

Teacher's Pet

WOOD PROJECTS:

Pioneer Log Cabin



What is a Pioneer?

- a person who is among those who first entered or settled a region
- Every pioneer family's first job was to build a shelter.
- Most of these shelters were either made from logs, sod or a combination of the two.



Sod Houses



- Sod houses or “soddies” were built before log cabins during the frontier settlement of Canada.
- The prairies didn’t have enough wood or stone for building, but they had plenty of sod from strong prairie grass. This grass has thick roots that are tougher than regular lawn grass.

Sod Houses



- To build a sod house, people cut rectangular patches of sod and stacked them into walls. These houses had regular doors and windows, and they were cheap and well-insulated but could get damp. They needed a lot of upkeep and could be damaged by rain—if it rained for two days outside, it would rain inside for a day!



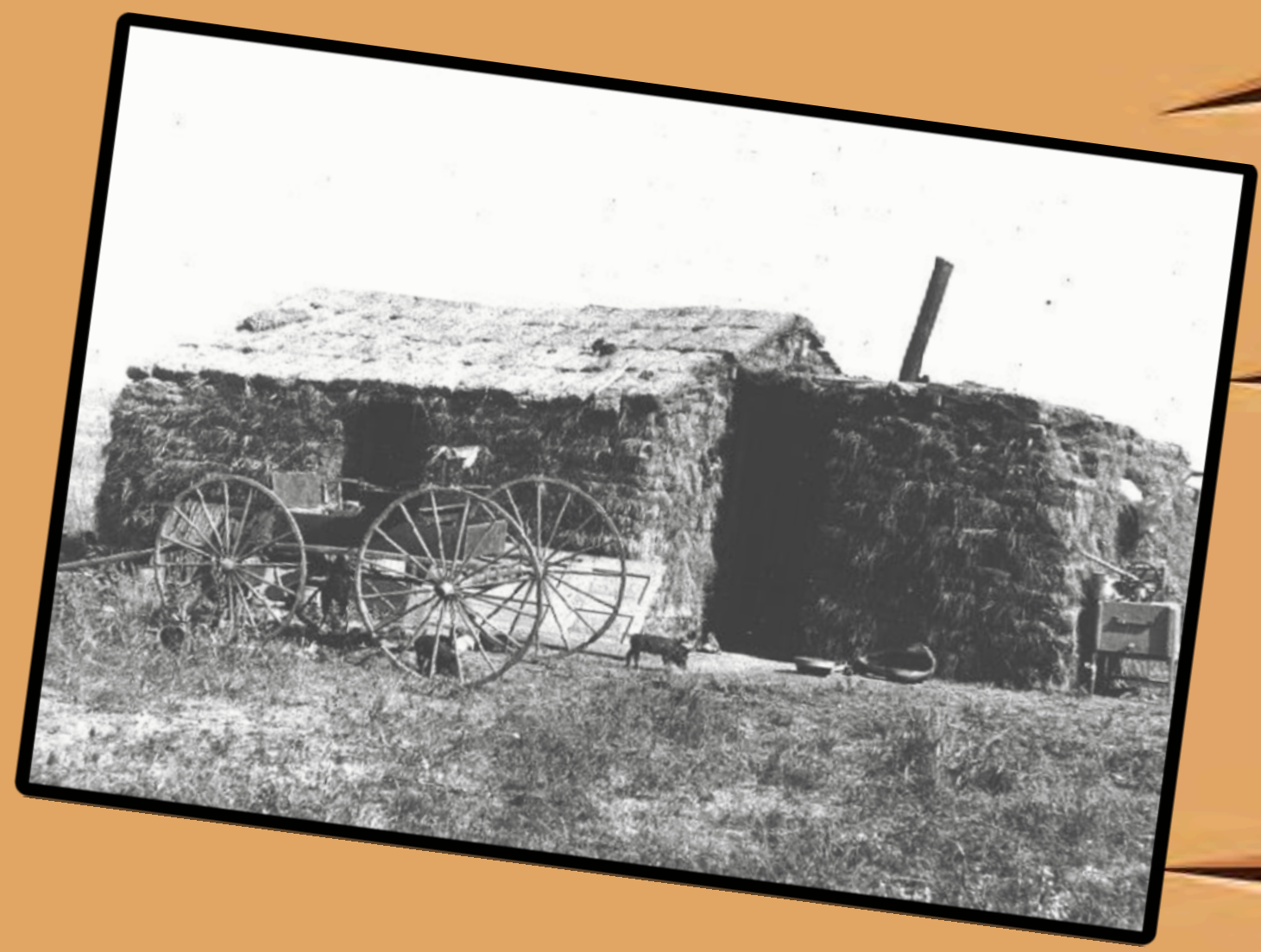
Photographed
Aug 4th 1885
By S D Butcher

No 579
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The "Burdei" at the Ukrainian Heritage Village

Burdei

- a type of half-dugout shelter, somewhat between a sod house and a log cabin

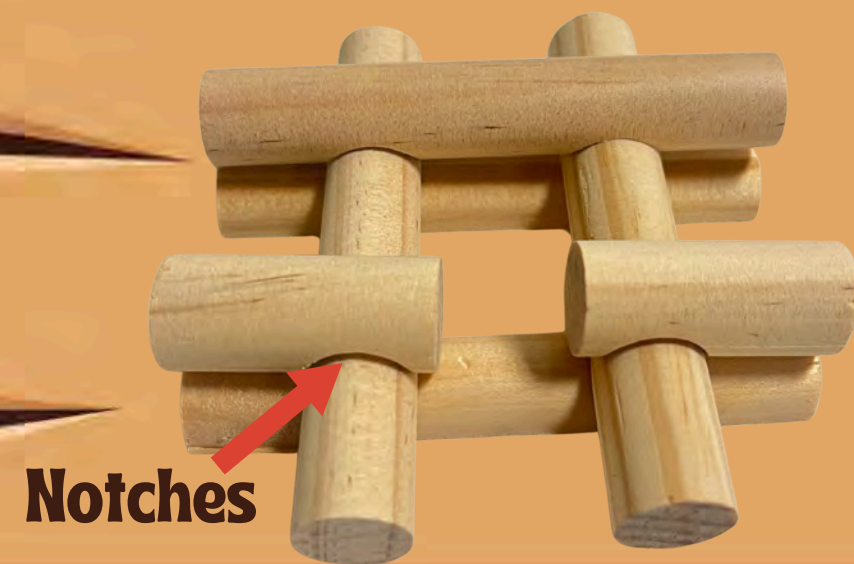




- Most soddies were built between the late 1800s and the First World War and replaced by wooden homes when rail lines were established and building materials could be shipped.
- Most sod houses were only built to last a couple of years until the family could build a home out of logs.

