Aristotle from *energos* meaning active, at work:
en-, *at* + *ergon*, work.



SCIENCE FRAMEWORK CONNECTION

Physical Science

D. Energy: Sources and Transformations
   D-1 What is energy? What are its characteristics?
D-2 What do we do with energy?

ACTIVITY

What is ENERGY?

OBJECTIVE
To demonstrate that energy is required when work is done or when matter changes its form.

MATERIALS
Heavy textbooks, desks.

STUDENT'S PRECONCEPTIONS
Ask them what they have to do or change about the book to have it perform "work." Is energy required? Where will it come from? What "kind" of energy will it be?

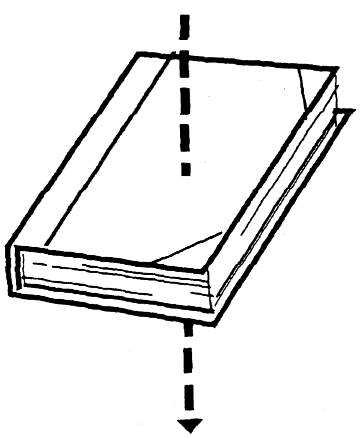
PROCEEDURE
• Have students select their heaviest textbooks and hold them horizontally over the floor.

• Have them drop the books in unison for best effect and observe what happened.

• What is different about the book now? (It changed position.)

• What happened when it was dropped? (It fell/motion , it made an loud noise/ sound, it moved the air, hit the floor, etc.)

Each form of energy has its own characteristics. A given material will transmit some forms of energy and absorb or reflect others. The book transmits sound energy and some heat, but not light.



CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGE
Did the book work?"

• Can the book do other kinds of work?
Organize the students into groups and ask them to come up with as many kinds of work as they can for the books to perform (flatten things, ring bells, pull things, crack nuts, bread eggs, etc.)

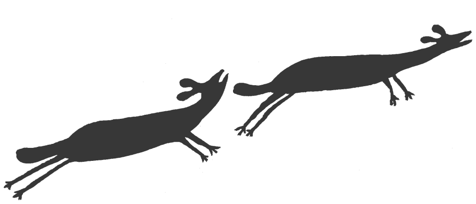
• Where did the energy come from that caused the work? (from the potential energy of the book converted to kinetic energy that caused the ringing, cracking, Etc.)

• Explain that the activity demonstrated the difference between the potential energy of the book in the air (energy that is possible due to its position relative to another body) and the kinetic energy of the falling book (energy produced or cause by motion).

APPLICATION
• Heat is a form of energy often produced by conversion from other forms. Ask students to cite examples of heat energy moving from one body to another (students standing in the sun — from the sun to the student, from the flame of a gas stove to the pan of hot chocolate, etc).

• Re-focus your discussion on the student as the source of energy that caused the book to fall. Explain to the students that the egg they ate for breakfast or the sandwich they ate for lunch is now being changed into energy to "fuel" their activities. (Food contains stored chemical energy that passes through ecosystems in food chains.)

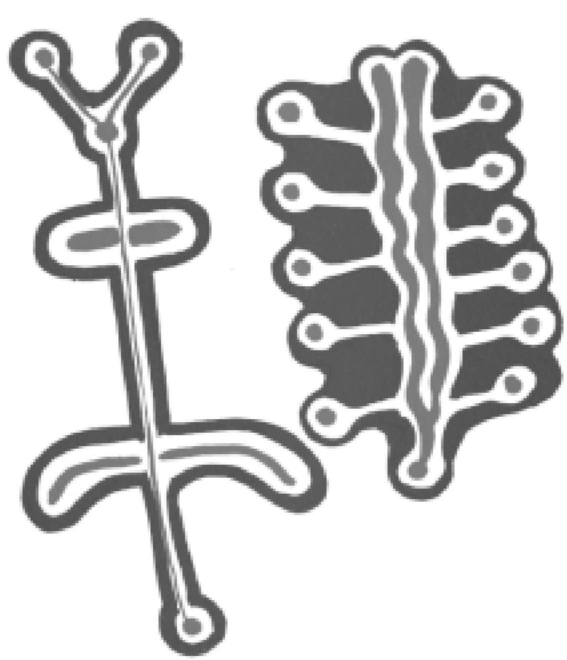
• What is their home's "diet?" What kinds of fuel does it "eat" for breakfast, lunch and dinner? What "work" does their home do with these different kinds of energy? After choosing a "fuel" from each of these two "diets," have the students identify the energy conversions and construct energy or food chains. For example, the students can choose milk as their fuel: SUN provides energy for the grass to grow, GRASS provides energy for the cow to grow and produce milk. MILK gives the student energy to push the book. For their homes, they might choose wood: sun provides energy for the trees to grow; tree (WOOD) provides fuel for the fire in the woodstove, FIRE provides light and heat.
Who can make the longest chain? Is the longest chain necessarily the "best or most efficient if energy is lost during each conversion?"



When Indians came to live on earth, the first people
changed into animals bearing their names.
Seal, sea lion and grizzly bear
built a dance house. God of
the north, Nagaicho,
made redwood
trees grow on
the tail of the earth
dragon to the north. He carved
streams with his foot so that people had
good, fresh water to drink. In the waters of the
ocean, he grew seafood for the people to eat. Then
Nagaicho traveled all over the earth making earth a
comfortable place for human beings to live.

NORTH COAST

Energy is a tool in the hands of humanity.
but how we employ it, in constructing our
lives and communities gives form to the future
as well. For as we shape our lives, so do
we shape our houses. And as we shape our
houses, so do we shape the world
— OUR UNIVERSAL HOUSE.



OVERVIEW

SHELTER

EARTHEN

Tradition Indian builders, in what is now called California, made the earth itself their home, using it to build and enclose various house forms. They could do so because the ground (the land surface of the earth) maintains a relatively constant temperature barrier between outside temperatures and inside conditions, regulating the temperature of interior spaces.

The Luiseno tribe constructed thick-walled mud-covered sweathouses or temescals, which used a central fire pit to effectively trap the heat. The Mohave oriented their winter houses with the building' s backs blocking fierce north winds. These earth shelters remained warm in winter and cool in summer, whether covered with soil or built either wholly or partially below ground.

A common substance with an uncommon capacity to shelter, earth was a practical and invaluable material in every region of California — from low sand-covered shelters of the Colorado River tribes, to stone-capped redwood sweathouses of the northwest; to pit houses of the Central Valley and foothills; to cavernous dance houses and ceremonial chambers, fifty feet across, with fires as their centers and large holes overhead "for the smoke and sparks to fly out."

