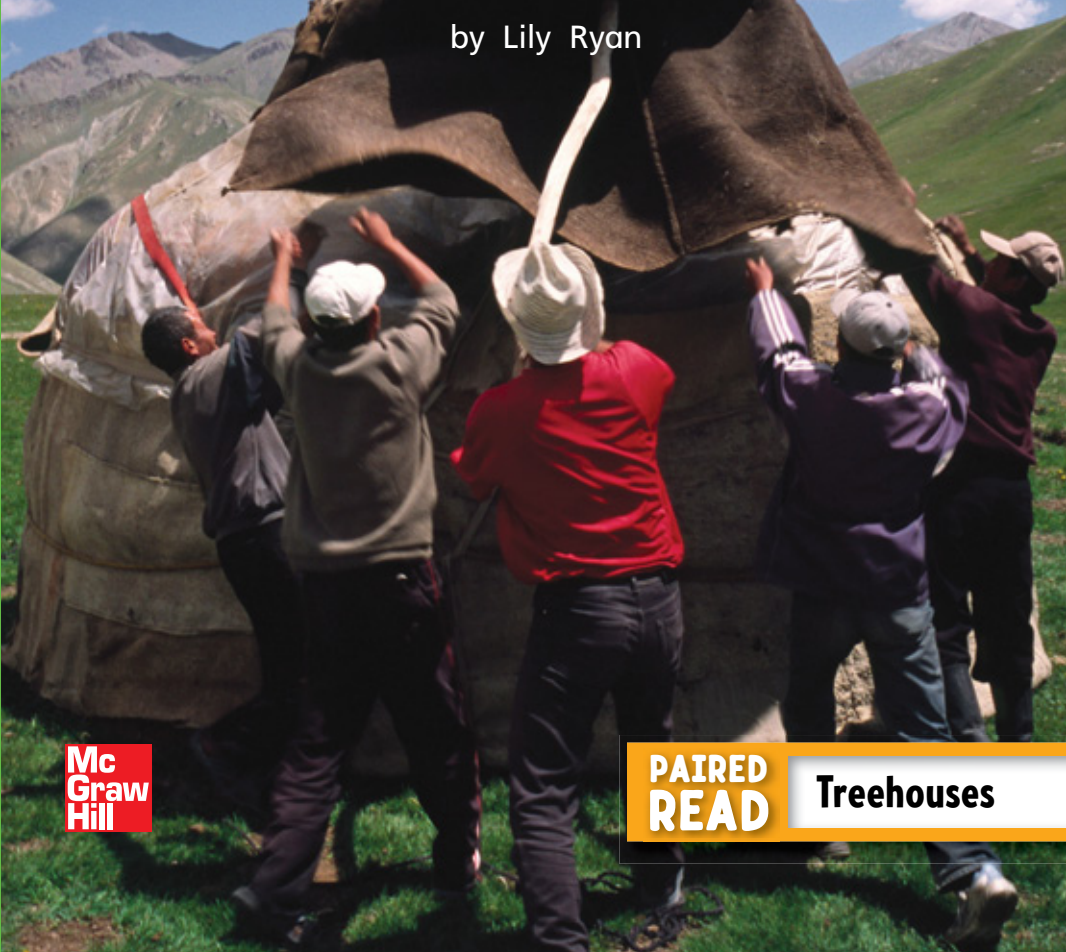


Nonfiction

WHAT IS A YURTT?



by Lily Ryan



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PAIRED
READ

Treehouses

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Ask and Answer Questions

Skill: Cause and Effect

Vocabulary

above, balance, build, fall,
knew, money, section,
toward

Phonics

Diphthongs: *oi, oy*

Content Standards Science

Practice of Science

Word count: 599**

Photography Credit: Cover Thomas Lehne/lotuseaters/Alamy

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Education

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A



Essential Question

How do things get built?

WHAT IS A YURT?



by Lily Ryan

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CHAPTER 1

Who Lives in a Yurt?

Have you ever been camping? Many people enjoy camping vacations. It's a great way for families to spend time together. It's also a good way to get some fresh air and exercise.