Log Cabins

- Log cabins built by the pioneers were generally a 16-18 foot square box. It was limited to this size because a 16-18 foot log was generally what one man with a mule could bring in from the forest. It was also about the largest that two men could lift as they built up the walls.



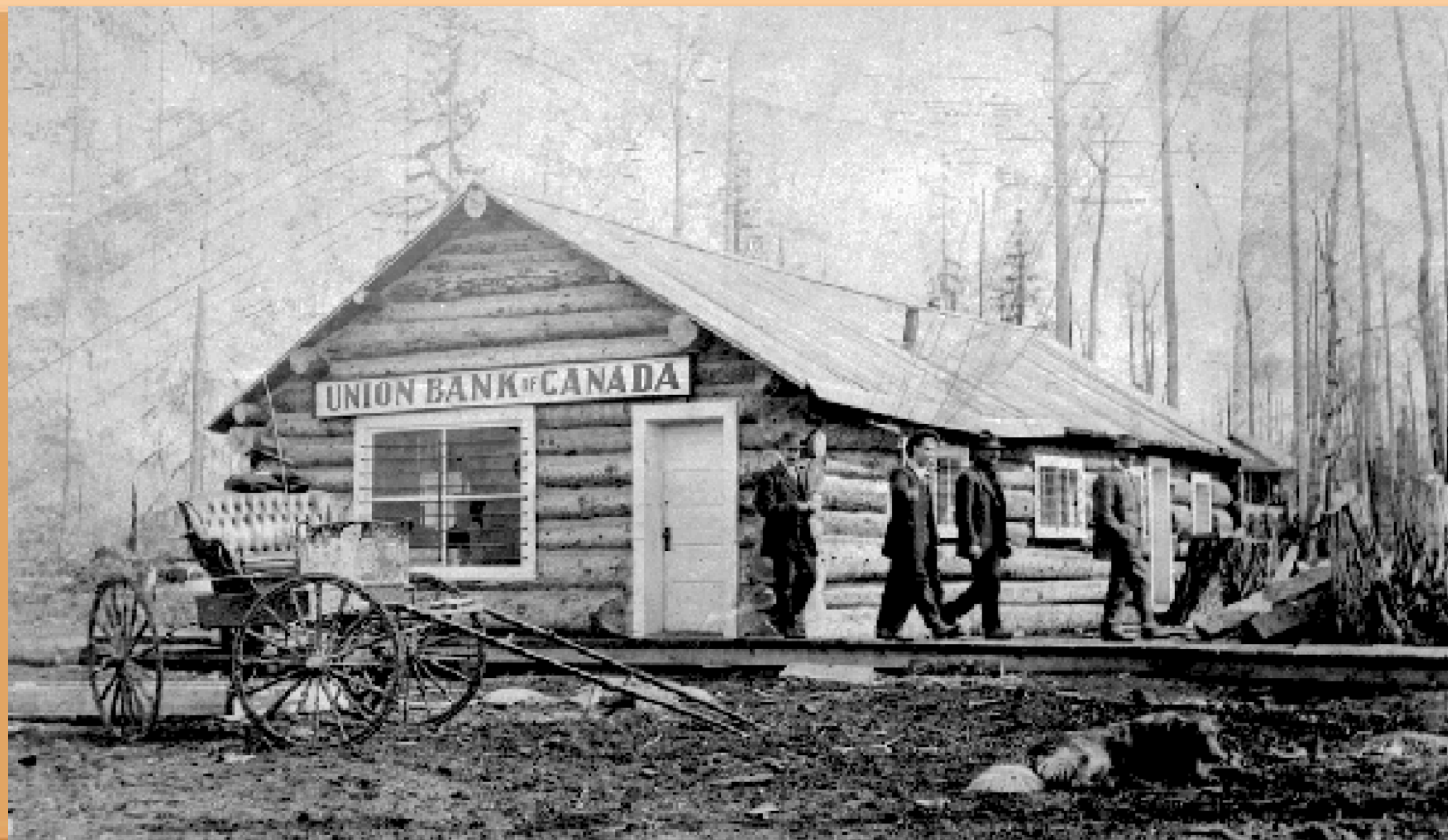
- It was usually one storey high with a sleeping or storage loft beneath the gabled roof. The main room could be either one large space, or divided between a kitchen/living area and small bedrooms. The construction was concentrated at the corners, where 'notches' would assemble the logs.



Notches

- A saddle notch, one of the simplest notches was very commonly used. The single saddle notch is where one log has a notch cut near the end of the log to fit the next log. Roofs were generally clad with cedar shingles.





- Assembling your cabin will mimic the techniques used by pioneers when building their homes.
- The log cabin is a true to life replica of historic log buildings.





Time to Build!

Planning

Let's plan by assembling our cabins WITHOUT glue first!



Materials

8 x 2-notched logs (long logs)



2 x Gables



4 x Roof pieces



8 x 1-notched logs (short logs)



2 x Windows



1 x Chimney



*Glue will be provided for use during program



1 x Door



1 x Doorknob



2 x Half Logs



Pioneer

1 x Pioneer Cabin Sign

Step 1

Place your two half logs horizontally, parallel to one another.