OVERVIEW

SHELTER

EARTHEN

In all regions of California, the earth was excavated by tribal builders and used in combination with local materials (wood, stone, fiber) to create various kinds of shelter — round, rectangular, and subterranean or semi-subterranean (partially below ground).

OVERVIEW

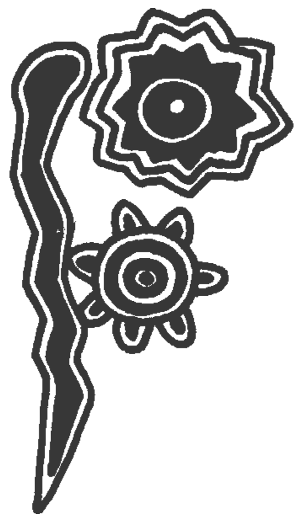
SHELTER

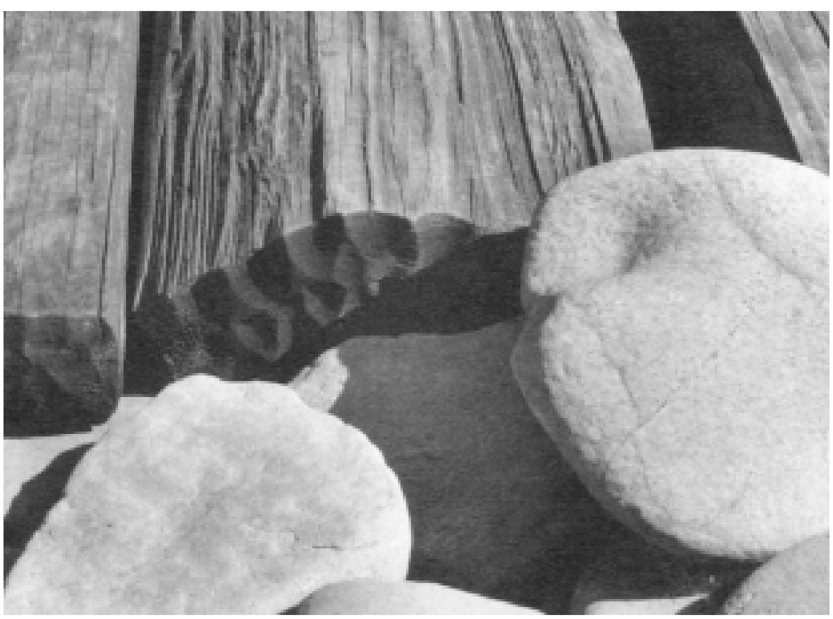
PLANK

When native people first appeared on the whale gray coast of what is now Northwest California, the world floated on water, grizzly bears danced beneath redwood trees and rivers ran thick with salmon.

Local tribes using redwood, cedar, hazel, earth and river rocks constructed distinctive gabled plank houses. They combined the wood with earth. Rocks were used to edge the rectangular buildings, to pave adjoining outdoor areas and to cap the subterranean (underground) sweathouses.

More than formal ornament, however, the thermal mass of the rocks, and of the earth itself, acted as solar collectors. By day, they absorbed the heat of the sun. When the sun had passed and the ir had cooled, this heat was transferred to the house. Skillfully adapting local materials and solar energy to their needs, the Yurok, Karuk, Hupa, and others crafted energy-efficient shelters that were elegant and comfortable places for human beings to live.





OVERVIEW

SHELTER

PLANK

In Northwestern California, low gabled houses were built over rectangular earthen pits. Thick broad planks of redwood or cedar were set on end to line firepits and form house walls. Wooden rafters supported pitched, plank roofs. River rocks and grapevines secured the structures. House walls were often set back from the edge of the pit, leaving an earthen "shelf" on which people were warmed by the rising heat from the firepit.

OVERVIEW

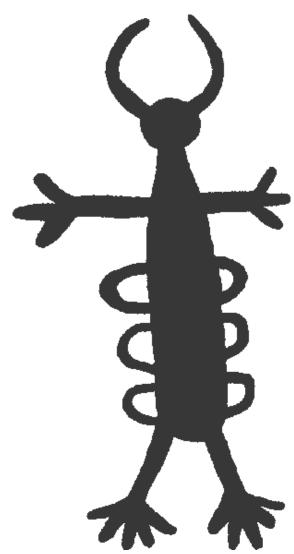
SHELTER

SAPLING & THATCH

Many native tribes in California's desert and coastal regions erected domed houses of bent sapling or tule framework. Natural fiber shelters, covered with brush or thatch (grass or tule reed) and curved like the vault of the sky, shielded their builders from cold, wet, wind, and sun.

In summer, the same materials were used to create shade with a sun shelter. These open-air arbors and lean-to shelters furnished shade and comfort during the hottest hours of the day and year, blocking the light and heat of the "traveling fire in the sky."

Traditional Indian builders adapted resourcefully to California's warm and arid regions, making and remaking households defined by religion and traditions, wood and grass, earth and sky. The Paiutes' brush-covered shelters made efficient use of the scarce resources on the high desert. Both Yokuts and Pomo erected covered arbors and oblong houses large and long enough to shelter whole villages. The Maidu built summer shelters facing east to temper the intense heat of the late afternoon sun. The Chumash placed the entrance to their sapling and sea-grass houses on the south side for solar gain.



OVERVIEW

SHELTER

SAPLING & THATCH

Traditional Indian builders in California's valleys, marshes, deserts, and coastal areas made fiber shelters of sapling or tule frames covered with brush or thatch (reeds, grasses). Built above ground or over earthen pits, sapling frames were often bent to dome or oval shapes and secured with fiber. In summer, the same materials were used to build flat-topped arbors or lean-to shelters.

OVERVIEW

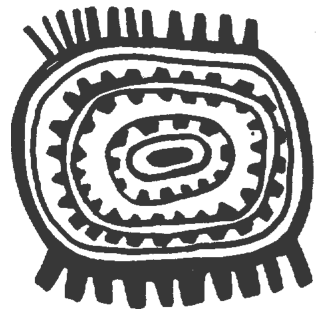
SHELTER

CONICAL BARK SLAB

California Indians oriented, or positioned, their traditional houses in relation to the sun. They understood the sun's movement through a day and a year — its cyclical, seasonal passages across the sky. They made its constancy and energy work for them. Houses were placed to admit the welcome warmth of the low winter sun as well as to block chill winds. In summer, orientation was reversed, limiting exposure to hot afternoon sun and admitting fresh air.

