Brick Scavenger Hunt in Roebling Village
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This family-centered activity packet ends in a scavenger hunt of bricks in the village of Roebling, NJ.

With this activity:
- you'll look harder at bricks than you've ever done before.
- you will learn about where and how local bricks were made
- and you'll become a brick design expert!

GETTING STARTED

About how many bricks did it take to build all the homes, stores, and public buildings in the original village of Roebling?

a) 1,000         c) 10,000
b) 100,000       d) one million

Where were most of Roebling's bricks made?

a) Within 3 miles of Roebling
b) Within 20 miles of Roebling
   c) In Europe
   d) Out west
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MAPping Roebling

On this map, Pink = made of brick.
Yellow = made of wood.

- What looks the same and what looks different?
- Why are some buildings both pink and yellow?
- Where is the Post Office today?
- Can you find your house?
We walk by them (and on them!) all the time, but have you ever stopped to wonder how bricks were made in 1905 when Roebling was being built?

**Here's how it's done:**

1. Mine sand and clay
2. Mix the sand and clay together
3. Form the brick shape
4. Let the bricks dry
5. Pile the brick up neatly
6. Heat the bricks in a massive oven
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BRICKS AT WORK

1. Workers mining clay and sand

2. Water was added to the clay and sand and stirred and kneaded in this building

3. A machine run by a steam engine presses the mixture through a brick shaper
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4. Stacking the bricks into massive piles

5. Laying the bricks out to dry

6. Bricks are heated to very high temperatures for a few days
We now know that bricks are made with sand and clay. But where were the sand and clay come from?

FINDING BRICKS

Using the map below, locate Roebling and Bordentown

- This symbol shows where clay and sand were mined.
- This symbol shows the locations of brick yards where clay and sand were mixed together and made into bricks.

What does this tell us?
The two main brick yards that supplied the bricks in Roebling today were made locally in Kinkora and in the Fieldsboro area.
As we saw in the first map, in Roebling, houses, schools, and stores are made of brick. Some patterns are made to be extra strong and others are designed to be ornamental or for decoration.

**Here are some brick laying patterns used in Roebling:**

- **Stretcher bond** is the simplest. Here, you can only see the long side of the brick.

- **English bond** is a fancy style with mixed rows of long ends and short ends of bricks.

- **Flemish bond** is a fancy style with mixed rows of long ends and short ends of bricks.
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GO FIND THE BRICKS!

Get outside. Walk around. Look for bricks.
Use these real photos of Roebling bricks to help your search

Find an example of Stretcher Bond
Hint: all long edge bricks

Find an example of Flemish Bond
Hint: long short long short
Find an example of English Bond

Hint: Look for full rows of long bricks and full rows of short bricks. English Bond can look different depending on the distances between patterned rows.

- **1-1 pattern**
  1 row of long 1 row of short

- **1-6 pattern**
  1 row of short 6 rows of long

- **1-5 pattern**
  1 row of short 5 rows of long

- **1-7 pattern**
  1 row of short, 7 rows of long
Building a brick building can be tricky, especially when it comes to windows. When the brick pattern is interrupted by door or window openings, brick layers have to get creative.

Find examples of brick patterns around windows
(Here are some that we spotted)
OTHER USES FOR BRICKS

What else is made out of bricks in Roebling?

Chimneys!

Fancy extras!
Thanks for using our family-centered activity packet! We hope you had fun learning about bricks, and learning more about the local history of Roebling, NJ.

LET US KNOW

This is the first family activity packet that we've created and we'd love to hear your feedback. What was good, bad, unremarkable? Do you have a topic you'd like to see next?

Send us an email to tell us what you thought!

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Share your adventure on social media and tag us.
we'd love to see what you find!