Back Wall



Front Wall



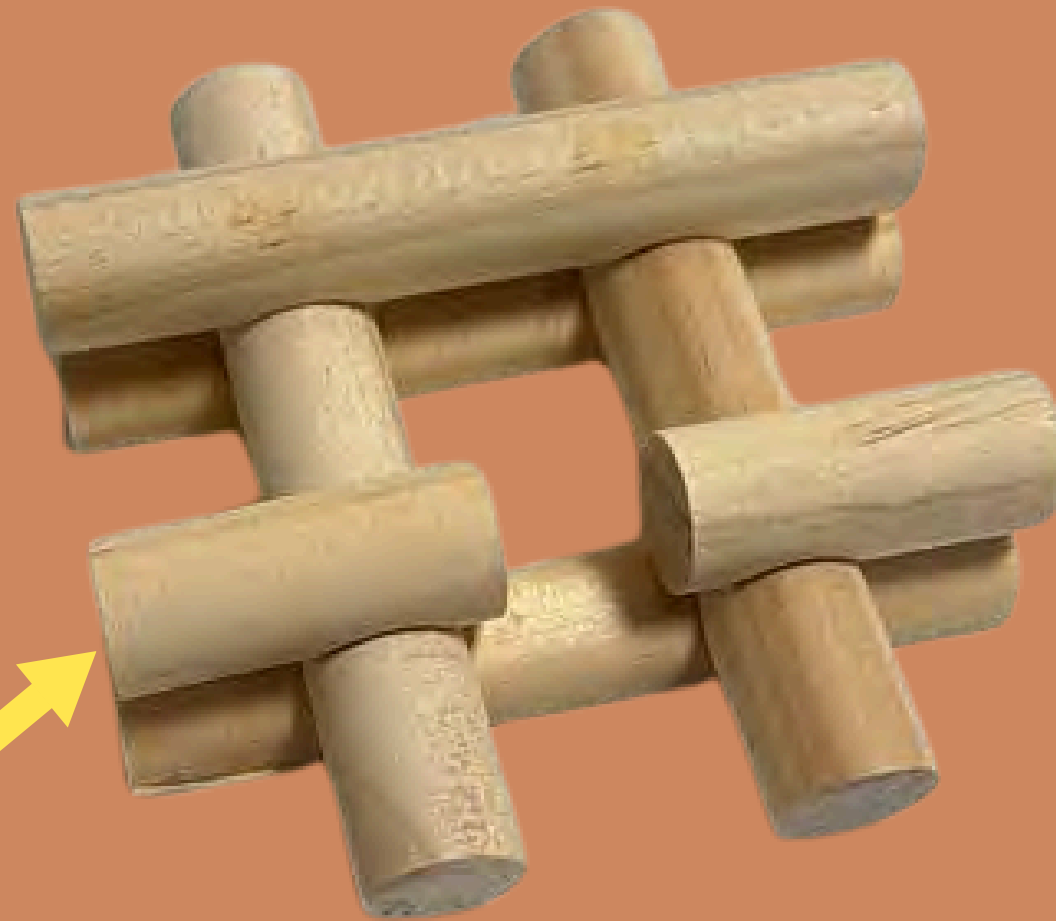
Step 2

Place two long logs near the ends of your two half logs.
The notches should latch on to the half logs.



Step 3

Using two short logs, build the front wall. Place one long log in the back wall.



*As you build higher,
make sure the logs
line up on the edges.

Step 4

Place 4 short logs on top.



*The windows will be added in this layer later.

Step 5

Place two short logs in front and one long log in the back.



*The door will be added in this layer later.

