

Adobe Bricks

You need

- ★ materials for making adobe bricks (see copymaster for recipe and method)
- ★ access to relevant written material and/or the Internet

Daniel's family have bought a block of land in a rural area to build their new house on. They want to use mostly natural materials.

We've got clay and lots of water here. We could make mud bricks!

But that would be hard work, even with the help of friends and some simple machinery!



Activity One

Adobe bricks are made from soil that has enough clay in it to clump well, combined with sand and organic material (smaller amounts of straw, dried grass, or animal dung).

1. Investigate how other cultures and civilisations have used mud bricks over time.
2. In a group, use the instructions provided to make some adobe (mud) bricks. Experiment with different amounts of clay, sand, and water to see which mix works best. Cardboard yoghurt containers or ice cream containers will work well as moulds for your bricks.
3. How many of your bricks would you need for a floor 2 m long by 1 m wide?

Activity Two

Daniel's dad decides to make his bricks 30 cm long by 25 cm wide by 100 cm high.

1.
 - a. How many bricks would he need to make 1 row 14 m long?
 - b. How many rows of bricks would he need for a wall 2.5 m high?
2.
 - a. Estimate how many bricks Dad would need for a wall 14 m long and 2.5 m high.
 - b. Explain to a classmate how you worked out your estimate.



3. Dad finds a company that supplies adobe bricks similar in size to the ones he made. The company charges \$3.50 per brick.
How much would it cost to buy enough bricks for a wall 14 m by 2.5 m?

Focus Calculating area, volume, and cost