


Macculloch Hall Historical Museum

Morristown, New Jersey



Bricks and Blocks: Be a Brick Detective

Explore 	Age 5-8	Topic Science Art	Time 30-60 minutes
	Skills Making Observations		

Overview for adults

Bricks have been used to build structures for over 10,000 years. Bricks are made from the earth, are energy-efficient and are 100% recyclable! This activity introduces children to the built environment through a brick search through their neighborhood. Additional online resources are also included.

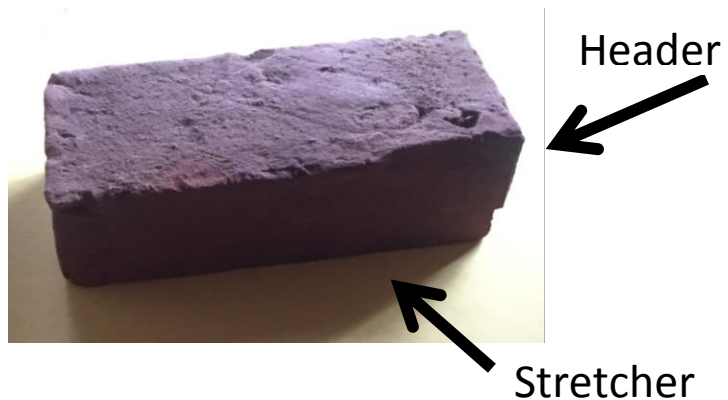
What is a primary source?

Macculloch Hall is the largest primary source in the museum's collection. A primary source is an object or document that can inform us about an earlier time.

Macculloch Hall is a brick building. One of the first decisions George Macculloch (1775-1858) made about his 1810 Morristown home was to take down the existing building to its foundation and have it rebuilt out of bricks.

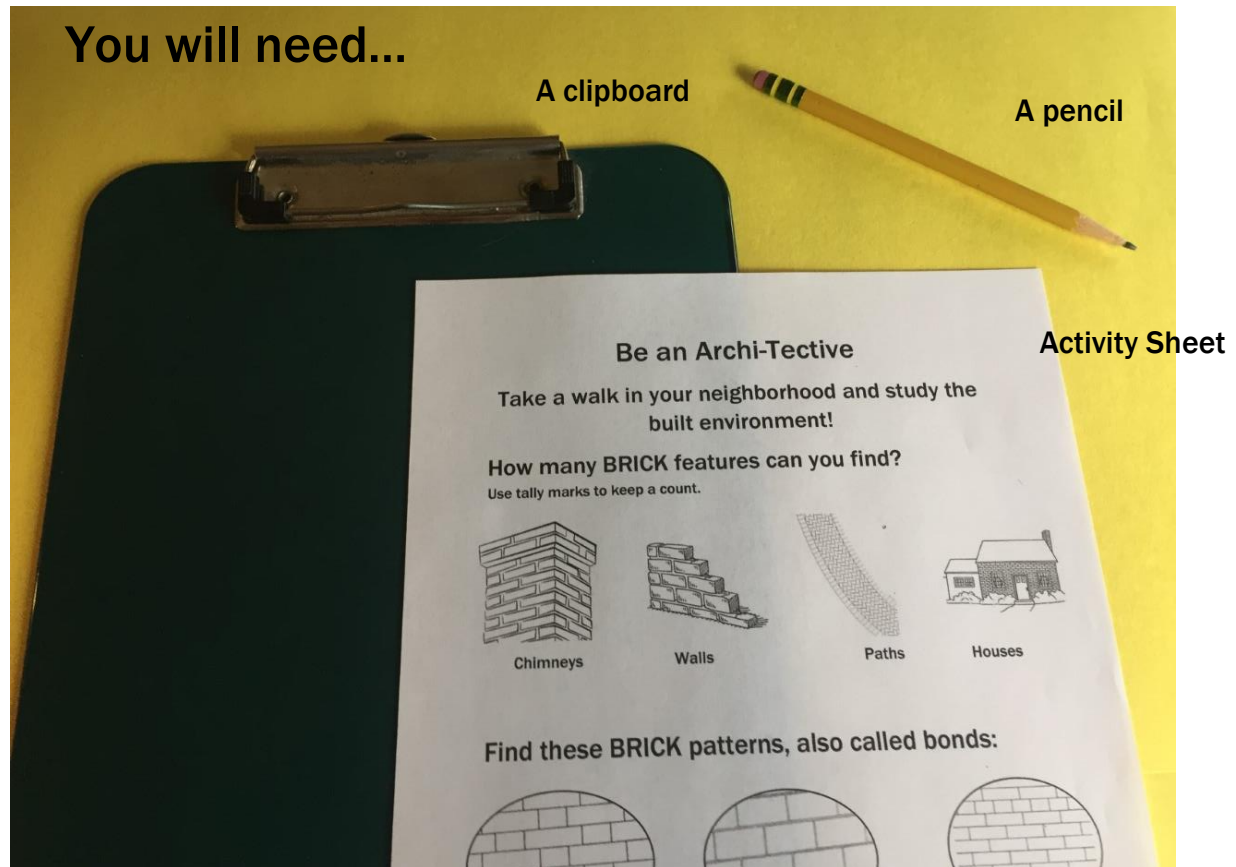
Did you know...?

There are parts to a brick. The stretcher is the long side of a brick and the header is the short end of a brick.



Ten million bricks were used in the building of the Empire State Building along with granite, limestone, aluminum and stainless steel.

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Do you Want to Extend the Activity?

-Bricks were made by hand until the invention of steam-powered brickmaking machines in 1885. Watch a video clip from Colonial Williamsburg and their traditional brick making program:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2180033048878328>

-Learn about brick's strengths and weaknesses as building materials at this PBS website: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig/lab/materials.html>

-Make your own mud bricks with soil, sand, and water and dry them in the sun. <https://www.parentingscience.com/preschool-science-experiment-mud.html>

-Find books about architecture at: <https://www.startwithabook.org/summer-reading-learning/builders-and-buildings>

-Additional websites about bricks: <https://brickcollecting.com/history.html> and <https://brickarchitecture.com/about-brick>