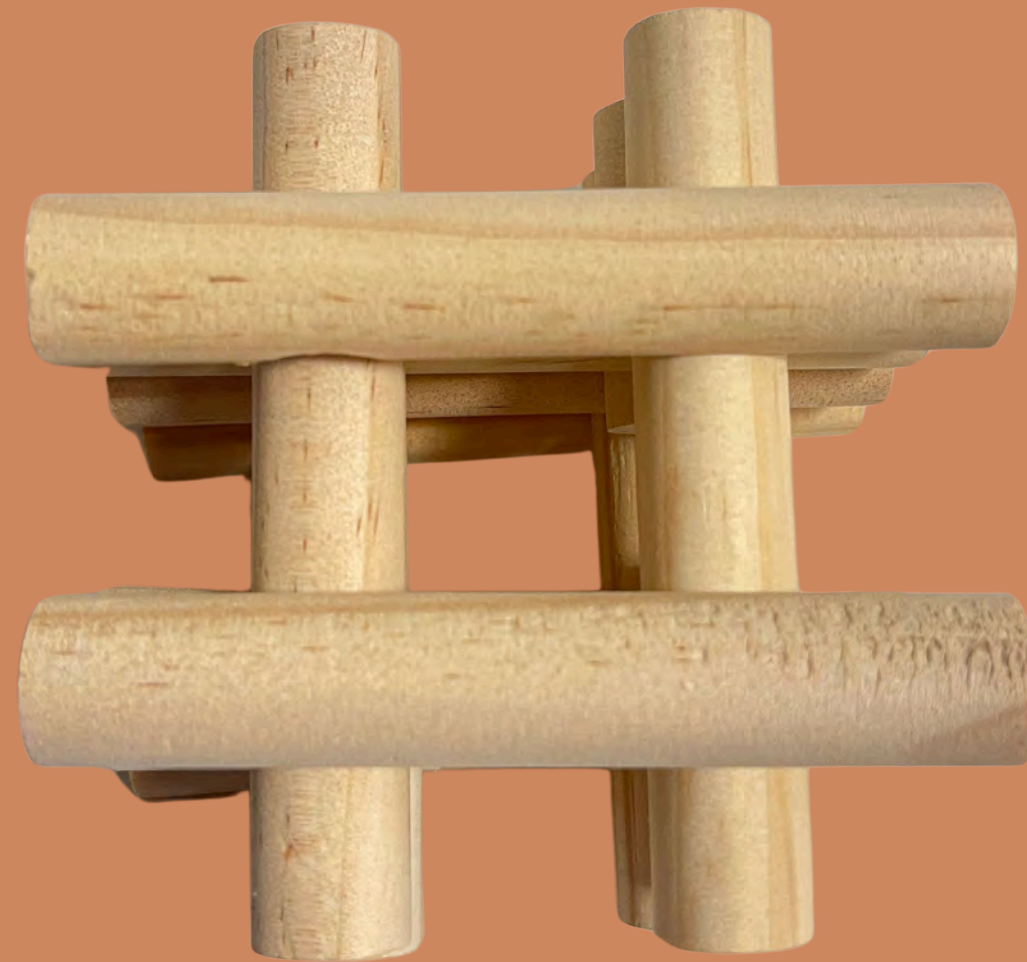
Step 6

Place two long logs on top to build up the side walls.



Step 7

Place two long logs horizontally.



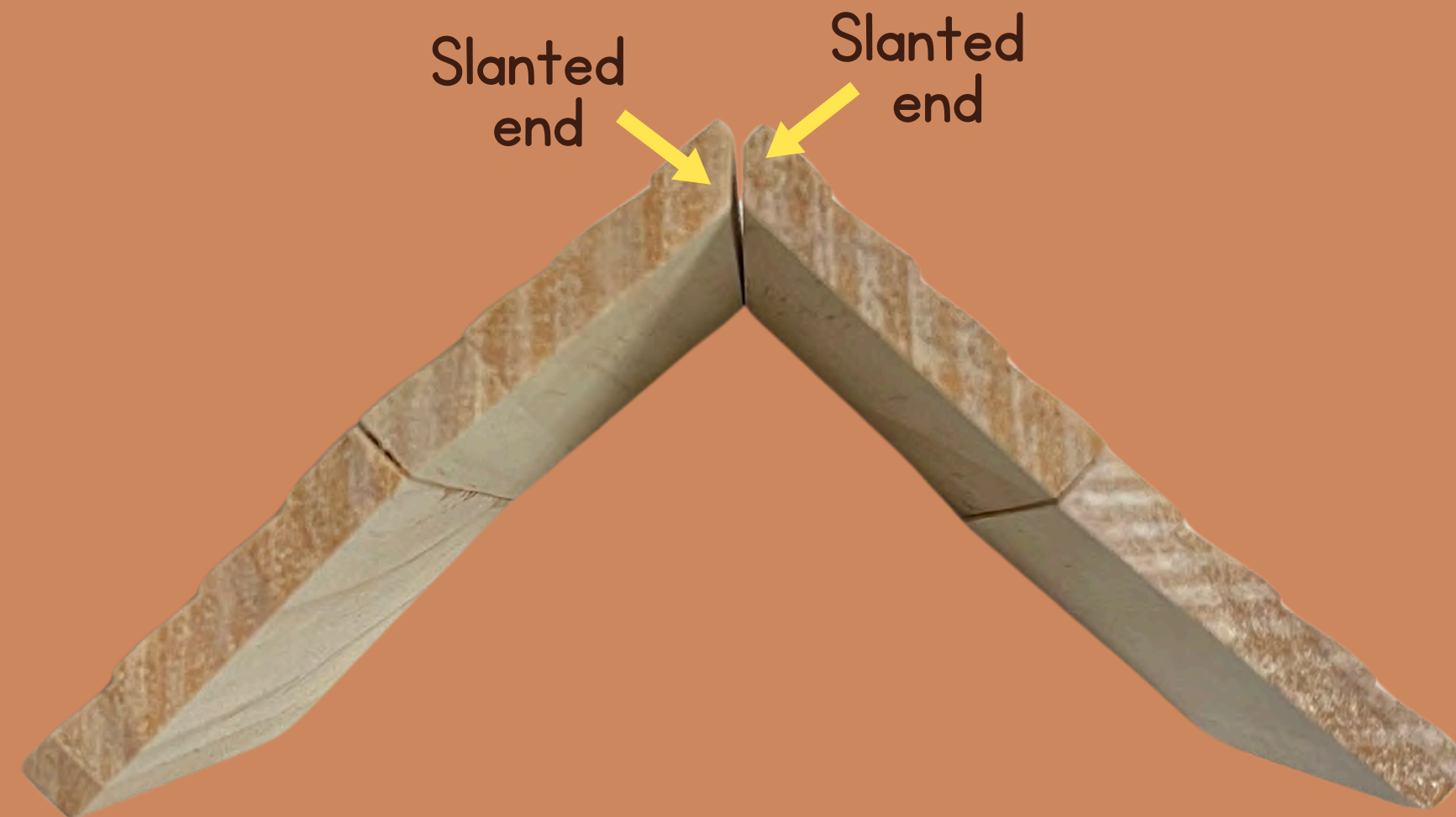
Step 8

Find your two gables. Hold the gables (wavy side out) across the front and back walls, but don't let go of the pieces. This is where the gables will be glued later.



Step 9

Find the 2 roof panels that are slanted at one end. Line them up to form the apex (peak) of your roof. The other roof pieces are extensions of the roof.





Time for Glue!



Step 1

Apply a small amount of glue in the door hole. Twist the doorknob while inserting it halfway to spread the glue. Set the door on its side to dry.



Step 2

Apply a small amount of glue to one long edge of a roof piece. Press two pieces together and set aside to dry. Repeat with the other two pieces.