What do campers do? First, they set up a tent so it's ready when night comes. During the day, many campers fish or hike.



After a good meal, they might toast marshmallows over a campfire. Then, it's time to fall asleep under the twinkling stars.

When the trip comes to an end, campers take down their tent. After they clean up the campsite, they pack the car and head home.

Camping is one way to take a break from a busy life.



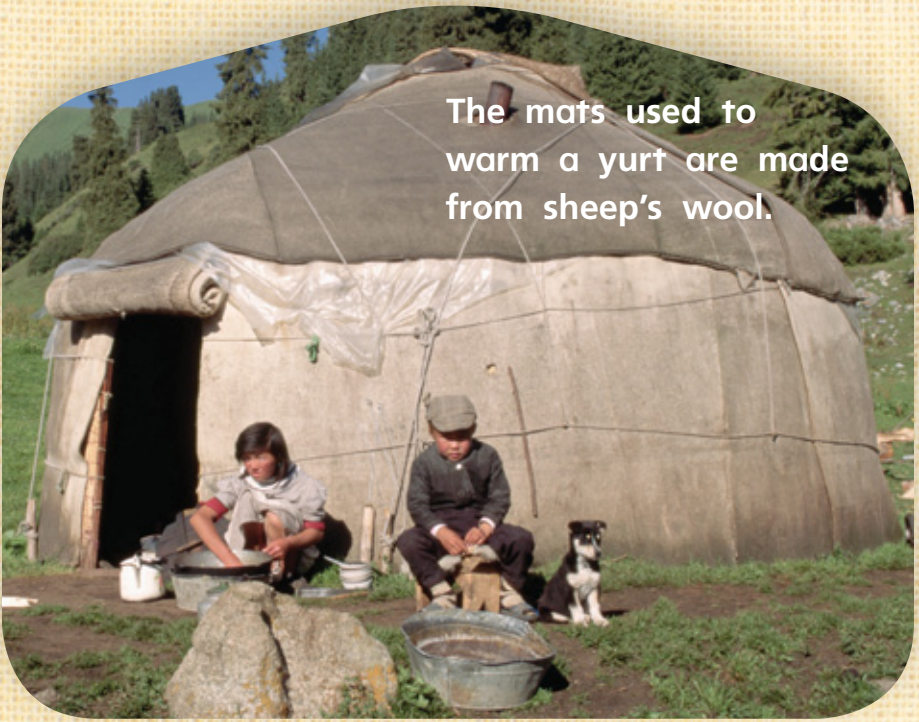
A yurt is much stronger than a tent. Long ago, yurts were made with wooden poles. They were covered with animal skins, felt, or **textiles**.

The people who lived in these yurts were **nomads**. They moved from place to place looking for food. Nomads knew how to build yurts and how to take them apart quickly. They carried their yurts with them when they moved. When they reached their new **destination**, they set up the yurts again.

This camel carries a yurt that has been taken apart.



(bkgd) Vincenzo Lombardo/Photographer's Choice RF/Getty Images, (inset) Ted Wood/Aurora/Getty Images



The mats used to warm a yurt are made from sheep's wool.

When the weather got cold, the nomads would add mats to warm their yurts. The mats were removed as the weather warmed up. By the time the hot summer came, all the mats were off the yurts. It's like what people do today when the weather heats up. We open up windows and doors to cool down our homes.



