HOUSTON LIVES ON
An Adventure in Historic Preservation
One day on his way home from school, Squeak heard hammering noises. Being part of a hard working ant family, he wasn’t surprised to see Aunt Lucy pulling boards off an old house.

“Hi, Aunt Lucy!” said Squeak. “Looks like you’re tearing down this old house.”
Lucy said, “Hello, Squeak. I am just tearing off many years of neglect and restoring this bungalow to its original beauty.”

“You mean somebody’s going to live here?”

“Sure!” said Lucy. “Old doesn’t mean it’s bad. This house was built many years ago, but it’s still strong. There’s no reason to tear it down.”
Lucy added, “Fixing up these old homes helps us keep the character of our neighborhoods, and gives us a sense of community. Look at that big oak tree. That tree was planted when this house was built and now look at it.”

“That would be perfect for a tree house!” Squeak squealed.

“See, Squeak,” Lucy said, “old sometimes is better.”
Squeak looked up at Lucy and said, "Is that what they’re doing to my school? Are they restoring it to make it better?"

"Just like houses, other types of buildings can be restored," Lucy stated. "Let’s walk over to your school and take a look."
Lucy said, “Renovations to your school let us preserve the building, and take care of the community’s changing needs. We added more classrooms so your school can hold more students.”

“Do you think Mother Nature likes what’s happening?” Squeak asked.
“I know she does,” Lucy added. “We are not adding to the landfill.”
“So it’s good for the environment. I never thought of that,” Squeak said.
“Follow me, Squeak,” Lucy said, “I’ve got some other things to show you.”
Hidden Treasures
Circle the hidden words from the list in the puzzle below.

- ARCHITECT
- ATTIC
- BRICK
- BUNGALOW
- CHIMNEY
- CONSTRUCTION
- DEMOLISH
- FIREPLACE
- HERITAGE
- LUMBER
- MANTLE
- PORCH
- PRESERVATION
- RAZE
- RENOVATE
- RESIDENCE
- RESTORE
- STEPS
- WOOD
“This fire station was built in 1898. Back then horses were used to pull the fire wagons,” Lucy said.

“They used horses?” Squeak asked. “That is so neat!”

“What’s neat is that this building was saved and made into a museum so that we can all enjoy the history of our city’s fire department,” Lucy said.
"If this old building had been demolished, we wouldn't know it ever existed. And we wouldn't be able to see where the fire fighting equipment was kept," Lucy said.

"I wouldn't like that," Squeak said.

"Besides restoring the building, they also repurposed it," Lucy said.

"Repurposed? What does that mean?"
"Well, it means that another use was found for it. The building was originally a fire station, and now it’s a museum," Lucy pointed out. "They even have birthday parties in here."

"I’d sure like to have my birthday party here someday," Squeak said.

"Follow me. Let’s look at some other restored and repurposed buildings."
Save A Piece Of History
Help the vintage firetruck reach the fire in time to save the burning building.

START

FINISH
“This bank building** was one of the city’s first skyscrapers,**
Lucy pointed out.  “It has been repurposed and today is a condominium.”

“People live here? But it looks like an office building,” Squeak said.

‘Just imagine what it might be like to live downtown in a historic building.’
Lucy said.
“The exterior of the building is almost the same as it was when it was built in 1905,” Lucy said. “Now, over 100 years later, there are 62 loft apartments inside.”

“Wow! Look at the cool carving detail on the columns. It’s so fancy!” Squeak added. “I wish my family lived in a loft. My parents could just walk to work and I wouldn’t have to mow the grass!”

Lucy said, “Follow me, Squeak, we’ve got more preservation adventures.”
Building A Better Tomorrow

Circle the hidden words from the list below. Write the remaining letters in the spaces provided to reveal the mystery phrase.

R C E E N O B W V A M S K C R
C T A I L A O A N U P K R H A
R O E N N Y T I I C S Y A A I
P E N K O I T N R O Y S M N L
E L E V F P I S E R T C D D I
L R A O E M Y C E I I R N E N
B A R S O R R O C N R A A L G
R P T D T E T T I T E P L I N
A E N N M E L I N H P E M E M
M O U M E U R N R I S R O R U
C V O S A M E G O A O S T S L
O C U V E R U H C N R I I S O
T O E N T R A N C E P R F Y C
E S T A T E E E N O T S E M I L
R E P U R P O S E M T P A D A

ADAPT  CONVERT  MARBLE  REPURPOSE
BANKER  CORINTHIAN  MONUMENTAL  REUSE
CANOPY—  CORNICE  MOTIF  SKYSCRAPER
CHANDELIERS  ENTRANCE  PLASTER  STYLE
COLUMN  ESTATE  PROFIT  VAULT
COMMERCE  LANDMARK  PROSPERITY  WAINSCOTING
CONDOMINIUM  LIMESTONE  RAILING

MYSTERY PHRASE:

To check your work, view this page in a mirror.