Slanted
end



Slanted
end



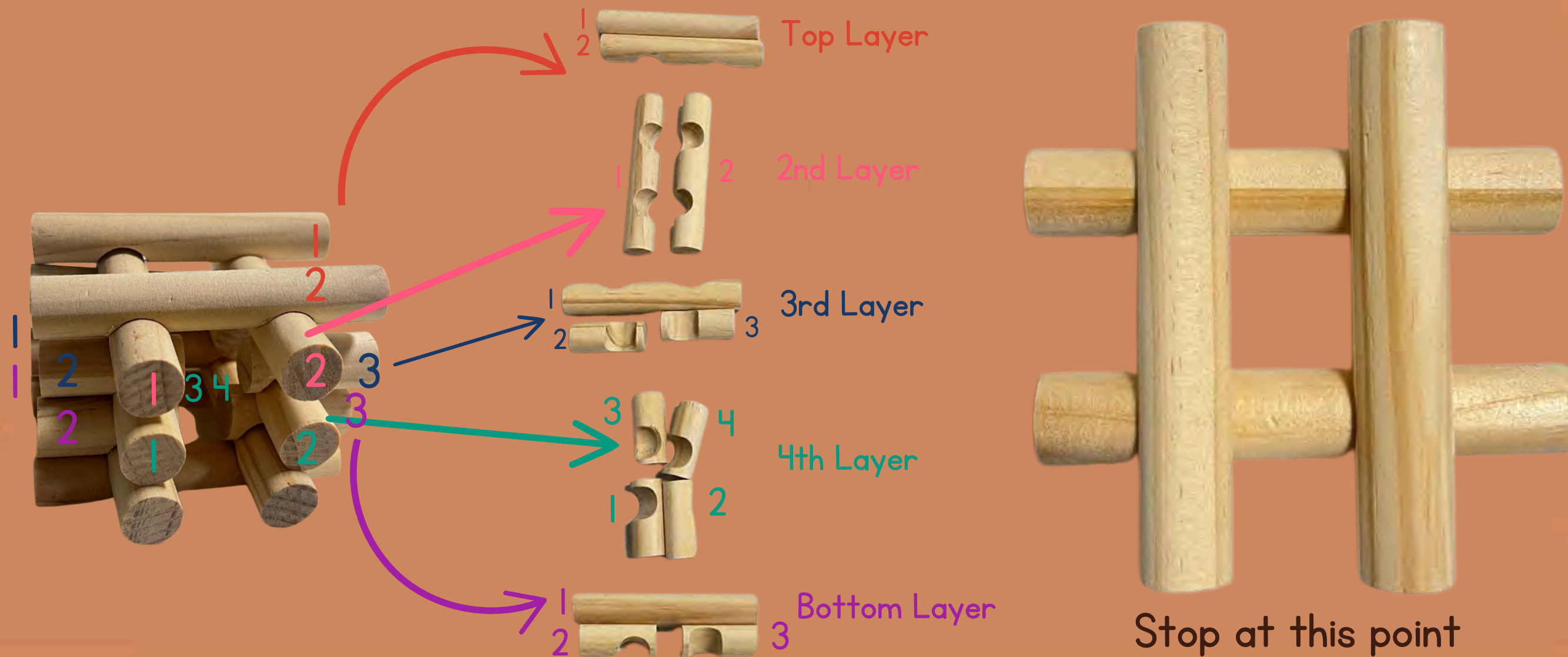
Step 3

Apply a small amount of glue to the back of the Pioneer Cabin canoe sign. Attach to the wavy side of one of the gables. Set aside to dry.



Step 4

Remove one layer of your assembled log cabin at a time until you reach the last two layers. Keep the pieces from each layer separate.



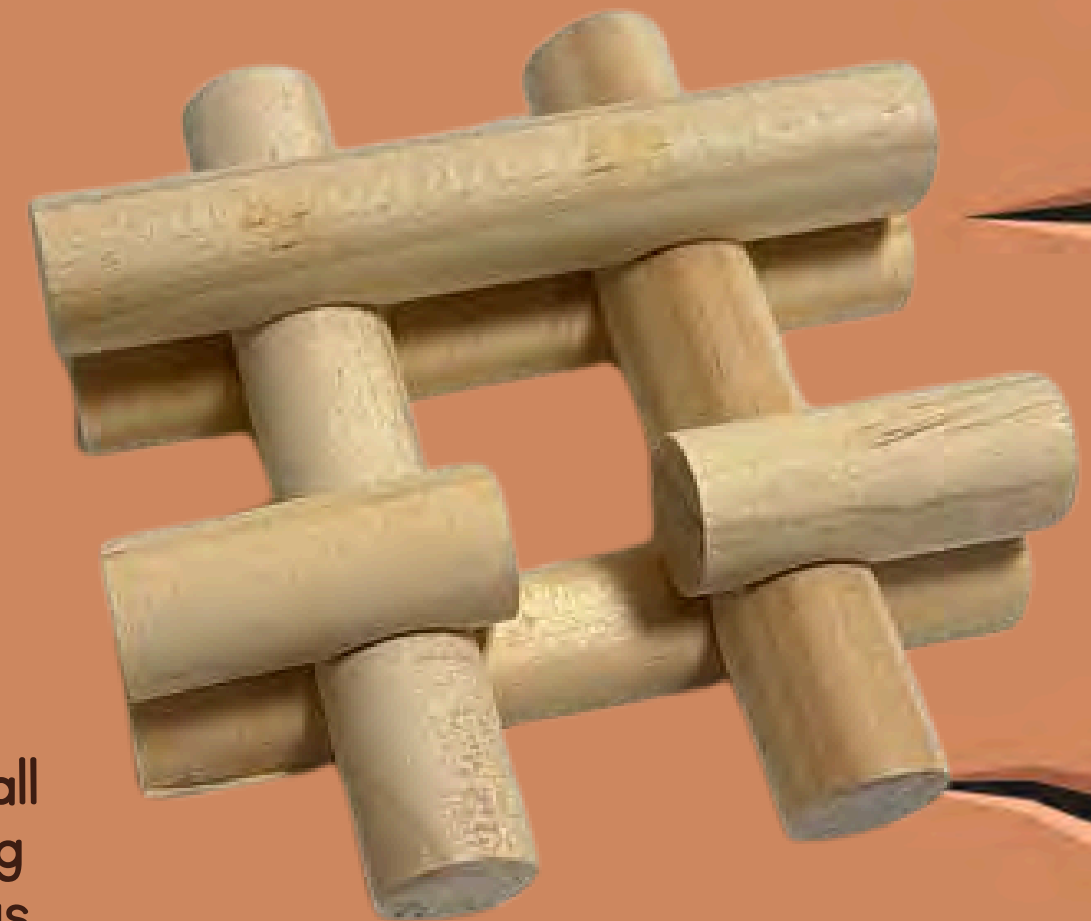
Step 5

Remove one long log and add a dab of glue in each notch. Spread around with the tip of your glue bottle. Place back on the half logs. Repeat on the other side.