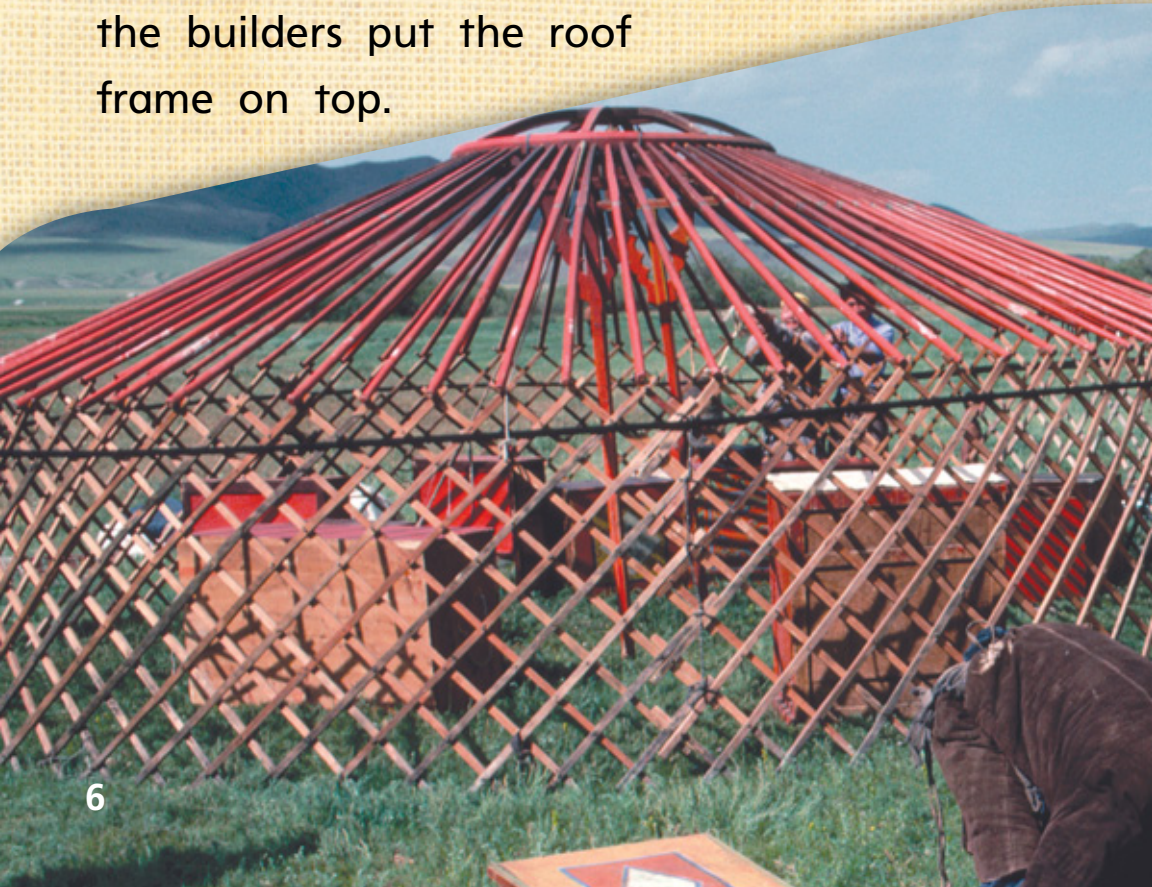
Many nomads are hunters or gatherers. When their food supply is low, they move where they can find more. Nomads also move when their sheep or cows run out of grass to eat.

CHAPTER 2

How Are Yurts Built?

First, you need a flat spot. Then, some people choose to build a **platform**. The platform is like a floor that keeps the inside of the yurt from getting wet. The yurt is built on top of this platform.

The next step is to make a round wooden frame. The frame joins together for a perfect fit. Once the frame is set, the builders put the roof frame on top.