ANSWER: RENOVATION PRESERVES OUR HISTORY
“This was a magnificent movie theater when it opened in 1936. That was long before multiplex screen cinemas.”

“I wonder what movie is playing today?” asked Squeak.

“This is a restaurant now,” Lucy said. “But the owners did decide to show old movies on a screen, out of respect for the building’s history.”
“See the marquee?” Lucy asked. “It was restored to its original glory.”

“It sure is bright.”

“In the old days, that marquee was a landmark in this community and could be seen for blocks away,” Lucy added.
"I like the idea of restoring and preserving old buildings," Squeak said.
"Someday, I want to live in a downtown loft and work in a repurposed building."
"That's a wonderful goal, Squeak," Lucy said.
"Boy, I can't wait to tell the other kids," Squeak said. "They don't have a clue that they can have dinner in an old theater or that an old fire station is now a museum."
"Well, I have one more surprise for you," Lucy said. "Let's go."
Star-crossed Crossword

Across
4. Device used to film a movie.
13. The silver ______.
14. Fabric that hangs on sides of stage.
15. He/she works at a theater.
16. At risk; almost gone forever.
18. He/she directs a movie.

Down
1. Another word for movie theater.
2. A raised platform for performing.
3. In historic theaters the ______ is upstairs.
5. Hot-buttered movie snack.
6. A world-famous actress is a movie ______.
7. The people watching the movie.
8. The sign outside that spells what’s showing.
10. A man who stars in a movie is an ______.
11. Place to see a film.
12. Device that projects light.
17. Architecture style of the 1920s; Art ______.

To check your work, view this page in a mirror.

"This is the Astrodome, the Eighth Wonder of the World," Lucy said. "It's the world's first covered stadium, Squeak."

Squeak asked, "What's inside?"

"Well, at one time it was home to baseball, football, the circus, rodeo, concerts and even provided emergency shelter for hurricane refugees."
Lucy responded, “Unfortunately, it just sits vacant waiting for someone to come up with the right plan.”
“It won’t be torn down, will it?” Squeak asked.
“It would be a shame, but there’s always that possibility,” Lucy said.
"You’re right!" Squeak said. "We need to think about restoring and repurposing. We can’t let a landmark like this go away."

"I like the way you’re thinking. What would you and your friends do with this old structure?" Lucy asked.

"Um, I’d turn it into a big amusement park with rides and games," Squeak answered. "Kate likes to shop, so I bet she would want a giant shopping mall."
“See, if you put your mind to it, you can come up with an idea. That’s how preservation projects are started, with a vision,” Lucy said.

“I like preservation,” Squeak said.

“We need you and your friends to be concerned about historic landmarks and their preservation.”
Astrodome’s Double Duty

Unscramble the Astrodome-related words and write the answers in the boxes. Then use the numbered boxes to solve the mystery phrase.

**Mystery Phrase:**

To check your work, view this page in a mirror.

Answers: ARENA, ASTROTURF, DOMED, SKYBOXES, LANDMARK, SCOREBOARD, TOUCHDOWN, ASTROS, STADIUM, RODEO, BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, CIRCUS, FANS, ENTERTAINMENT, CONCERTS, "WE CAN REPURPOSE THE ASTRODOME".

Wonder, indoor, uniforms, asphalt.
After their adventure, Squeak felt different about the old house.

“ Aunt Lucy, I am glad this old house will be here for a long, long time. We can’t let our history be demolished.”

Lucy smiled and said, “Squeak, I like the way you think. Together we can preserve and appreciate our city’s past.”
How do you think we can repurpose the Astrodome? Draw a picture and write your description below it.
DID YOU KNOW...

• Did you know that preserving historic buildings is good for the environment?

• Did you know that preserving older structures helps us save our city's history?

• Did you know that historic neighborhoods teach us about our past and help us understand who we are?

• Did you know that historic buildings can be repurposed in new, exciting ways?