Lesson 1: Welcome to Project Treehouse!

UNIT: Project Treehouse

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Amy.

When I was younger, my friend had a treehouse in his backyard. We loved climbing up the ladder and sitting up high in the trees. It had a little deck where we could look out, and sometimes we'd imagine it was a secret fort or a pirate ship!

I also liked drawing my own treehouse designs. One time, I drew a treehouse for my brother. I added a rope ladder so he could climb like an explorer, a twisty slide for a quick getaway, and an observation deck so he could see far into the sky because I know he loves space and looking at the stars. I had to really think about what he liked so I could make a design just for him.

Treehouses can be designed in so many cool ways. They might have a bridge, a trapdoor, a swing, a climbing wall, or even a zip line. The best part is every treehouse can be different depending on what someone wants.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What are some things you would include in your own treehouse design?

HOOK 2

I'm sure you came up with some awesome ideas for what you would add to your own treehouse design.

I found out there's a company that actually specializes in designing treehouses—they're called Project Treehouse. They design all sorts of treehouses. Some have rope bridges between trees, climbing nets to take you all the way to the top, and even swings that let you glide through the trees.

When these designers create treehouses, they don't just pick random things to add. They design each treehouse for the person who will be using it. This person is called a client. If a client wants a treehouse, they ask a treehouse designer to design one for them.

Project Treehouse is looking for some more designers to help with their upcoming treehouse designs, so they need your help. But before you can meet the clients and start adding things to your treehouse design, there's something very important you'll need to do first: research.

Today, you'll look more closely at real treehouse parts and learn about how they can be used, and then you'll be ready to start creating one of your own designs for a Project Treehouse client. It's time to explore and learn like real treehouse designers.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

Write your name and date here on both of your worksheets.

STEP 3

To be a treehouse designer, you'll need to do some research and learn more about parts that can be added to a treehouse and how they can be used.

Get your Treehouse Diagram worksheet. This diagram shows what your design could look like and all of the different parts that can be added. Let's learn about each of these parts.

One part that can be added to a treehouse is called a pulley. A pulley is a tool that helps you lift things up to your treehouse without climbing. You pull on a rope and the bucket or basket goes up and down to carry stuff like snacks or supplies.

Find number 1 on your Treehouse Diagram worksheet.

This says, "It helps lift supplies into the treehouse."

Fill in "pulley" in this box. If you need help spelling, you can use your Word Bank.

STEP 4

Find the little circle in this box.

Draw an arrow from the circle to the pulley in your diagram.

It should look like this.

STEP 5

Another part that can be added is called a rope ladder. It's a ladder made of ropes and small steps that hangs down from a treehouse. You can use this to climb up and down to get in and out of the treehouse.

Find number 2. This says, "It's a way to climb in and out of the treehouse."

Fill in "rope ladder" in this box, then draw an arrow from the little circle to the rope ladder in your diagram.

STEP 6

This part is a staircase. It's a set of steps that helps you walk up to your treehouse safely. It's strong and steady, like stairs in a house.

Find number 3. This says, "It's a way to walk up and down safely."

Fill in "staircase" in this box and draw an arrow from the little circle to the staircase.

STEP 7

This part is a window. It's an opening in the walls of a treehouse. Treehouses can get really dark inside since they don't usually have electricity for light and a fan. So, a window helps to let sunlight and fresh air into the treehouse.

Find number 4. Fill in "window" in this box and draw an arrow from the little circle to the window.

STEP 8

Think about how you would describe a window for a treehouse. How would you fill in this blank: It's an opening that lets in _____ (blank).

Use this picture to help you fill in this word. If you need help, you can use the bottom of your Word Bank.

STEP 9

This part is called an observation deck. It's a flat spot on a treehouse where you can stand and look all around. It's like a lookout place to see birds, trees, stars, and everything far away.

Find number 5. Fill in "observation deck" in this box and draw an arrow from the little circle to the observation deck.

If you need help spelling, you can use your Word Bank.

STEP 10

Think about how you would describe an observation deck for a treehouse.

How would you fill in this blank: it's a flat spot to stand on and look out to see _____ (blank).

Use this picture to help you fill in this word. You can write more than one idea. If you need help, you can use the bottom of your Word Bank.

STEP 11

The last part is a slide. It's a smooth, slanted way to go down from the treehouse to the ground. It helps you get down quickly.

Find number 6. Fill in "slide" in this box, and draw an arrow from the little circle to the slide.

STEP 12

Think about how you would describe a slide for a treehouse. When you have your idea, write it here. If you're not sure what to write, you can use this idea: it's a fast way to get down from the treehouse.

STEP 13

The paper shown on the screen is a V.I.P.—a very important paper. Your teacher will tell you where to put it so you will have it for the next lesson.

WRAP UP

Wow! Great job researching different parts of a treehouse. You labeled each part with a word and finished describing how they can be used. Way to go! Now that you've done the research, you are officially a designer for Project Treehouse.

Next time, you'll choose your first client to work with and begin designing a treehouse for them. I can't wait to see what you'll design for your client.

That's all for now. See you next time!