The Sierra Miwok sited bark slab houses on sunlit leeward slopes, above cold ravines but below windswept ridges. In the mountains, the eastern side of the cone for both the Maidu and the Miwok houses is angled sharply to prevent snow accumulation.

The placement of buildings in relation to the sun, wind, and landscape affects daily and seasonal heat gain and loss. A house that is properly oriented and insulated can be heated or cooled by natural, sustainable means. Orientation is common sense. It's a lesson as old as the sun and coyote, but as new and as certain as tomorrow's sunrise.

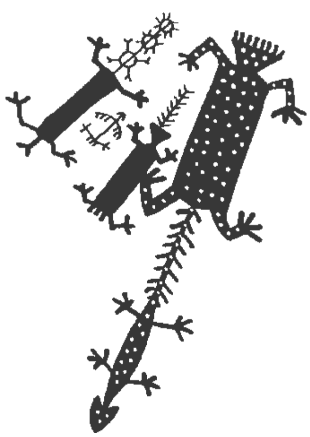


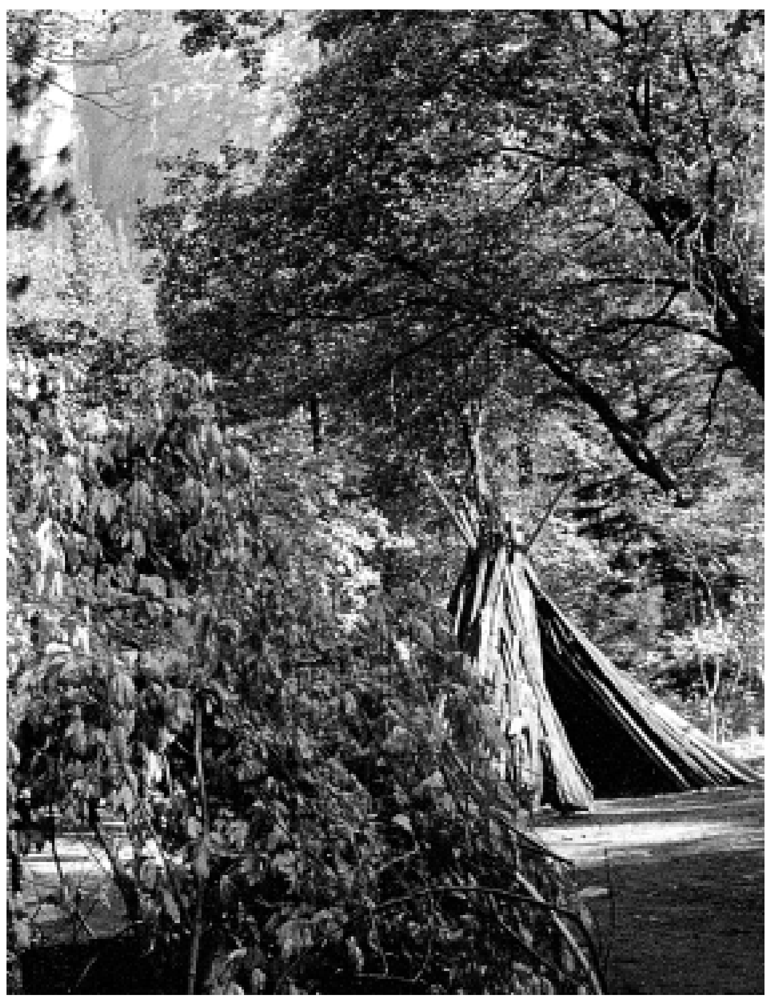
OVERVIEW

SHELTER

CONICAL BARK SLAB

Conical bark slab houses were built by California's coastal and mountain tribes. In cold, damp or foggy areas, large slabs of redwood and cedar (or other conifers) were arranged on end in a conical shape. The thick, bark slabs were either freestanding or supported by a cone-shaped sapling frame. Earth was banked against the base. The Miwok referred to their conical bark houses as kotea, "a place where real people live."





SHELTER

• Houses are but one kind of shelter, or home, in which to live. People live in houses, trailers, apartments, cars, rooms, boats, etc. Ask students to name as many different kinds of shelter as they can. Have them create a collage of homes from magazines — different kinds, different times, different cultures. Select several of these and ask students to suggest what materials they are made of, what forms of energy are required to construct and "operate" them. Ask them to imagine what it might be like to live in them.

• Ask students to imagine what it might be like to live in different types of traditional California Indian houses: a redwood/cedar plank house in the forests of the northwest, an earthen house in the central foothills or deserts, a conical bark slab house in a mountain meadow, and a sapling frame house with a grass/thatch cover in treeless grasslands on the coast.

• Organize students into groups. Have each group research one type of traditional California Indian house (see above). Ask them to describe the housing type and identify the tribes that erected this form of shelter and what they called it. Have them describe the habitat in which it would most likely be found. How did the habitat affect the designs of the house and the selection of materials used in construction? What materials were used and how were they obtained?

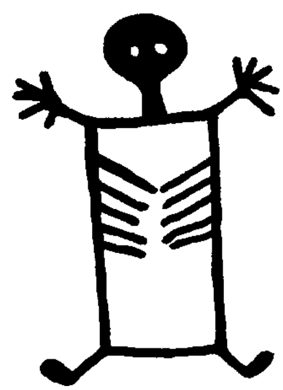
• Energy is required to build, heat, cool and light a home. But energy is also needed to produce and transport the building materials. California Indians reduced the need to transport or produce materials by using locally available resources in their natural state. Materials available on or near the building site might include, for example, reeds and grasses in marshy areas or tree bark in forested areas. Ask them to cite other examples. Have them consider the kinds of energy required to produce the materials, to transport them, and to construct each type of traditional house.

• Ask students to decide what type of traditional California Indian house would be best to build in their neighborhood, considering locally available natural materials and climatic conditions.

• Compare this to construction of a contemporary house. Which house, traditional or contemporary, uses the greatest amount of energy in the production and transportation of materials, in construction and in "operation?" Why? Which house uses the greatest amount of non-renewable resources? Why?

