



Log Homes Project

Today's AH-HA project gets you building and creating!
Your challenge today will be to build a log home!

Who:

- You and your family

What:

- Pioneers living in Northwest Ohio two hundred years ago had to build their homes from the materials around them. It's hard to imagine today but once this area was a huge forest filled with tall trees. Some spots the trees were so close, it was dark even when the sun was out. When new settlers moved into this area, they would cut down the logs and use those to make a house.
- Log homes were usually one large room with one door and a couple windows. More than likely there was a fireplace with a chimney. The fireplace was where all the cooking was done, and it heated the home. Sometimes there was also a second floor with a ladder.
- A log home had almost all the same "rooms" we do today; they were just found in one space! On the first floor of the log home, would have been space to cook, eat, bath, entertain, do laundry, and sleep. The second floor was usually where the kids slept.
- The room that log homes did not have was the bathroom! The bathroom was outside of the house in a separate building called the outhouse.
- How many rooms does your house have? What are their functions? Do you have your own bedroom, or do you have to share?

How:

- First, think about how you want your log home to look. How many windows will it have? Where will the door be? Where will you put the chimney?
- Once you have a plan, find your materials. Look around your house for things you can use to create a log home. Paper, cardboard, Legos, blocks, Lincoln Logs, boxes, toilet paper rolls, paper bags, empty milk cartons... be creative! You may need glue or tape to hold your log home together. Could you use foods to make your log home? Like pretzels, graham crackers or carrot sticks?
- Finally, post your completed log home on Heritage Sylvania's Facebook page. You will be entered to win an AH-HA prize!

Tips:

- After helping child gather necessary supplies, see what they can build without any help! Their engineering skills may impress you!
- Houses can also be 2 dimensional and pasted flat to a piece of paper.
- Of course, if your child needs help, jump in! Work together to find the best way to build your structure!

Extensions:

- Want to try a little bit more? Try and add a second floor to your log cabin. After you add a second floor, is your second floor able to hold any weight? Place blocks or coins in your floor to see how many it will hold. What can you do to make the second floor stronger?
- Make more than one log home out of different materials. Do you notice one material stronger than the other?