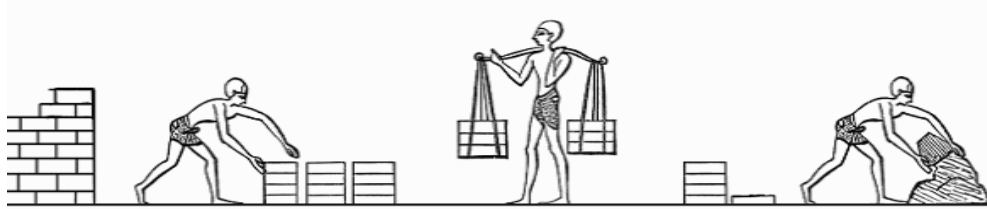


# The Egyptians - Housing

There are no forests in Egypt so wood is scarce and is not used for house building. The earliest inhabitants of Egypt lived in huts made from papyrus reeds. However, it was soon discovered that the mud left behind after the annual flooding of the Nile (inundation) could be made into bricks which could be used for building. Bricks were made by mixing mud and straw and leaving them to dry in the sun.

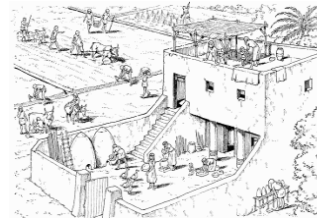


The houses of the poorest people used one row of bricks while those that were not so poor used two or three rows. Although mud brick houses were relatively cheap to make, they were not very strong and began to crumble after a few years.

The houses of the richest people were stronger because they could afford to build their home from stone.

Most houses had at least three rooms and all houses had flat roofs which formed part of the living area.

The farmhouse (right) has two floors. The upper floor is used for living space while the lower floor is used to store crops. A reed canopy has been made on the roof to provide shade.



Small windows can be seen at the top of the upper rooms. Windows and doors were covered with reed mats to keep out dust, flies and heat.



The houses of the rich were often built around a central courtyard where flowers, fruit and vegetables were grown.

Some rich people's houses had bathrooms and indoor toilets. Sewerage from rich and poor was disposed of by digging cess pits, throwing it in the river or in the streets.

From the time of the New Kingdom onwards, the rich generally had their own private well for fresh drinking water. Poorer people could use public wells that were constructed in various areas, however, many used water from the Nile or canals.

## Furniture

The Ancient Egyptians did not have much furniture. The most common item of furniture was a low stool, although many people, especially the poor sat on the floor. Rich people had beds and mattresses, while poorer people slept on a straw mattress or rug on the floor. The Ancient Egyptians did not have

# Ancient Egypt Housing Quick Quiz

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Answer true or false to the questions below:

1. There are no forests in Egypt **T/F**
2. Bricks were made by mixing sand and shingle **T/F**
3. Rich people used stone to build their houses **T/F**
4. All houses had pointed roofs **T/F**
5. Windows and doors were filled with wood and glass **T/F**
6. Public wells were available from the time of the New Kingdom **T/F**
7. Rich peoples' houses were often built around a central courtyard **T/F**
8. People stored their things in cupboards **T/F**
9. The most common item of furniture was a low stool **T/F**
10. The poorest people slept on a rug on the floor **T/F**