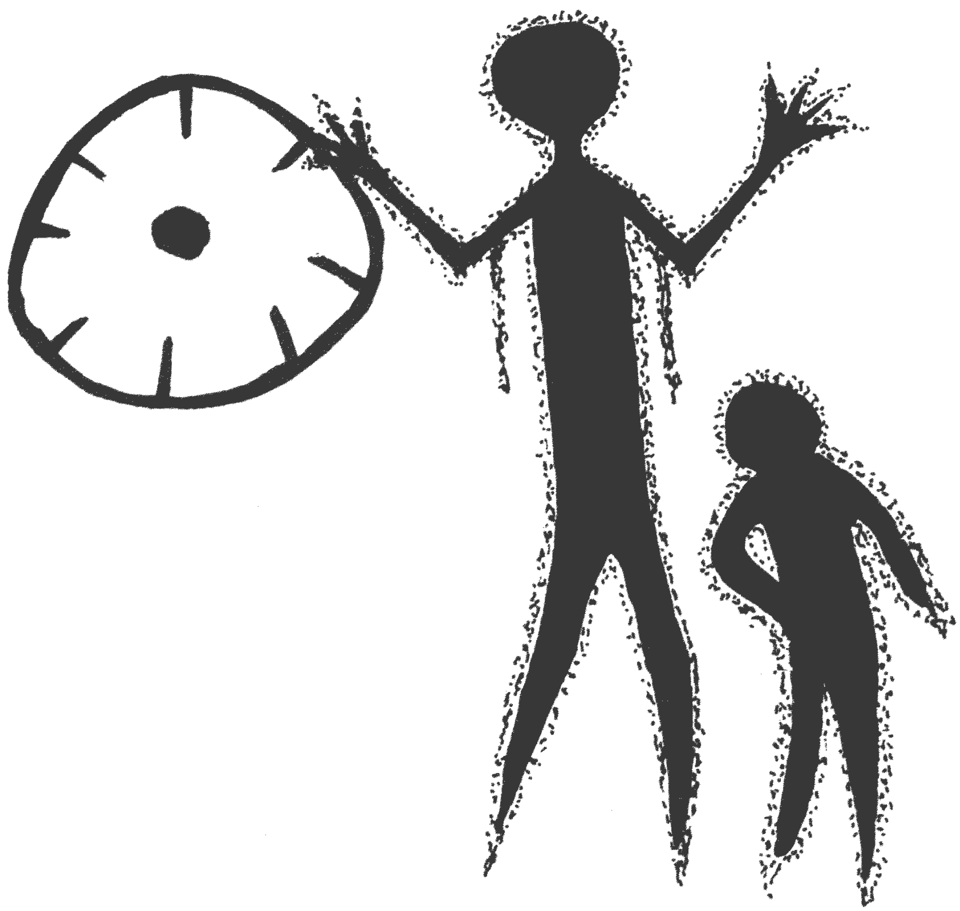
• Ask students to think of their neighborhood (or the neighborhood outside the classroom) as a source of "local" materials Challenge them to design a small house using any locally available materials, renewable or not, attractive or not, conventional or not (encourage them to try an unconventional approach). Ask them to consider energy conservation in their design.

• How do houses let us live comfortably in many different environments? How do houses reflect the values of a community or culture? How does energy use reflect the values of a community or culture?



The stone struck sun's house,
and sun flew through the smokehole,
straight up, blazing light, high into
the middle of the sky.

LAKE MIWOK



OVERVIEW

INSULATION

When heat is lost, energy is lost, and additional energy must be spent to replace it. An alternative means of preventing heat loss or heat gain is "insulation." Materials that insulate well do so because they are poor conductors of heat. Instead of passing heat through, they form barriers between interior and exterior spaces — between warmed interiors and cold weather or cool interiors and hot weather. Insulation is as effective in hot conditions as in cold conditions. As a result, less energy is required to cool homes in hot weather or heat homes in cold weather. Well insulated, energy-efficient houses maintain an even temperature year-round.

Insulation actually begins with the structural material itself and ends with the outer "skin" of a building. Between, layers of non-conducting materials reinforce the effect. Although we don't usually think of it in this way, air itself is an insulating material. Spaces of air trapped by the materials slow the transfer of heat (conduction). California Indians used many indigenous materials as insulation — grasses, reeds, brush, boughs, wood, sand, mud and earth. While many materials can be used as insulation, some possess other characteristics that make them more desirable as building materials. For example, earth is not the most efficient insulating material, but it is usually more abundant, close to the building site, and fire resistant. Some materials insulate better than others, but all insulation saves energy and money, for heat contained is energy conserved.

DEFINITION

In•su•la•tion
To prevent the passage of heat into or out of a body or region. From the Latin - *insula* meaning island.

SCIENCE FRAMEWORK CONNECTION

Physical Science
E. Energy: Heat
E1. What is heat energy? Where does it come from and what are it's properties?
E2. How do we use heat energy?
G. Energy: Light
G1. What is light?
G2. What are the

ACTIVITY

INSULATION

OBJECTIVE

To demonstrate the role of insulation in preventing heat loss and gain.

MATERIALS

3 glass jars, 2 boxes or milk cartons, dirt, grass clippings, piece of cardboard (same size as bottom of carton), 3 thermometers, 3 rubber bands, 3 pieces of plastic wrap (to cover jars), and hot water.

TIME

2 sessions, 50 minutes each.

STUDENTS' PRECONCEPTION

Ask students to discuss ways in which they use different kinds of insulation to keep themselves and their homes warm. After setting up the demonstration, have them predict which jar will retain the most heat and which will lose the most. Why?

PROCEDURE

Place a glass jar in an upright box or truncated milk carton. Surround jar with dirt. Place identical second jar in similar box or carton. Surround the second jar with grass clippings. Place identical third jar on a flat piece of cardboard. Pour the same amount of very hot water into each jar. (Instructor should pour.) Cover the jars with plastic wrap "lids" and secure the "lids" with rubber bands. Poke a hole in the "lids" large enough for the thermometers to fit through. Cover the hole until you take temperature readings. Use a thermometer to record the temperature in each jar every 5 minutes for 30-40 minutes. (Cover the hole whenever you remove the thermometer.) Have groups of students create graphs from the data (one group per jar). Compare the results and share conclusions.

CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGE

Which jar of water remained hottest the longest? Did the insulation make a difference? If so, which insulation was the most effective?

APPLICATION

• Repeat activity using "insulation" that students contribute from home (cereal, gravel, cotton, bread, paper, etc.) Ask them to predict the effectiveness of each material.

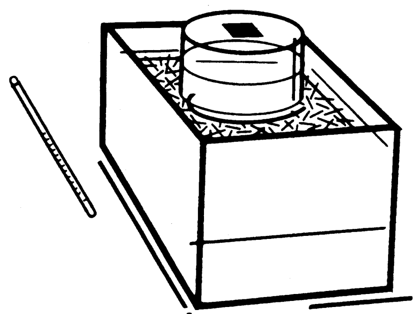
• Have students put on their sweaters, coats, boots, hats, etc., and take them outside on a cold day. Discuss (and demonstrate) how these items of clothing insulate them from the cold. Explain that 80 percent of their body's heat is lost through an uncovered head. Ask students to draw parallels between themselves and their houses (wearing hat/insulating roof, leaving front of coat open/opening window, wearing sweater and coat/insulating walls, raising their body temperature through activity, using energy to heat the interior of their house).

