



DWELLINGS

Dwelling Size and Residency Patterns Exercise
Adapted from Level I Exercise 1.2 by Carol Ember

DWELLING SIZE AND RESIDENCY PATTERNS

In this exercise, you will explore the differences in dwelling size between matrilineal and patrilineal households.

A lake dwelling in Switzerland. Popular Science Monthly Volume 24 1183. Public Domain Image via Wikimedia commons



EXERCISE DETAILS

TIME: 45 minutes

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- HRAF Access
- Worksheet and pen or other materials for recording answers

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this assignment, you will be able to:

- identify and describe correlations between matrilineal and patrilineal patterns of residency and size of dwellings
- construct effective and efficient search strategies in eHRAF in order to retrieve data relevant to a specific topic/assignment.

DWELLING VARIATIONS

We know that different societies typically have very different types of houses or dwellings. This is one of the main reasons cross-cultural researchers have tried to predict and explain dwelling size and shape—this research has uncovered many predictors from the shape, size, and building materials used in dwellings.



In this exercise, you will research how marital residency patterns relate to dwelling shape and size across a number of societies.

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ASSIGNMENT



Undergirding structure of a yurt, a roundhouse used by nomadic groups in Central Asia. Photo By Jean-Pierre Dalbéra from Paris, France (Armature d'une yourte (Khorezm, Ouzbékistan)) CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

ASSIGNMENT PART 1: *Select Your Sample*

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First, you must choose your sample. Select three matrilineal cultures and three patrilineal from the table below. In later steps, you will conduct a search and find information on dwellings for each of these societies.

Patrilineal	Matrilineal
Azande	Garos
Wolofs	Khasis
Santals	Iroquois
Tzeltals	Pawnees
Sinhalese	Chuuk



Now, design a set of keywords. Your search will locate general literature on dwellings in the societies you chose, but with keywords you can hone your search so that you specifically see data on the *size* of dwellings.

Write a preliminary list of words that you think would be useful in pulling in data on house size (E.g. length)

ASSIGNMENT PART 1

Traditional mud “bee-hive” style house near Aleppo, Syria. Photo by Bernard Gagnon 2010. CC-by-SA-3.0 via Wikimedia Commons.

ASSIGNMENT PART 1:

Execute The Search

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- Now, go to [eHRAF Advanced Search](#).
- In the **Culture** box, check or select your chosen societies.
- In the **Subject** box, select the “Dwellings” OCM topic.
- In the keywords box, enter your chosen words (or beginnings of words).

Remember to separate terms with an asterisk and space (E.g. size length* long* width* wide* feet* ft* meters*...) and remember to select “OR” button above keyword box.*

An Olglala Lakhota tipi with young girl emerging alongside a puppy. Near Pine Ridge Reservation. 1891. Digital restoration by Michel Vuijlsteke, Photo by John C.H. Grabill. Library of Congress. Public Domain Image via Wikimedia Commons



ASSIGNMENT PART 1: *Data Collection*

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On the results page, click on an area of the world to see culture names. Click on a culture name to see the paragraphs matching your search for that society.

Using the following table style, note the size data for your chosen matrilineal and patrilineal societies.

	Size	Notes
Patrilineal Society A		
Patrilineal Society B		
Patrilineal Society C		
Matrilineal Society A		
Matrilineal Society B		
Matrilineal Society C		

ASSIGNMENT PART 2

Compare the tables you have made.

1. What differences in dwelling size do you notice between the two?
2. Construct a hypothesis for further studying any patterns you may have noticed.
3. If you were to complete a research project based on this hypothesis, and this hypothesis was supported, what social explanations might you consider for the pattern(s)?



RESOURCES

Assignment Rubric, Tips, References

A lake dwelling in Switzerland. Popular Science Monthly Volume 24 1183. Public Domain Image via Wikimedia commons

RUBRIC

➤ The following rubric is suggested for evaluating responses:

	Unsatisfactory (0%)	Needs Improvement (25%)	Satisfactory (75%)	Outstanding (100%)
Assignment Part 1: <u>Data Collection</u>	<p><i>Unsatisfactory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tables for patrilocal and matrilocal societies are absent. 	<p><i>Needs Improvement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tables for patrilocal and matrilocal societies are partially completed. 	<p><i>Satisfactory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tables for patrilocal and matrilocal society are mostly complete and some contain citations. ➤ Search terms were effective in gathering information on dwelling size 	<p><i>Outstanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tables for patrilocal and matrilocal society are almost entirely complete and contain citations. ➤ Search terms were effective in gathering information on dwelling size.
Assignment Part 2: <u>Questions 1-3</u>	<p><i>Unsatisfactory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Major points are not clear. ➤ Specific examples are not used. 	<p><i>Needs Improvement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commentary on research findings is not comprehensive and /or persuasive. ➤ Major points are addressed, but not well supported. ➤ Responses are inadequate or do not address topic or response to the questions ➤ Specific examples do not support topic or response to the questions. 	<p><i>Satisfactory</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evaluation and analysis of research findings is accurate. Major points are stated. ➤ Responses are adequate and address the question at hand. ➤ Content is accurate ➤ A specific example from the research is used. 	<p><i>Outstanding</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evaluation and analysis of research findings is accurate and persuasive. ➤ Major points are stated clearly and are well supported. ➤ Responses are excellent and address questions ➤ Content is clear. ➤ Several specific examples from the research are used.

KEEP EXPLORING

- For more exercises and teaching resources related to human societies past and present, explore [*Teaching eHRAF*](#).
- Take a look at the full [*Dwellings*](#) module by Carol Ember, located in HRAF's Explaining Human Cultures Database.
- For a more detailed version of this exercise, as well as related Dwellings exercises at various learning levels, check out [*eHRAF Teaching Exercises 1.23 "Dwellings"*](#) by Carol Ember.
- Check out the [*Advanced Search Tutorial*](#) for detailed instructions on conducting searches in eHRAF World Cultures.
- For information on dwelling practices in the archaeological record, check out [*eHRAF Archaeology*](#).