

---

# "LIVING SPACE IN THE HOME"

## **TO THE TEACHER:**

This activity comes from **"Discovering Your Community"** produced by the Ontario Historical Society.

"Living Space in the Home" lets the class explore the differences between interiors of historic and modern homes. By studying how living space is arranged, students will learn how homes have been used differently over time and in various cultures.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- learn how and why interiors change over time
- discover the purpose of interiors (shelter, comfort, relaxation, sleep)
- develop a sense of home as a source of history
- gain the ability to gather information from sources other than books

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

- pens, pencils or pencil crayons
- clipboards and blank paper
- flipchart or chalkboard
- "Comparing Living Space" worksheet (grades 1-7)
- parental supervision (for tour)

## **ACTIVITY:**

(grades 1-7)

- Step 1 Using the flipchart or chalkboard, ask the class to list the rooms in their homes and what they are used for (e.g. rooms that reflect family hobbies such as wood working, music, sewing or a particular game or sport).
- Step 2 Ask the class to draw the floor plan and the contents of each room of their home. Assign the first half of the "Comparing Living Space" worksheet to be completed in class or for homework (depending on how well the student know what's in their homes!). Other items that should be included on the floor plan are: colours, drapes, rugs, decorative or religious ornaments, or recreation equipment (e.g. VCRs, TVs, video games, stereos).
- Step 3 If most of the class live in homes built within the last 50 years, arrange to visit a historical house or a museum that has an exhibit of historical interiors. If most of the group live in homes that have not been built within the last 50 years, have them collect pictures of modern homes (from magazines). Complete the second part of the "Comparing Living Space" worksheet.

---

Step 4 Back in the classroom (after the tour), prepare a floor plan of the historical house. Label the rooms and indicate their function. The class can take turns putting this information on the flipchart or chalkboard.

If the students have collected pictures of a modern home, then have them suggest and draw a model floor plan for a modern home.

Step 5 Ask the class to discuss the similarities and differences between their own homes and the model floor plan at the front of the room using the following questions:

1. What effects have cars, modern conveniences, technology and interests made on the design of modern homes?
2. What indications are there in older homes of a past lifestyle?
3. What aspects of interior design have not changed over time?
4. Compare what the class recorded about the furnishings in their home with those seen on the tour of the historic house or in the pictures of the modern home. What reasons can be found for these differences?

# "COMPARING LIVING SPACE"

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

THE INSIDE:	Home Built Within Last 50 Years	Home Built More Than 50 Years Ago
How many rooms are there?		
How many rooms or spaces use only one type of activity? (specialized space)  What are they called?		
How many rooms or spaces are used for more than one type of activity? (flexible space)  What are they called?		
Which rooms or spaces are used for family activities?		
How many rooms or spaces are used: mainly by adults mainly by children by both mainly by men mainly by women?  What are they called?		
List the rooms found in homes built within the last 50 years that are NOT found in earlier homes.		
List the rooms that were found in homes built more than 50 years ago that are NOT found in homes today.		