



## QUESTION GUIDE

## Tiny Homes

Grade 5

Reading Level: Z | Text Type: Nonfiction/Persuasive  
Word Count: 413 | Text Structure: Problem and Solution

Have students read the passage three times, each with a different purpose. After each read, ask the questions below and discuss the answers in small groups or as a class.

### Read 1 What Does the Text Say?

1. What are some benefits of tiny homes?
2. How do tiny homes help the environment?
3. What is the average size of a tiny home?

### Read 2 How Does the Text Say What It Says?

4. How do the photographs on pages 1 and 2 add to the text?
5. What data does the infographic on page 4 include? How might readers use the data?

### Read 3 What Is the Meaning and Value of the Text?

6. Is there a connection between living in a tiny home and improving the quality of one's life? Explain.
7. What might be some disadvantages of living in a tiny home?
8. Do you think interest in living in tiny homes will continue to grow? Why or why not?



### Extension Activity

Would you live in a tiny home? Why or why not?

Write a letter to a family member citing reasons for or against living in a tiny home. Use evidence from the text to support your opinion.

### Optional Question Bank

#### Read 1

1. Why have people become more interested in living in tiny homes in the past two decades?
2. How does the cost of a traditional home compare to the cost of a tiny home in the United States?
3. Why are some tiny homes built on trailers with wheels?

#### Read 2

4. Why did the author include the "Do You Know?" sidebar?
5. What was the author's purpose for writing this text?

#### Read 3

6. Why might some places encourage people to build tiny homes?
7. Do you think tiny homes should have to follow the same building rules as traditional homes? Why or why not?
8. Do you think one type of home is better than the other? Explain.



This Close Read Passage has a text connection listed under "Additional Resources" on this passage's webpage.

**Read 1** What Does the Text Say?

1. *Tiny homes are less expensive to buy and maintain, owners enjoy a life with fewer belongings, and owners also have more free time to do the things they enjoy since maintaining and cleaning a tiny home takes less time.*
2. *Tiny homes have a smaller environmental footprint because they produce less waste; they use less land, energy, and water; and they can be powered by solar and wind energy, which cause little or no pollution.*
3. *The average size of a tiny home is between one hundred and four hundred square feet, but they can range from sixty-five to one thousand square feet.*

**Read 2** How Does the Text Say What It Says?

4. *The photographs show the exterior and interior designs of some tiny homes, which gives readers more information about how people can manage their living spaces in a tiny home.*
5. *The infographic compares the size and cost of a tiny home with those of a traditional home. It also includes data about people who would consider living in a tiny home. Readers might use the data to consider the possibility of purchasing or living in a tiny home.*

**Read 3** What Is the Meaning and Value of the Text?

6. *Answers will vary but may include that tiny homeowners may have more free time, so they may be more likely to spend time in the community, participate in activities they enjoy, or volunteer.*
7. *Answers will vary.*
8. *Answers will vary.*

**Extension Activity**

*Student responses will vary based on students' discussion and research.*

**Optional Question Bank****Read 1**

1. *In 1998 a book was published about living in smaller spaces. Then, in 2000, Professor Shafer wrote a newspaper article about his tiny home, which helped start the tiny-house movement.*
2. *The average cost of a traditional home is \$375,000, while the average cost of a tiny home is \$20,000 to \$50,000.*
3. *Some tiny homes are built on wheels so they can be easily moved from one location to another if needed.*

**Read 2**

4. *The author included the sidebar to provide more information about the sizes of tiny homes and how some tiny homes are built on wheels and others are built on permanent foundations.*
5. *The author wrote this text to persuade people to consider the benefits of tiny homes so they might want to purchase or live in a tiny home.*

**Read 3**

6. *Answers will vary but may include that tiny homes cost less, they take up less space, and they have smaller environmental footprints than traditional homes.*
7. *Answers will vary.*
8. *Answers will vary.*