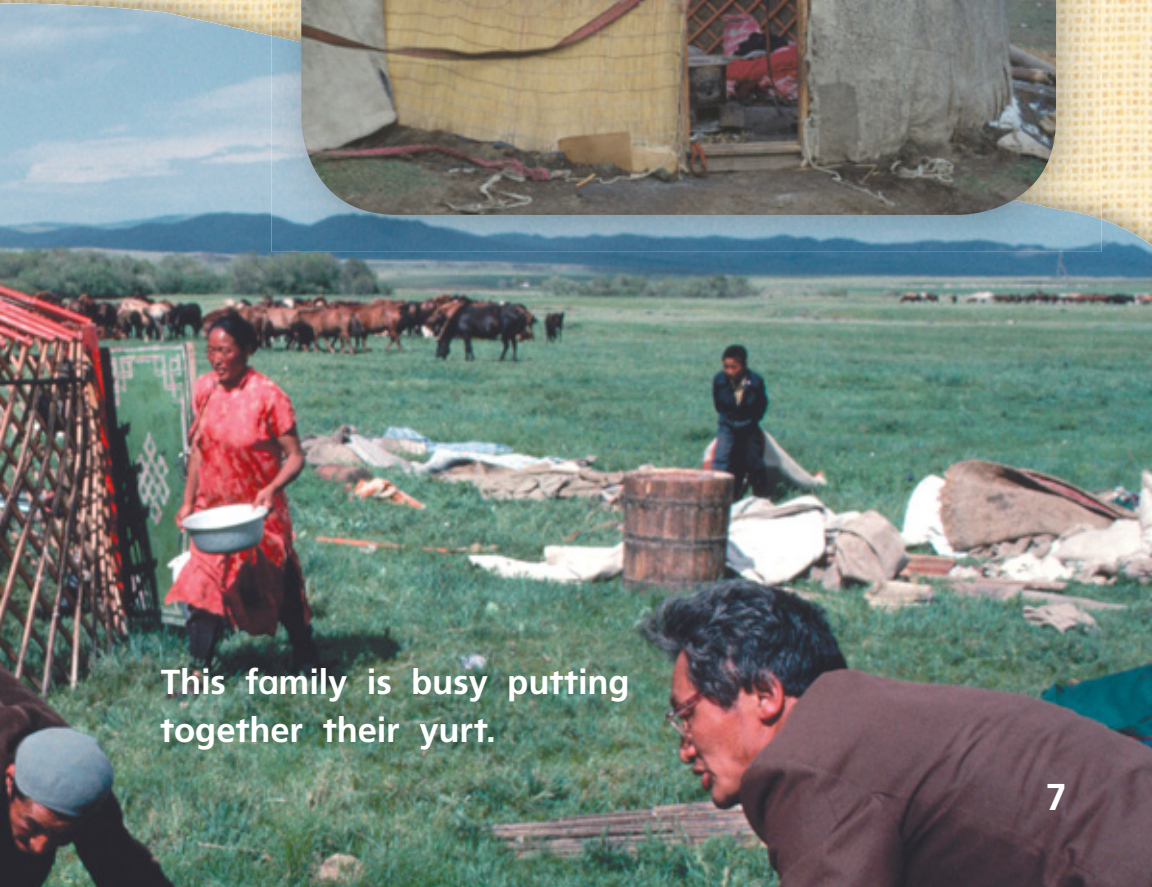


The builders then cover one section of the frame at a time with canvas. They check that the canvas is **securely** attached to the sides of the frame.

Most large yurts need at least two people to build them.



(inset) Dan Atkin/Alamy



This family is busy putting together their yurt.

Next, canvas is placed on top of the roof frame. Sometimes, a skylight is added to the yurt's roof to let sunlight in during the day. At night, people in the yurt can look up at the stars above.

It can take several people to put together some yurts.



(big) Vincenzo Lombardo/Photographer's Choice RF/Getty Images, (inset) Thomas Lehne/lotuseaters/Alamy

