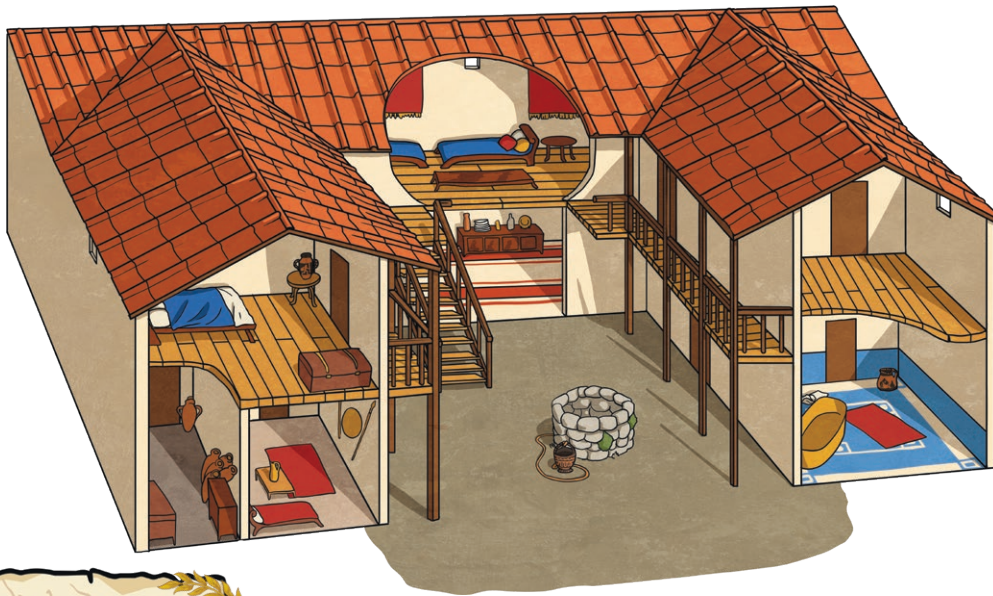


Homes



What Were Ancient Greek Homes Like?

Most ancient Greek homes were designed and built around a central courtyard. In the buildings around the courtyard, poorer houses would have two or three rooms and richer houses could have 12 or more rooms.

Ancient Greek houses were made from stone, clay or wood. The floors of the houses had tiles which helped to keep them cool in the hotter months. Roofs were usually tiled with terracotta tiles.

In cases where houses had windows, these were small and high up. The houses didn't have glass in their windows but they would have had either curtains or wooden shutters.

Many homes had a workshop or a storage building attached to them.

Kitchens

The homes of richer Greeks would have had a kitchen but in the homes of poorer Greeks, the cooking was done out in the courtyard over a fire. In all types of homes, the courtyard was an important and central place. The ground in the courtyard would be just earth in poorer homes whereas richer homes might have had cobblestones laid down.

Bathrooms

Most richer people's homes had a bathroom (enslaved people would carry water from a public fountain to fill a bath for members of the household to bathe in). The ancient Greeks could also pay to use the public baths to wash and relax – the baths were an idea that the ancient Romans took from the ancient Greeks and developed more. Despite this, many people would wash in a bucket or a stream. For going to the toilet, most ancient Greeks used a chamber pot. It is believed that they used stones to wipe their bottoms.

Furniture

Even the homes of rich Greeks did not have many pieces of furniture. Houses would have had many wooden chairs and stools to sit on and chests were used for storage. Beds were made from wood and stuffed with feathers, dry grass or wool (poor people would sleep on the ground).



The Andron

Many homes had a room – called the andron – that was just for men to use for dining and talking together. Women were not allowed to enter this room.