• California Indians traditionally built houses in several different shapes: rectangular, circular, domical and conical. Explain to students that when air (a gas) is heated, it expands and rises (convection). Ask them which kind of house would be more efficient to heat (all else being equal) — one with a conical-shaped interior space or one with a rectangular-shaped space?

• Redwood/cedar plank houses of northwestern California were not conical in shape, but with pitched roofs on very low rectangular walls over sunken firepits. The shape of their interior space was also efficient to heat.

• Ask students to imagine that snow has blanketed their neighborhood. Later that day, they discover that while many homes still have snow covering their roofs, others have none. The sky is overcast. It has been cold all day. The homes all face the same direction. There are no overhanging trees. Ask the students to suggest reasons for the difference. (Hint: it relates to insulation.)

• Can snow and ice insulate and prevent heat loss? Ask students to identify a traditional form of American Indian architecture that illustrates this concept. Why would this material have been used in that environment and not in others.



OVERVIEW

THERMAL MASS

The sun's rays, wherever they fall, convert to heat. Some objects are composed of material that can conduct this "thermal energy" better than others — transmitting it to cooler surroundings. Materials that are capable of absorbing and holding thermal energy have "thermal mass." Structural materials with thermal mass (walls, roofs, paving, earth, stones, etc.) become solar collectors when exposed to the sun. The greater the area of thermal mass, the greater its ability to store heat and maintain a uniform temperature. Dark objects absorb heat better than light-colored ones— the darker the thermal mass, the more heat it will hold. The sun is an unlimited source of renewable energy, and thermal mass is a clean, direct means of collecting and distributing the heat energy to our homes and communities. Remember, thermal mass works in reverse for the summer months, absorbing the cool of the night and reflecting back into the building during he day

DEFINITION

Thermal mass
The relative capacity of solid materials to gain and hold heat (thermal energy). From the Greek — *therme* meaning heat and *maza* meaning barley cake, lump, or mass.

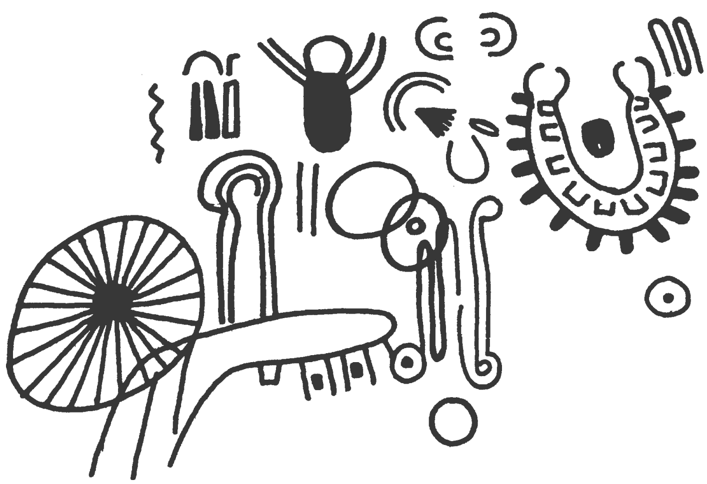
SCIENCE FRAMEWORK CONNECTION

Physical science

E. Energy:heat
E1. What is heat energy? Where does it come from and what are its properties
E2 How do we use heat energy?
G. Energy:Light
G2. What are the properties of light?
3. How do we use light?

Life Sciences

A. Living Things
A3. What are the relationships of organisms and how are living things classified?



ACTIVITY

THERMAL MASS

OBJECTIVE

To compare the ability of potential building materials to absorb and hold heat from the sun (thermal energy).

MATERIALS

4 identical containers with lids,
4 thermometers, water to fill containers (room temperature), material samples (similar in size), brick, block of wood, 2 ziplock bags (one holding dirt and one holding grass clippings or styrofoam beads (compress air out of bags before sealing), 4 blankets.

TIME

2 hours, 3 sessions: 1. Discuss principle, students' preconception, and activity. Prepare samples (20 min.) 2. Move objects from sun to containers. Record results (1 hr.) 3. Conceptual challenge and applications (40 min.).

STUDENTS' PRECONCEPTION

Have students cite examples of material surfaces that radiate heat after the air temperature (inside or outside) has cooled. Why? Ask them to predict which material samples used in he activity will absorb and hold the most heat. The least?

PROCEDURE

Place material samples in direct sunlight for one hour or more. Fill each container with the same volume (2/3 full) and temperature of water. Record water temperature in each. Remove samples from sun and place each one in a container. Cover with lids and blankets. After 45 minutes, uncover containers and record water temperature in each. Subtract original from final water temperature. Record results for each container.

CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGE

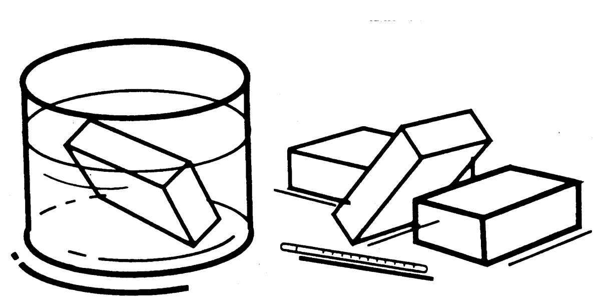
The water in which container gained the most heat? The least heat? The warmest water held which material? The coolest held which material? To what do you attribute this variance in temperature? Which material gained and held the best (has the greater heat capacity/thermal mass)?

APPLICATION

• Demonstrate the transference (conduction) of heat from one thermal mass to another. Fill a hot water bottle with water that is very warm (but not uncomfortable to touch). Lay it on the desk of a student volunteer. Have students test the normal temperature of their palms by placing them against their cheeks. Ask them to place their hands, palms down, on the hot water bottle for at least 2 minutes. Have them test the temperature of their palms against their cheeks again. What has happened? Why? Let other students repeat this activity and guide students in a discussion of the transference (conduction) of heat—in this case from water to rubber to hand to cheek. Lift the hot water bottle from the desk to reveal heat conducted to the desk.

• Ask students to select materials for a house to be built in a cold climate. What type and color of materials would they choose for the exterior of the house to take advantage of thermal mass? What if they wanted to melt snow on a roof or walkway? What type and color of material would they use on the floor of a sunny room? Why?

