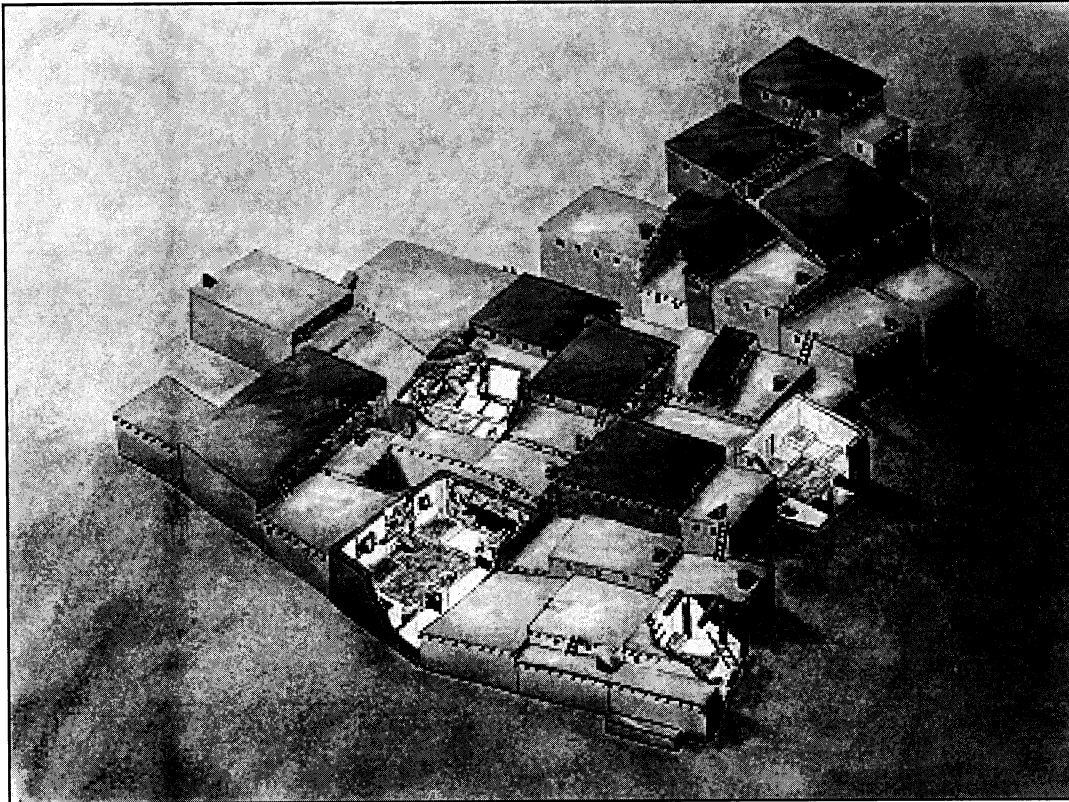


## Çatalhöyük Artifacts – Thinking about Skills and Resources Needed

With your turn and talk partner, study the pictures below and read the paragraphs on the next page. The drawing of the village is an artist's visualization of what it would have looked like. The statue and the knife are artifacts found at the village site. Brainstorm a list of some of the skills, as well as the natural resources, people would have needed to build the village and create the objects and artifacts found on the site.

1)



Elevation map of Çatal Hüyük, Southern Anatolia, Turkey  
Neolithic , from 6500 up to 5700 years BP. Original drawing by Nadine Groscurin,  
from Çatal Hüyük, Ed. Tallandier, 1971.

2)



Stone figurine  
(statue)



flint  
dagger

## Excerpts from “REMIXING ÇATALHÖYÜK”

During the Neolithic, people learned to weave baskets from plant materials, and to make cloth from a variety of sources, including plant fibers and animal hair. They used animal furs and hides, as well as vegetable fibers such as flax, for clothing and bedding. They used wood, stone, shell, bone, and animal horn to make tools, weapons, and household implements. At Çatalhöyük, the local clays were used to make building bricks and plaster for construction, to create decorative items (such as the tiny beads found in an infant’s grave at Building 3), and to make sculptures. In fact, though we can only speculate about spiritual belief during the Neolithic, clay sculptures of corpulent female nudes found throughout the settlement have been the source of some people’s beliefs that an “earth mother” cult once thrived there.

At Çatalhöyük, people had begun to experiment with making pottery by firing objects such as figurines, clay balls, and even containers; and while they were still relying on many wild food sources, they were beginning to domesticate both plants and animals. In Building 3, the remains of boars (wild pigs) and aurochs (wild cattle, now extinct) have been found alongside the remains of domesticated sheep and goats. Cultivated foods such as wheat, barley, peas, and lentils have also been found inside the houses, but these were not grown in the marshy areas around the houses. Çatalhöyük was a farming settlement, but evidence has shown that some of the crops they tended were located well away from their homes.

The buildings at Çatalhöyük were built side by side and one on top of another for more than a thousand years, starting around 9,000 years ago. Houses were built right up against each other, interlocking like the cells of a honeycomb, with few spaces in between for pathways or roads. In fact, there were few exterior door openings in the maze of buildings at Çatalhöyük. Instead, most houses were entered through openings in the roof. Archaeologists have found evidence that people climbed up and down steep stairs or ladders to enter and exit most buildings. As a result, the roofs of the houses served as the “streets” of the village, offering additional work and living space. In some places, piles of refuse and rotting organic material filled the spaces between the buildings—conditions that may have contributed to the rooftop habits of the inhabitants.

Inside each mud-brick house were one, two, or three multi-purpose rooms that would have been shared by a family of five to ten people. Some parts of the house were used for storage and workspaces; other areas were used for food preparation, sitting, sleeping, and perhaps telling stories. Clay ovens provided warmth, light, and fires for cooking, but there is evidence of open hearths in other areas of the houses as well. Floors and walls were plastered with layers of thick white lime mud, and then regularly replastered to protect the structure beneath.

Source: Source: Remixing Çatalhöyük. Çatalhöyük Research Project. University of California, Berkeley. 20 April 2012.  
<[http://okapi.berkeley.edu/remixing/text\\_english.html](http://okapi.berkeley.edu/remixing/text_english.html)>.

### Thinking about Skills and Resources Needed Chart

	Skills needed	Resources needed	Questions
1. Housing			Why do you think there were no doors to the outside in these homes?
2. Art and cultural objects			What types of objects were found?
3. Tools			What types of tools do you think people there would have needed?
4. Other objects mentioned in article (pottery, ladders, etc.)			What other objects do you think people needed?