Step 6

Using the pieces from your bottom layer, add glue to the notches in the long log and place along back wall. Then, glue the two short logs to the front wall.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

Look at your log cabin from all angles during the entire gluing process to make sure the logs are not crooked and are lined up.

Step 7

Glue the 4 short logs on the next layer.



Top Layer



2nd Layer



3rd Layer

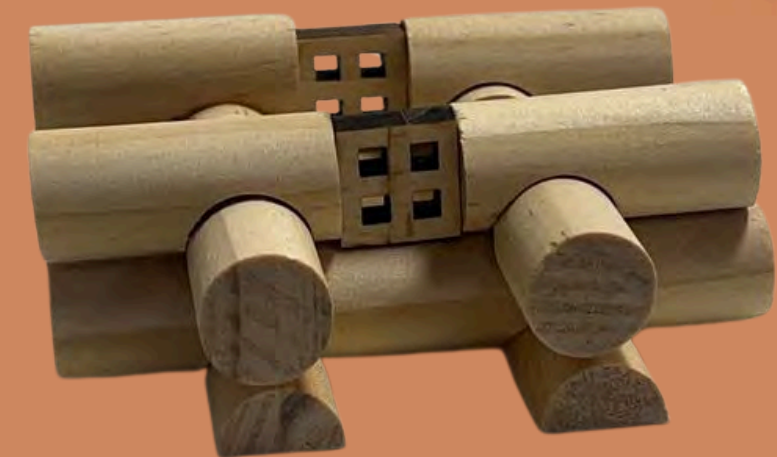


4th Layer



Step 8

Apply glue to the side edges and bottom edge of a window. Slot it between the short logs on one side wall. Push the short logs together to secure the window. Repeat on the other side.

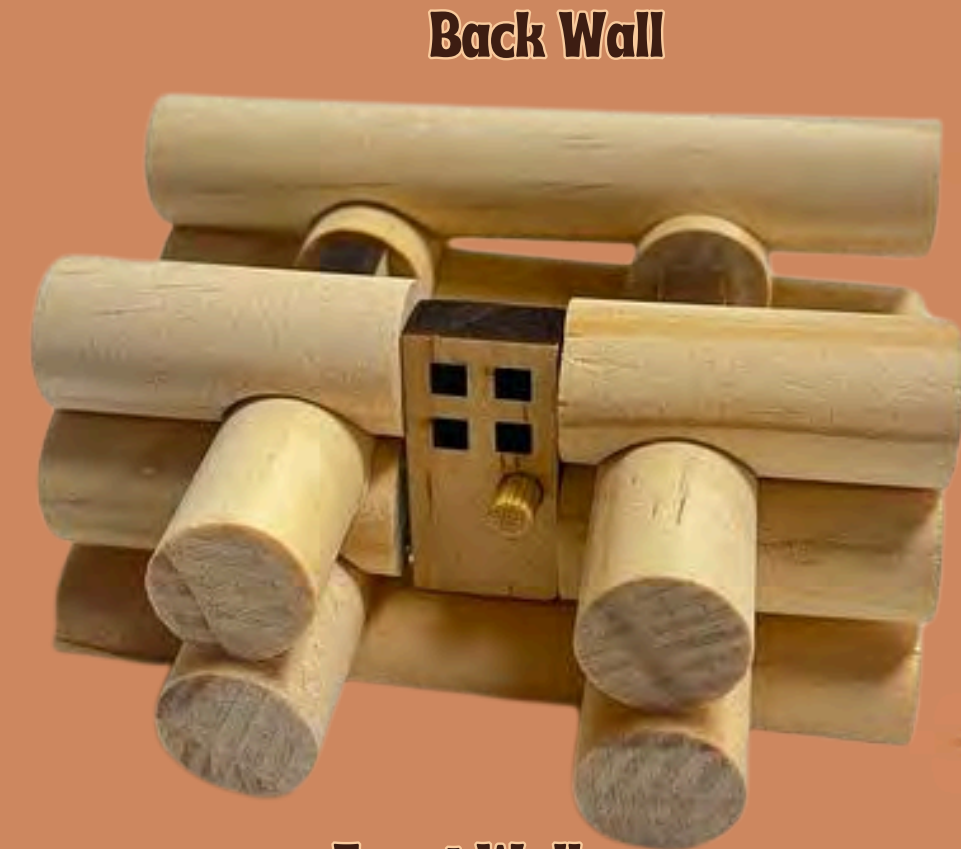


Time for a Break!



