



## Home in Nature

### Activity Description:

Consider human needs and the environment to construct a small home using natural materials.

---

### Materials:

- This activity sheet
  - Pencil
- 

### People of Picture Canyon

The Northern Sinagua People lived in Picture Canyon, now a Natural & Cultural Preserve in Flagstaff, AZ, from 700-1300 ACE (that's more than 700 years ago!). Picture Canyon's variety in plants and animals and access to water made it possible for people to farm, collect water, and live here. Plants, such as banana yucca, Gambel's oak, and currants, provided food and materials for shelter and tools.

In some places, like at Walnut Canyon National Monument, the Sinagua would build their homes under cliff overhangs. Other places without natural cliff shelters, the Sinagua built pit houses. Pit houses had dug in stone/clay walls, log beams, and grass roofs.

The Sinagua etched nearly 800 petroglyphs into the canyon walls and boulders. When you visit cultural sites, please help protect them by not touching the petroglyphs or removing any artifacts.

Check out the [City of Flagstaff's website](#) to learn more about Picture Canyon and the Sinagua People.

**What are our basic human needs? How did people meet their basic needs in Picture Canyon?**

**Directions:**

1. **Find a special rock** smaller than your fist. Your rock represents a human! Give your rock-human a name and hang on to it for this activity.
2. Your task will be to build a shelter big enough to house your rock. Your shelter needs to keep your rock-human alive!
  - a. **Find a location for your shelter.** What natural hazards, like flooding and wind, can you avoid? Where might you find good protection?
  - b. **Plan your construction.** Think about what your rock-human needs to survive, including warmth, water, and food. What natural materials can you use to make your shelter sturdy, insulated, and weatherproof? What shape will your house be?
  - c. **Collect items for your shelter.** You may only use natural materials that are dead and on the ground. Do not collect anything larger than your forearm. Be careful not to disturb any critters! If you try to collect a rock but there are a bunch of ants under it, do not move that rock! **Your goal during this activity is to have the smallest impact on nature as possible.**
  - d. **Build your shelter.** Get creative and have fun!
3. **Take a photo of your shelter or draw it** on the back of this paper.

Answer:

Why did you choose this location for your shelter?

What are some of your shelter's features?

Why do you think it will keep your rock-human safe?

4. **Put your shelter to the test.**

Make a wind storm (blow on your shelter)! Make an earthquake (stomp next to your shelter)! Make a monsoon storm (pour some water over your shelter)!

*Did your structure survive? Did your rock get rained on? How might you make it more weatherproof next time?*

5. **\*Deconstruct your shelter.\*** It's important to take apart your house, return things where you found them, and scatter materials. You want it to look like you were never there! Do not skip this step!

6. **Share your creation and thoughts with Seeds of Stewardship.** Send us photos of your shelter and completed worksheet:

- Post your photos to Instagram and tag [@aztsos](#)
- Or email your photos to
  - [julie@aztrail.org](mailto:julie@aztrail.org) for Northern AZ
  - [treven@aztrail.org](mailto:treven@aztrail.org) for Southern AZ

Keep enjoying the AZT and having fun outside!