

ACTIVITY

Design a Tenement Space

TENEMENT APARTMENTS were very unpleasant places to live. Some were only 10 feet square, and an entire family lived together in one or two rooms. How did a family manage to live in such a small space? Using a scale drawing, make a floor plan for your tenement apartment.

YOU'LL NEED

- Pencil and paper
- Poster paper at least 10 inches square
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Tape measure
- Calculator
- Tape

Your family has one room that measures 10 feet square. You do everything in this room—cook, eat, sleep, play. Your bathroom is down the hall or even outside in an outhouse and shared with other families. You are lucky because your family is small—dad, mom, and you. Make a list of items you want to have in your apartment. (It's the late 1800s, so include only items that were available in that era.)

Cut your poster paper to measure 10 inches by 10 inches. It represents your 10-foot-square apartment. Use this scale: 1 inch = 1 foot.

Look around your house, and choose items for your tenement. Using the scale (1 foot = 1 inch), cut out shapes from paper that represent the items you've chosen. For example, using a tape measure, find the length and width of your bed. If the dimensions are 3 feet by 6 feet, cut a piece of paper 3 inches by 6 inches to represent the bed in your scaled-down model. Label the shapes

and place them on the poster paper. It may take several tries before you figure out what you can include in your apartment. You may need to be creative. For example, you may not be able to fit beds into the space. Figure out how to sleep if you don't have room for beds. Use your imagination—like the families of the 1800s did—to make it work!