• California Indians cooked food with hot stones. Clean cooking stones were heated in a fire and then, using a wooden utensil, placed in beautiful baskets filled with acorn mush. As stones cooled, they were removed and new stones added to further cook the mush. Where did the heat from the stones go? Why don't we cook this way today?



OVERVIEW

SHADE

In summer, California Indians not only took advantage of natural shade, they made their own shade with open-air shelters. The sun's energy heats everything in its path, even air. Interrupting or blocking this energy creates shade (diminished light and heat). To cover a space without enclosing it provides shade, circulation of fresh air (ventilation), and protection from solar radiation. Thermal energy is most intense on a structure's south and west faces, and when the sun is directly overhead. The angle and intensity of its rays vary from hour to hour, season to season, but as this variation is cyclical, shelters can be planned and managed to benefit both human comfort and the environment. Relative size and position of structural openings (windows and doors) and sun blocks (roofs, overhangs, window coverings, awnings, walls, trees, etc.) affect the absorption and retention of thermal energy. When it comes to energy efficiency and cost effectiveness, sometimes the best relationship with the sun is a cautious one — little or no sun at all.

DEFINITION

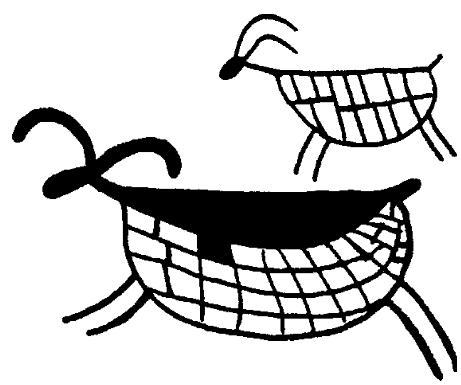
Shade
Shade results when sunlight, solar energy, is blocked or inhibited. From the Greek — *Skotis* meaning darkness.

SCIENCE FRAMEWORK CONNECTION

Physical Science
E. Energy: Heat
E1. What is heat energy?
E2. How do we use heat energy?
G. Energy: Light
G1. What is light energy?
G2. What are the properties of light?

Earth Sciences
A. Astronomy
A1. How do the objects of the universe relate to one another?
B. Geology
B1. What are the responsibilities of humans toward natural resources?

Life Sciences
A. Living Things.
A4. How do humans interact with other living things?



ACTIVITY

SHADE

OBJECTIVE

To demonstrate the role that shade plays in the prevention of heat gain.

MATERIALS

Cardboard, scissors or utility knife, ice cubes, ziplock plastic bags, sun.

TIME

50 minutes (near midday).

STUDENTS' PRECONCEPTION

Guide students in visualizing and describing the conditions, cause and effect of a shaded environment in a warm climate. Have them describe the same environment without protection from the sun (especially at midday). Ask the students to predict in which environment (sun or shade) the ice cube will melt more quickly. Why?

PROCEDURE

Cut a rectangle of cardboard measuring 11"x14", plus 2 squares measuring 6"x6." Fold the rectangle in half at a 90 degree angle to form a cardboard "roof" or sunscreen. Place both squares of cardboard in a sunny location and put an ice cube (in a plastic bag) on each. Immediately place the cardboard roof over one of the ice cubes. Be sure not to shade the other ice cube with your body! After 30 minutes, measure the amount of water that has collected in each bag.

CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGE

Which ice cube melted more quickly the one in the shade or the one without protection? Which ice cube absorbed the most thermal energy? Why? What was the source of this energy? What is shade a result of?

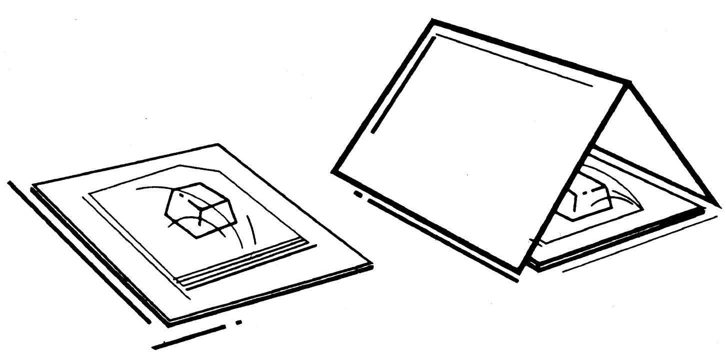
APPLICATION

- Ask students to illustrate shade with drawings showing a "sunscreen" of their choice blocking the sun and creating shade.

- Ask students to break into groups and compose lists of as may sources of shade as they can think of that block the sun's heat from their homes, thereby reducing the need for cooling their homes in the in the summer. Compare lists.

- Is the moon ever a source of shade? (Diagram a solar eclipse on the blackboard to demonstrate how sunlight is dimmed or eliminated by the moon.)

- Discuss where the energy needed to cool a home without sufficient shade comes from. Can shade be grown? What kinds?



OVERVIEW

ORIENTATION

What is a house without windows or doors? Windows and doors enable us to enter and exit a building, but they also allow sunlight, air, heat and cold to enter and exit. How we position windows, doors, and the house itself — in relation to the wind, the landscape, and the movement of the sun — can increase its comfort and energy efficiency. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west, and when its light falls on or in a house it is converted to heat. The summer sun arcs high overhead, while the winter sun passes low across the southern sky. The most critical period for solar heat gain is late afternoon during the summer, when the sun is low to the northwest and protection is important. Because surface area affects heat gain and loss, the short side of a house should face west and be used for storage, etc., forming a thermal buffer. Rooms with large windows should face south for winter solar heat gain. The next time you routinely reach for a thermostat, open or close a window instead. Save money and energy. Don't flip switches. Open the drapes, close a door, use the sun! Orientation is as practical and convenient as windows and doors.

DEFINITION

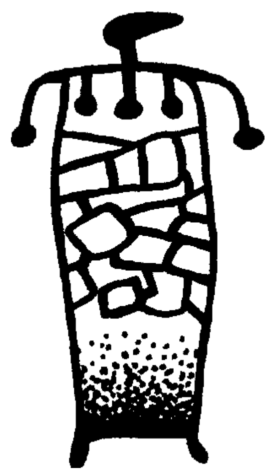
O•ri•en•ta•tion
To replace or adjust in relation to the points of a compass. To adjust in relation to a situation. From the Latin — *Oriens* meaning rising, rising sun, east.

SCIENCE FRAMEWORK CONNECTION

Physical Science
- E. Energy: Heat
- E1. What is heat energy?
- E2. How do we use heat Energy?
- G. Energy: Light
- G1. What is light energy?
- G2. What are the properties of light?

