

Caribbean Houses and Homes

Year 1 have been learning all about Caribbean style houses and homes. We looked at brightly coloured houses with shutters, verandas, ginger breading and other Caribbean features. After all this research, the children set about brainstorming ideas, planning, designing, drawing, making and painting their very own Caribbean style home.

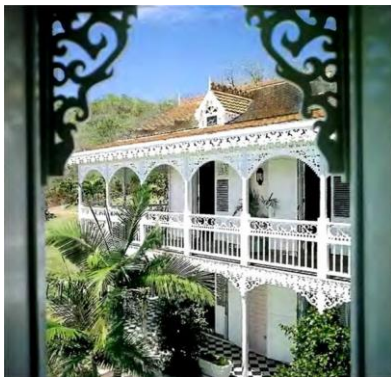
The children collected boxes and other items for recycling and brought them in to school to make their creation.

The first step was to look at all the features that make a Caribbean home. We were amazed at all the colours and beautiful gingerbreeding which made the houses look like something from a fairy tale. The colours reflect the Caribbean surroundings; the intense blue of the sky, the red or yellow of the hibiscus and the pink of the bougainvillea. Here are a few houses that we liked.





We learned that a **veranda** in architecture is a roofed porch attached to the outside of a house and surrounded by a railing. It is an open-air spot where one can enjoy the breeze. The word came into English through the Hindi *varandā*, but it is related to the Spanish *baranda*, meaning railing, and thus most likely entered Hindi via Portuguese explorers of India. Below is a great example of this beautiful and practical feature.



The style of **Gingerbread Houses** originated in Haiti in the late 19th century. In 1895, three young Haitian men traveled to Paris to study architecture, were inspired architectural movement, and modified the style to the climate in Haiti by designing homes with vibrant patterns and flamboyant colours. The term Gingerbread was coined by American tourists in the 1950s. Gingerbreadding filters the bright sunlight and still allows air to pass through it.



The history of **shutters** is believed to have started in Greece where marble shutters with fixed louvres helped to control the light and minimize the Mediterranean heat while allowing ventilation. Eventually wood replaced marble and made moveable louvre shutters possible. In coastal areas known for hurricanes, such as the Turks and Caicos Islands, they are referred to as **hurricane shutters** because they help protect windows and homes from these tropical storms.

The children worked very hard over several weeks to complete their ideal Caribbean home.

Which one would you like to live in?