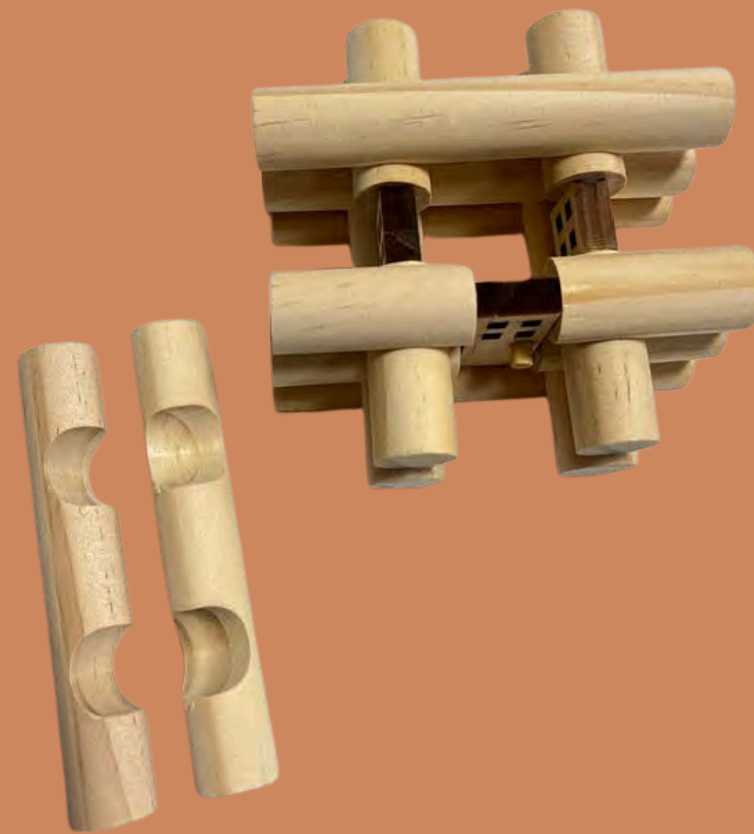
Step 9

Glue a long log to the back wall. Apply glue to the door's sides and bottom, insert it into the slot in the front wall, and glue the two short logs to the sides to secure it.



Step 10

Glue the two long logs on top.

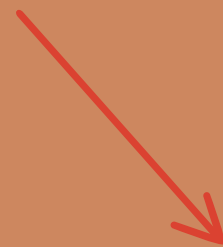


Step 11

Glue the two long logs to the front and back wall.



Top Layer



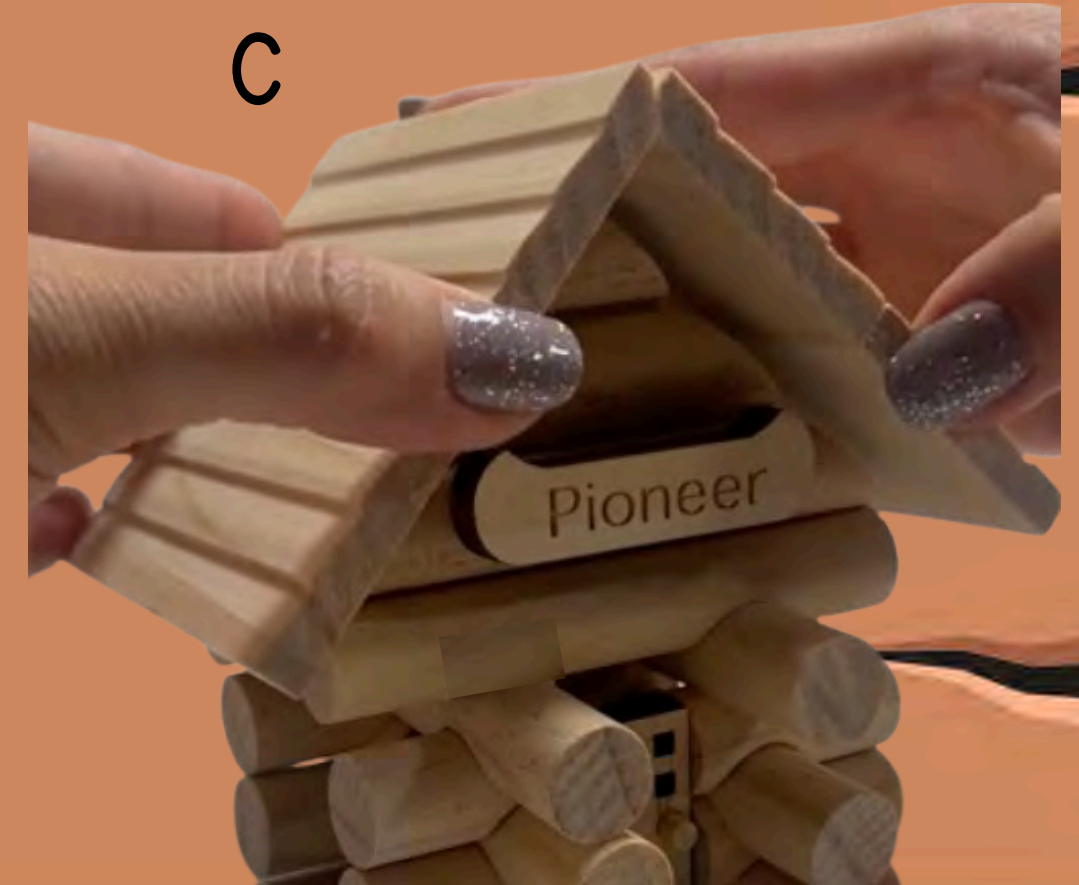
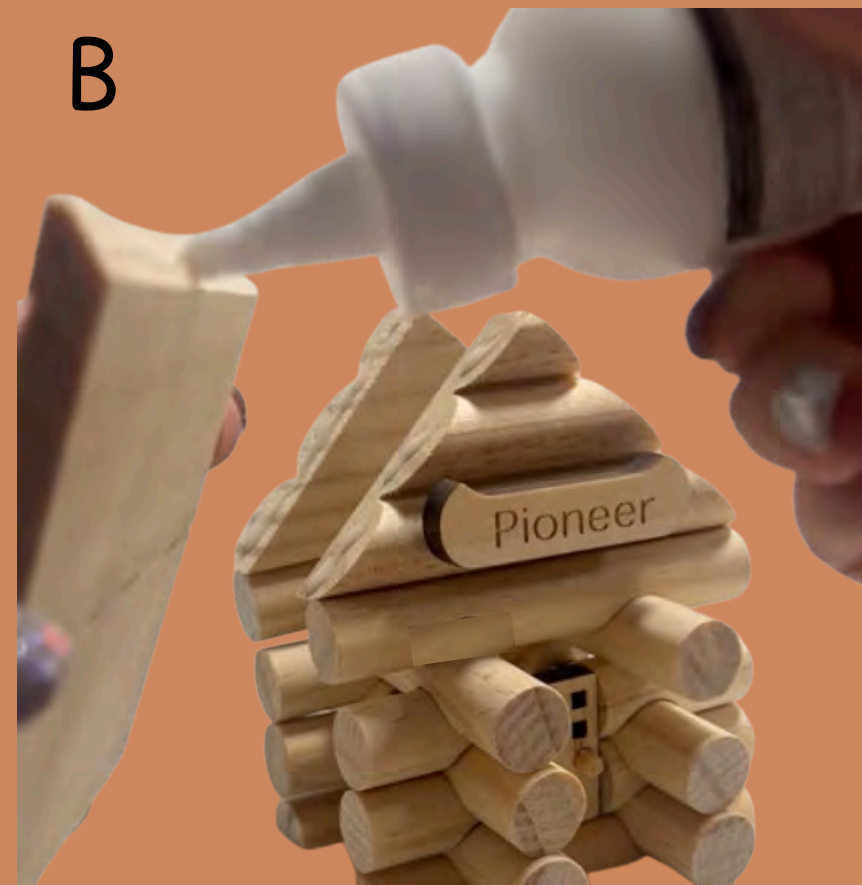
Step 12

