



Unit 13 – Building materials

KV zur Differenzierung: Schneiden Sie die Textteile aus und lassen Sie sie von schwächeren Schülerinnen und Schülern in die richtige Reihenfolge bringen.

✂ Task 03 – Put the text pieces into the correct order.

A brief history of building materials



Long ago, the Aboriginal People in Australia used **leaves** and **branches of trees** to build homes, while in the south-western part of the US, the Pueblo Indians used **sun-dried bricks** to build their houses.

These were materials they had to hand. Today, houses are built of different materials depending on culture, cost, tradition, personal taste but also on the size and shape of the building.

There are four basic materials that are used nowadays: **Wood** is one of the oldest and most popular building materials.

The method of constructing wooden houses goes back to the Stone Age, when huts made of wood were put on stilts. However, the fear of fire destroying houses made people choose a different material.

Today, living in a house made of wood means no special risk. On the contrary, the number of wooden buildings is increasing, even in urban areas.

This is because houses can easily be prefabricated but nevertheless, still individually designed.

Stone has been used for many centuries since weather cannot it so much and insects cannot bore into it.

It has been used for all sorts of houses, from farmers' cottages to palaces. In the latter, stone was sometimes replaced by marble.

Early Mediterranean civilisations adopted the use of fired **bricks** including the Ancient Greeks and Romans.

Since the Middle Ages the use of fired bricks in construction became popular in Central Europe. This is because they are long-lasting, can be used with great flexibility and are easily available.

In modern buildings **concrete** is used. It is cheaper and can be produced almost anywhere. Concrete mainly consists of cement, water and aggregate. The quality of modern concrete

makes it possible to construct buildings in futuristic shapes, bridges, enormous dams and even skyscrapers.