

If you only have 30 minutes ...

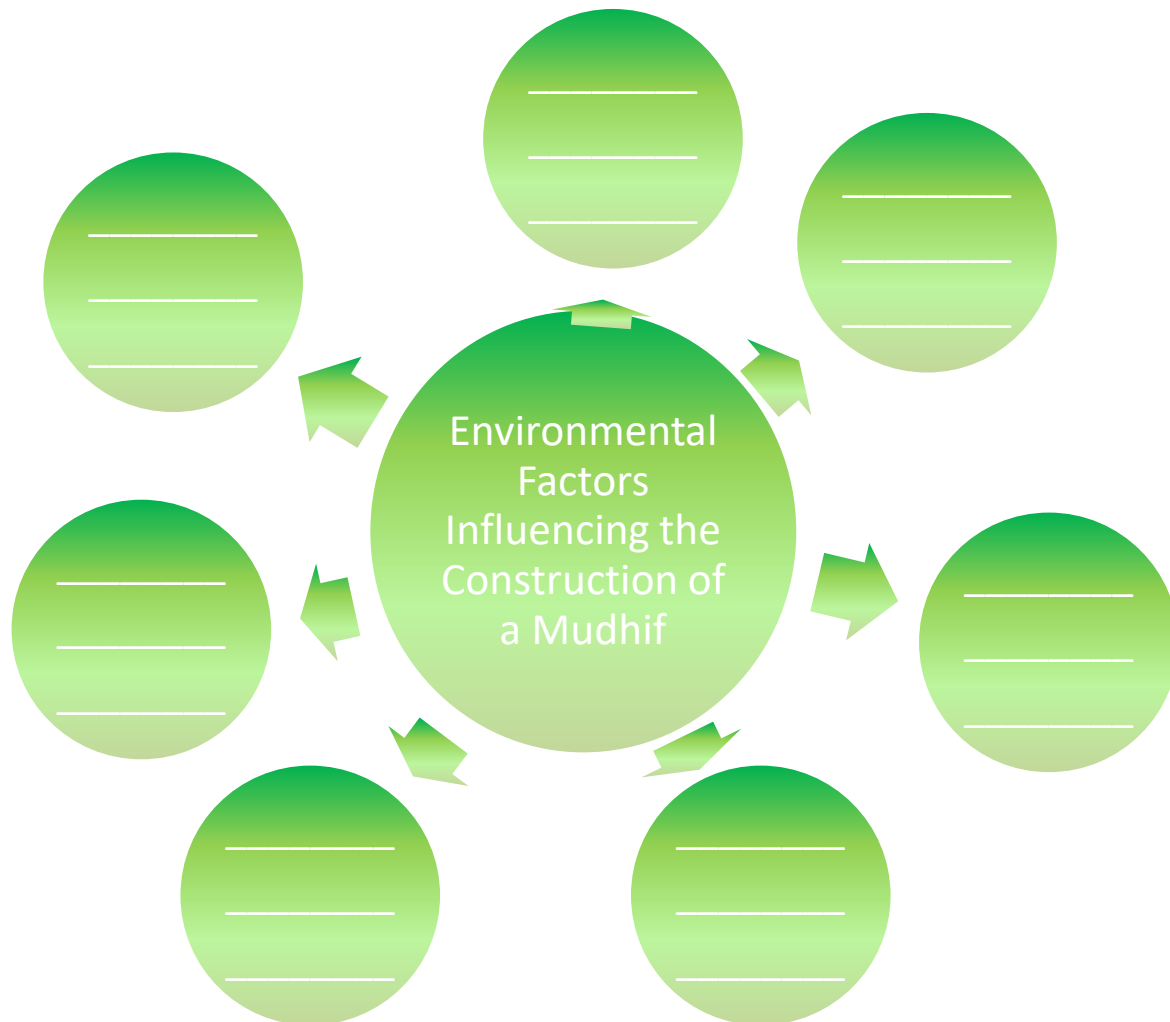
The project to build the mudhif encountered numerous difficulties and setbacks along the way that could have possibly caused the participants to give up on their dream to reconstruct the traditional reed building. The builders had to rely on flexibility and creativity to be resilient and persevere through difficult situations. Use the chart below to document 2-3 **obstacles** that arose in the left-hand column and what **solution** the team utilized to solve each problem in the right-hand column.

Obstacles	Solutions
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Reflect on your personal experience with overcoming obstacles in small groups or as a whole class:

What are some difficulties or setbacks you have experienced in your own life? What did you do to overcome them? Consider school projects you have worked on, activities in which you have participated in within your community, trips you have taken with your family, games you have played with your friends or any other situation that comes to mind.

Now let's consider the mudhif as an example of sustainable architecture. Reflect on how it is constructed with connection to the marsh biome. Find specific examples within the article of how the Mudhif reflects Iraqi heritage as a "blueprint ... (of) how to live with their environment". Fill in the web diagram below considering factors such as temperature, location, materials, winds, entryway, design, lifespan and any others that come to mind.



Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

CCRA.SL.5 Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

30 Minute Activity Answer Key

Answers will vary but might include:

Obstacles	Solutions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Master Builder scheduled to oversee the project decided he did not want to leave the Iraqi Marshlands and fly to Texas.2. The container of reeds being shipped from Iraq to Houston caught fire in the Suez Canal.3. Customs agents in Houston tore apart the components that had been packaged “like a box of legos” for easy construction and the cargo arrived as “basically a container of sticks”.4. The builders had to deal with extremely high temperatures and heavy rains during June in Houston.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Azzam Alwash, an Iraqi American civil engineer, volunteered to manage the Mudhif construction.2. The cargo was transferred to another vessel.3. Builders completed the task in five weeks, twice the construction time of skilled Master Builders in Iraq.4. Builders completed the task in five weeks, twice the construction time of skilled Master Builders in Iraq.

30 Minute Activity Answer Key (Continued)

Answers will vary but might include:

