**Homes around the World**

There are many different terrains and climates around the world which means that homes built in different countries are built from various materials and in a range of styles. Find out about some of the more common types of homes you might see if you travel the world.

**Skyscraper Apartments**

Skyscrapers earn their name because they reach high into the sky. Some skyscrapers reach as tall as 50 storeys high! In some places, like Hong Kong, so many people live in the same area it becomes very busy so there just isn’t enough land to build houses on, therefore they have to build homes on top of each other. More often than not, skyscraper buildings are used for office space in many busy cities all around the world.

**Tree Houses**

In places like the Philippines and Papau New Guinea, people live in houses built in trees. By living so high up, it helps the people to spot poisonous snakes and keep safe from dangerous wild animals. Also, the air is cooler and drier higher up. However, when the tree grows, it is necessary to move the home and rebuild it in a different part of the tree. In the past, tribes often lived in these homes but now they are more often used for meetings and resting. Nowadays, children often replicate these homes as a fun hide out in their gardens.

**Homes on Stilts**

Stilt houses are built primarily as a protection against flooding, but also serve to keep out vermin (rats). In addition, the shady space under the house can be used for work or storage. These houses are built using strong wood and are often found in places like Thailand and Malaysia. Sometimes, fishermen live in these houses as it is useful to be near to the water. As well as building these houses in some countries to offer protection from the floods and keep the homes above the dirty water, homes on stilts are also purpose built as luxury holiday accommodation so that people can relax in the clear blue waters whilst on an exotic holiday.

**Teepees**

These tent-like homes were used by the native American Indian tribes. Teepees comprise of a cone-shaped wooden frame with a covering of buffalo hide. They are designed to set up and break down quickly. As a tribe moved from place to place (usually following the buffalo herds), each family took their wooden poles and hide tent along with them. In present day, there are no longer many tribes and teepees are mainly used for special celebrations. In modern times, they are often also used as a novel camping holiday home.

**Igloo**

Igloos, also known as a ‘snow house’ or an ‘ice house’, are made out of blocks of snow and ice put together. These dome-shaped dwelling, with a low tunnel entrance, do not melt as it is so cold. The design of an igloo keeps the warm air in and the cold wind out. Although it can provide adequate protection for weeks in severe cold, it was used almost exclusively as a temporary shelter while travelling. The people who reside in an igloo are called Inuits, and they often live in Northern Canada. Igloos are just used as a winter home, then in summer Inuits use a tent made out of canvas or deer skin.

**Did you know...**

*that homes in hot countries are often painted white in order to keep the inside cool, as the bright colour reflects the sunlight?*

These are just a few of the different types of homes found around the world. There are many other different and interesting types of homes that people live in to suit their surroundings.