Earth Sciences
- A. Astronomy
- A1. How do the objects of the universe relate to one another?
- B. Geology
- B1. What are the responsibilities of humans toward natural resources?

Life Science
- A. Living things
- A4. How do humans interact with other living things?



ACTIVITY

ORIENTATION 1

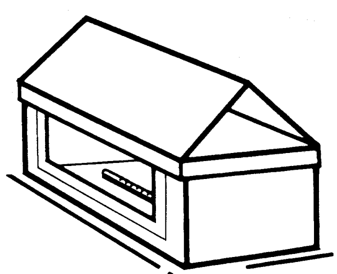
OBJECTIVE
To understand the importance of the placement, or orientation, of your house in relation to the sun's position in the sky.

MATERIALS
2 shoe boxes, plastic wrap, tape, scissors or utility knife, thermometers, construction paper (optional for roof).

TIME
1 hour on a sunny afternoon.

STUDENTS' PRECONCEPTION
Ask students to name the four directions or cardinal points of the compass. Diagram them on the chalkboard. Review them and the sun's passage through the sky as it relates to the directions of the compass during the course of the day and in different seasons. (An optional procedure to make this concept visible is noted below.) Guide students in assigning climatic characteristics to each direction (e.g., cold, windy, hot, dry, snow, warm, wet, etc.) Ask students to predict the characteristics of the shoe box "house" that will be the warmest in the winter (will collect the most thermal energy. Why?

PROCEDURE
Make 2 "houses" from similar shoe boxes. Cut a 2&3/4" x 6" window on one side of each box. Cover windows with clear plastic wrap and tape edges. Lay a thermometer in each house (so temperature may be read through window). Make a roof (optional) and tape it to the top of the "house." Put both houses in a sunny afternoon location, with the window of one facing south and the other facing north. Record the temperature of both every 10 minutes for 30 minutes.



OPTIONAL PROCEDURE
Place a paper-tape X on a sunny window and let students track the shadow as it moves around the classroom. By marking and recording the shadow Xs at different times of the day, month, or year, students can track the sun's movement overhead plus the corresponding angle and depth of penetration of its rays into the room. Let students draw conclusions from this activity regarding solar energy and orientation and the effects both can have on heating and cooling a house. Can shading be factored into the exercise?

CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGE
The warmest house faced which direction? Why? The coolest house faced which direction? Why?

APPLICATION
• Which direction(s) should the windows of a house face in the winter to take advantage of the sun's thermal energy? Why?

• Which direction should they NOT face? Why?

• How should windows be oriented and/or treated in the summer to minimize the sun's thermal energy? Why?

• The Yurok and their neighbors, in what is now northwestern California, had no cardinal directions. Instead, they thought in terms of water and the directions in which it moved: *pul* refers to the downstream directions; *wohpe* refers to the directions across the ocean; *hiko* is across the stream; *won* is uphill or away form the stream on one's own side, etc. You could say that *Yurok* based their directions of the flow of energy.

• It is likely that the direction(s) used by other northern California Indians were based on the prevailing directions of their streams and watershed as much as on celestial occurrences. Would tribes in southern California have been as likely to use streams for their directions? According to anthropologists, southern tribes were influenced far more by solar orientation in determining their directions. (Water was scarce; its flow was inconstant and irregular while celestial phenomena were constant.)

• Ask students to research and demonstrate the significance of our contemporary cardinal directions. What do we base them on physically and historically? What one direction reveals itself most easily and this reveals the placement of the others? How do you know that direction? (East is where the sun rises.)

ACTIVITY

ORIENTATION 2

OBJECTIVE
To examine the forces, directions and uses of the wind.

MATERIALS
Masking tape, new pencil, rubber band, long plastic bag (bread or newspaper wrapper), plastic or cardboard cup with bottom cut out, strong T-shaped straight pin, wind, compass.

TIME
2 hours initially. Can be repeated for 30 minutes over the course of several days to gather more data.

STUDENT'S PRECONCEPTION
Ask students to describe their experiences with the wind. Take them outside on a windy day — ask them what they think the direction of the strongest wind will be. We know that winds come from different directions, but what is the wind and what is its cause? Explain to them that winds are named for the directions from which they come.

PROCEDURE
Using a compass, use masking tape to mark north, south, east and west on the playground. Have students construct windsocks. (Cut open bottom of plastic bag. Attach one end of bag around edge of cup, top of cup outside bag, with rubber band. Push T-pin through edge of cup and into end of eraser so that cup rotates freely.) Have students test their wind socks outside, away from buildings. The cup will face the direction from which the wind is coming. Ask students to record their observations on the force and direction of the wind, as indicated by the windsocks. Repeat over a period of several days to a week. Compare results.

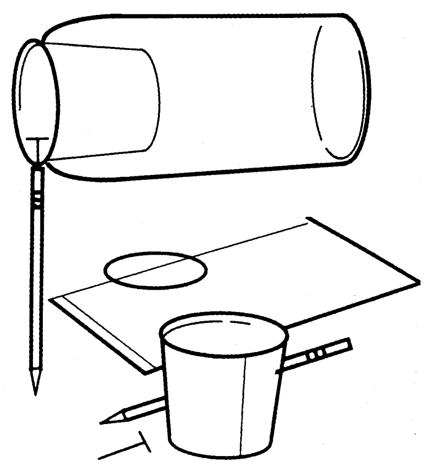
CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGE
Were forces and directions constant? Why or why not?

APPLICATION
Why is it important to know the direction of the wind?

How can the position of a house in relation to the direction of the wind affect the heating or cooling of that house? For better? For Worse?

Describe ways in which wind energy can perform "work" (moving boats, drying clothes, "playing" wind chimes, cooling people and surroundings, etc.). Draw pictures of some examples.

How is wind energy converted to electricity? Why should we consider using it as an energy source? Compare wind energy to energy obtained from fossil fuels — which is safer, cheaper, more plentiful? Why?



SCIENCE FRAMEWORK CONNECTION

Earth Science

A. Astronomy
A1. How do the objects of the universe relate to one another?

B. Geology
B4. What are the responsibilities of humans toward natural resources?

D. Meteorology
D2. What are the physical bases of the earth's climate and weather?

Physical Science
D. Energy: Sources and Transformation
D2. What do we do with energy?

Chief of
the sky spirits decided
to bring his family down, and live on
earth himself. Mountains of snow and ice
became their lodge. He made a big fire in
the center of the mountain and a hole
in the top so the smoke and
sparks flew out.