Apply glue along the bottom edge of the gable with the Pioneer canoe sign. This gable goes on top of the front wall. Hold in place until it feels secure enough to stand on its own. Repeat the process for the other gable.



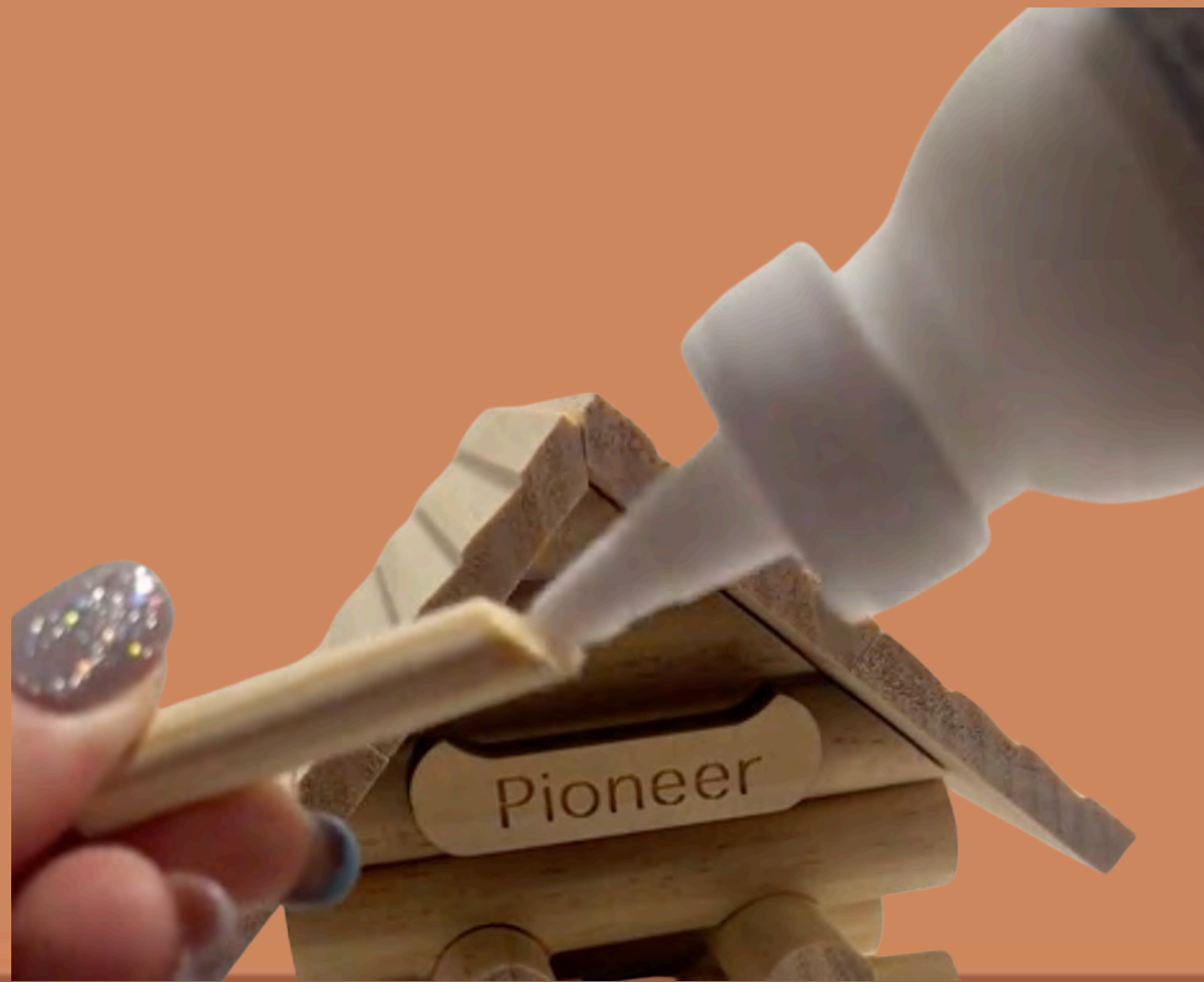
Step 13

Add glue on the slanted edges of the gables. Then, add glue to one of the slanted edges of a roof panel. Carefully place the two sides of the roof on top of the cabin. Ensure they are positioned evenly in the centre.
* Hold the roof in place until they feel secure.



Step 14

Place a dab of glue on the angled side of the chimney and gently place it on either side of the roof.
* Hold the chimney in place until it feels secure.



All Done!

Let your cabin dry fully before moving it.

