

P is for Piñata

A Mexico Alphabet



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Aa

In Mexico, adobe mud has been used since the earliest times to build houses. Workers combine mud and straw and mix it with their bare feet. It is squishy work! They fill wooden molds called *adoberas* with the mud mixture, let them dry in the sun, then carefully tap out the bricks.

Adobe is a good material for a house. It keeps rooms cool in summer and comfortable in winter. But sometimes it shakes down in earthquakes.

Houses are still built with adobe bricks, not only in Mexico, but around the world. Because of the handwork (and footwork) to make it, in some countries like the United States, adobe costs a lot.

Once in a while when adobe bricks are sunning, a dog, cat, or turkey steps through the wet mud. The tracks dry there and, when the house is built, become part of a wall or floor. When you see them, they are a kind of greeting from a small creature.



A is for Adobe

Adobe is a certain kind of brick.
It's made from straw and mud that's very thick.