

Truly Trulli



Picture a town whose dwellings have cone-shaped roofs made of gray stones situated on top of white-washed circular or rectangular structures. Visit the website <http://www.geocities.com/trullihouses/trulli3.htm> to view pictures of these ancient fairy-tale structures in the town of Alberobello located along the southern coast of Italy. They were built in the late 1400's and early 1500's and were called trulli. These unusual dwellings were said to have been built of limestone from the region with no mortar so that they could be dismantled for tax evasion purposes. Trullo was the dry stone used to build these dwellings. 1654 marked a turning point in the history of the trulli when the rebuilding was ordered with no mortar between the stones after being dismantled. 1797 marks another important event when Alberobello was recognized as a town. Alberobello today has the largest number of these unusual structures with the cone-shaped roofs. These trulli are truly one-of-a-kind in the world and were designated as a World Heritage Site in 1997.

1. Design a net for the cupola (cone-shaped roof) of a trulli house with given dimensions and a scale of 1 inch represents 2 feet.
2. Build your cupola using the net you designed.
3. Describe the mathematics involved to design your cupola.

Height of cupola: 8 ft.
Radius of base: 4 ft.

