

Name:

Date:

Tiny House



Over the last 70 to 80 years, middle-class American households have become increasingly lavish.

In 1949, the typical single-family home measured 909 square feet, but by 2021, it had expanded to 2,480 square feet. Many people see this size as excessive and out of reach financially. Buying a home in the U.S. today often means taking on significant debt, paying high interest, and working for decades to afford it, frequently in a job the buyer doesn't particularly enjoy.

In response, the Tiny House Movement emerged in the 1970s as an alternative. Tiny houses, which are around 160 to 200 square feet, can be towed by a truck yet still provide essential spaces for cooking, living, sleeping, and bathing. These compact homes are now occupied by singles, couples, and even families.

Tiny houses aren't only mobile; they're also much cheaper than standard single-family homes. Depending on one's construction skills and available materials, a tiny house can be built for as low as \$8,000, although most cost between \$30,000 and \$60,000—still a fraction of traditional home prices in many areas.

Choosing to live tiny requires thoughtful self-reflection on what is truly necessary for comfort. Around the world, people often lead simpler lives than Americans, who are constantly exposed to ads on TV, radio, and social media pushing them to believe they need more possessions to be happy.

1. How much did the average single-family home in America measure in 1949?
(a) 2,480 square feet (b) 1,000 square feet (c) 909 square feet
2. When did the Tiny House Movement begin?
(a) 1980s (b) 1970s (c) 1990s
3. What is the typical size range of a tiny house?
(a) 100 to 150 square feet (b) 160 to 200 square feet (c) 250 to 300 square feet
4. How much can a tiny house typically cost?
(a) \$30,000 to \$60,000 (b) \$100,000 to \$150,000 (c) \$8,000 to \$20,000