MODOC

RESOURCES

DO FOR YOURSELF

The UNIVERSAL HOUSE activities were adapted from the lessons and activity guides below. Many variations of these lessons appear in other guides. The materials are described more completely in the ***Environmental Education, Compendium for Energy Resources***. (Available from The California Energy Commission, 1519 Ninth Street, Sacramento California, 95814). Also available as a download from Energy Quest Website at <www.energy.ca.gov/education. Click on Teacher Resources>.

WHAT IS ENERGY

Lesson Program. Science Education Center, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Energy Activities for the Primary Grades. El Dorado County Office of Education and California Energy Extension Services, 1985.

Tourtillot, Leeann. ***Conserve and Renew.*** Sonoma State Energy Center and

California Energy Extension Services, 1990.

SHELTER

Indians of Northwest California. "Our Ancestors and Our Community" and "***Home for Diné***." Indian Education Program, Klamath-Trinity Joint Unified School Districts, 1992.

California State Environmental Education Guide, "Communities and Cultures Unit." Alameda County Office of Education. 1988.

Clymire, Olga. ***A Child's Place in the Environment***, "Conserving Natural Resources Unit." Konocti Unified School District and California Department of Education, 1993.

Project Learning Tree, "Second Little Pig," "Another Way of Seeing" and "Start a City." The American Forest Council, 1997.

INSULATION

Energy Activities for the Primary Grades. El Dorado County Office of Education and Energy Extension Service, 1985.

Conservation: Science Activities in Energy. U.S. Department of Energy, 1978.

THERMAL MASS

With assistance from Melissa Reading, Pacific Gas … Electric, 1992.

SHADE

Conservation: Science Activities in Energy, "Ice Race." U.S. Department of Energy, 1978.

ORIENTATION 1

Hot Water and Warm Homes, Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS) series, Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, 1986

California State Environmental Education Guide, "Energy Unit."

ORIENTATION 2

Can We Plug Into Windmills?
Breakthroughs-Strategies for Thinking. Zaner-Bloser, Inc., 1992
Energy Activities for the Primary Grades, "Wind Experiments."

READ FOR YOURSELF

The examples offered here represent a selection of reference materials that could be utilized in the classroom for research and to assist in the implementation of activities and concepts presented in this guide.

Caduto, Michael J, … Bruchac, Joseph. ***Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children***. Fulcrum, Inc., 1988.

News From Native California, Quarterly periodical. Heyday Books, 2054 University Ave., #403, Berkeley, CA 94704. 415-549-3564.

The Way We Lived: California Indian Reminisces, Stories and Songs. Edited by Malcolm Margolin, Heyday Books, 1981.

Margolin, Malcolm. ***The Ohlone Way***. Heyday Books. Berkeley, 1978.

American Indian Myths and Legends. Edited by Richard Erdoes … Alfonso Ortiz. Pantheon Books, 1984.

The California Indians: A Source Book. Edited by R.F. Heizer … M. A. Whipple. 2nd Edition. University of California Press, 1971. 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA, 94720.

Eargle, Dolan H. ***The Earth is Our Mother: A Guide to the Indians of California, Their Locales and Historic Sites***. Trees Company Press, 1986. 49 Van Buren Way, San Francisco, CA 94131.

California Indian Nights. Compiled by E.W. Gifford & G. H. Block. University of Nebraska Press, 1990.

Kroeber, A.L. ***Handbook of the Indians of California***. Dover Publications, Inc., 1976.

RESOURCES

Faber, G., & Lasagna, M., ***Whispers from the First Californians: A Story of California's First People***. Magpie Publications, 1984.

The American Indian: Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow — A Handbook for Educators. California Department of Education, 1991.

Nobokov, Peter, & Easton, Robert. ***Native American Architecture***. Oxford University Press, 1989.

Rudofsky, Bernard. ***Architecture Without Architects: A Short Introduction to Non-Pedigree Architecture***. University of New Mexico Press, 1988.

The Trees Stand Shining: Poetry of the North American Indians. Selected by Hettie Jones. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. Dial Press, 1971.

The Whispering Wind: Poetry by Young American Indians. Compiled by Terry Allen. Doubleday, 1972

SEE FOR YOURSELF

Examples of traditional California Architecture (reconstructions, with the exception of Hupa where original structures still exist), and/or cultural museums, may be seen at the following sites (please call ahead). A more complete list may be found in *The Earth is Our Moth*er, Appendix D.

ANDERSON MARSH STATE PARK
Lower Lake, CA
707/279-4293

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Hall of Human Cultures
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA
415-221-5100

CALIFORNIA STATE INDIAN MUSEUM
2618 K. St., Sacramento, CA
916-324-0971

CHAW'SE
Indian Grinding Rock Historic State Park
Pine Grove, CA
209-296-7488

CHUMASH TRIBE
P.O. Box 517, Santa Ynez, CA
805-686- 1455

COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER
8000 Patterson Rd., Freemont, CA
510-793—9385

FT. YUMA RESERVATION MUSEUM
Quechan Tribal Council
P.O. Box 11352, Yuma AZ
619-572-0661

HUPA TRIBAL MUSEUM
P.O. Box 1348, Hoopa, CA
916-625-4110

KULE LOKLO
Point Reyes National Seashore
Visitors Center, Olema, CA
415-663-1092

LANDO HALL OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY
L.A. Museum of Natural History
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
213-744-3466

THE MARIN MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN
2200 Novato Blvd., Novato, CA
415-897-4064

OAKLAND MUSEUM
1000 Oak St., Oakland, CA
510-834-2413

PHOEBE HEARST MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY
University of California
Berkeley, CA
510-642-3681

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF MAN
Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
619 239-2001

SIERRA MONO MUSEUM
State Highway 225 at 228
North Fork, CA
209-877-2115

SATWIWA
Rancho Sierra Vista
Santa Monica Mountains N.R.A.
Woodland Hills, CA
213-888-3770

SUMEG VILLAGE
Patrick's Point State Park
Trinidad CA
707-677-3570

YOSEMITE MIWOK VILLAGE
Yosemite National Park, CA
Park Info: 209-372-0200

Coyote slept four times.
At first he slept with his head toward the west.
He slept with it toward the north, and the south, and the fourth time coyote slept with his head to the east. While he slept, his forehead grew very warm. Then he awoke and said, "I dreamed of the sun." So, coyote decided to get the sun, and bring it back to his people.

ATHABASCAN (CAHTO)

Gray Davis, Governor

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA,
95814-5512

Energy Education Materials on
ENERGY QUEST
www.energy.ca.gov/education