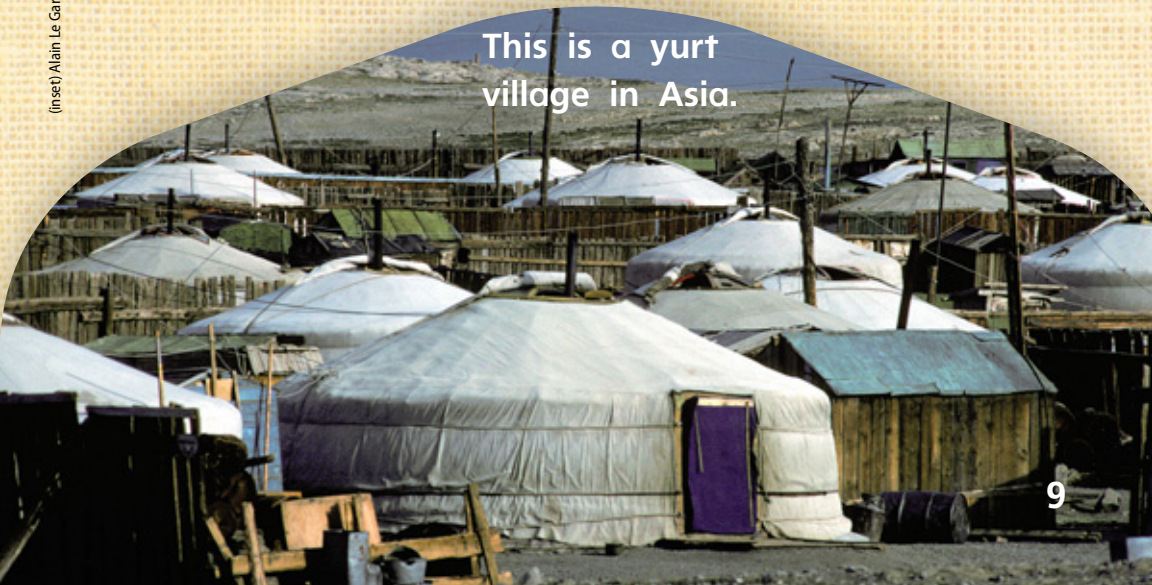
CHAPTER 3

Do People Build Yurts Today?

Yurts are still used for shelter in Asia. Yurts have many benefits. They are warm in winter and cool in summer. They don't cost much, and are easy to take apart. Animals, such as camels, can balance yurts on their backs when it's time to move.

Still, yurts take work. People have to make the covering. They also need to have patches in case the covers get torn. People need to weave rugs for the floors.

This is a yurt
village in Asia.



Some families decide to use yurts for vacation homes. Others live in yurts all year long.

Today, many yurt frames are made from **steel**, which is stronger and lighter than wood. Yurt kits are available for anyone interested in trying to build their own yurt. A kit doesn't cost too much money and might be fun to put together.

Would you like to build your own yurt?



Yurts are used all over the world for different purposes. Today, yurts are used for:

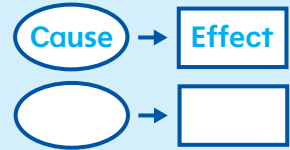
- camping
- ski huts
- offices
- schools



Respond to Reading

Retell

Use the chart to help
you retell *What Is a Yurt?*



Text Evidence

1. Why were mats added to or removed from the yurts? **Cause and Effect**
2. Why are the frames of many yurts now built with steel instead of wood? **Cause and Effect**
3. Is this selection fiction or nonfiction? How can you tell? **Genre**

Compare Texts

Read about another interesting home you can build.

Treehouses



This is the world's largest wooden treehouse.



This treehouse has stairs and railings to keep people safe.



(t) dpa/CORBIS, (b) Robert Harding Picture Library Ltd/Alamy

Take a close look at this tree. Look toward the top. What do you see? It's a house! Did you know that some people live in treehouses?



These boys use their treehouse as a fort.

Other treehouses are just for fun. Some are good for clubhouses and forts, where you can play with friends. Treehouses are also good places to spend time alone. You can read or do homework in them.

What would you do in a treehouse?



Make Connections

How are treehouses and yurts alike?
How are they different? [Text to Text](#)

Glossary

destination (*des-tuh-NAY-shuhn*) the place where someone is going (*page 4*)

nomads (*NOH-madz*) a group of people who move from place to place (*page 4*)

platform (*PLAT-form*) a flat raised structure (*page 6*)

securely (*si-KYUR-lee*) firmly (*page 7*)

steel (*STEEL*) a hard, strong metal made mostly from iron (*page 10*)

textiles (*TEK-stighlz*) cloth that has been woven or knitted (*page 4*)

Index

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yurt, 4–10

Focus on Science

Purpose To learn about camping out

What to Do

Step 1

Plan a camping trip with a partner.

.....

Step 2

List five things that are
important to take with you
when you go camping.

.....

Step 3

Draw a picture of your campsite.
Write a description about how
you would use the five things
from your list.

Conclusion Share your picture and description with the class.

Thinkmark

The Topic

What did you learn from reading *What Is a Yurt?*

What was the most interesting part of the selection?

Text Structure

How did the author organize information in *What Is a Yurt?*

How did this organization help you understand what you read?

Make Connections

Compare a yurt to your house.

How are they alike? How are they different?