



# High Weald Hero Activity Card

## High Weald Houses



**Equipment:** Sketchbooks/paper, pencils.

**Location:** A local village.

**Audience:** KS 1 & 2

**Time:** 30 minutes

### Helping children to look closely at their built environment



**Activity Description:** Take the children on a walk around a local village, encouraging them to look at the types of buildings they can see. Ask them to draw/write down the different shapes they spot on various buildings: this can be as simple as rectangular doors, to more complex patterns found in brickwork. Help the children to look at the detail of the buildings too - archways, roofs etc. Older children could also look at the angles that buildings make, what sort of angles are they? Can they estimate the size of an angle? Do the shapes they see tessellate? Are they regular or irregular shapes? Are there any symmetrical patterns?

Use further questions to aid discussion: Which building do they think is the oldest? Or the youngest? How do they know? What materials have been used to build the houses? Wood is a common building material for houses in the High Weald due to the prevalence of trees in the area. Sandstone is also a common material and can be seen in various buildings in the landscape e.g. Penshurst Place and Wakehurst Place, Ardingly.



**Extension:** Consider running a tally to see how many buildings have certain features, for example, weather-boarding (timber boards fixed horizontally to form an exterior cladding on a wall) or hipped roofs (roofs that have sloping ends as well as sloping sides).

**High Weald Teaching Point:** The traditional building materials and styles of the High Weald are an essential part of the landscape's distinctive character. The building materials have come, in fact, from that very landscape - so it is hardly surprising that they blend in so well. Links with the area's wooded past are evident in the number of timber-framed and weather-boarded buildings, whilst the widespread use of sandstone, bricks and tiles is testimony to the High Weald's underlying geology of sandstone and clay. The building materials have led to a particularly rich architectural heritage of distinctive farm buildings - for example hipped and half-hipped barns.

Activity adapted from The Outdoor Classroom, Scholastic



Check out the Learning Zone at [www.highweald.org](http://www.highweald.org)