



You're a Winner!

You've just won one of the 2015 Solar Decathlon Homes. There are 16 designs to pick from. They are all great designs. Each powered completely by the sun. **Which one will you choose?**



Visit the Solar Decathlon Website at www.solardecathlon.gov

On the top menu bar, click on the **Competition/Teams** option. Then click on each team, and review an image of the house and read the highlights of the home description. If you see a home that appeals to you, open the house image, right click to save image, then paste it into an open Word document. Type the name of team under the image. This is now one of your candidate homes. Try to select at least 3 top candidates. Make notes in your word document (or google doc) what was appealing to you in selecting that home.

After you've selected your finalists. Go back and view the walk through video for each finalist. Write down what features appeal to, and are important to you, based on the video presentation.

Pick a winner. Write your reasons (at least 4) for choosing this house.

Solar Decathlon winners will be announced October 16th . 2015 in Irvine CA .



**Solar
Schoolhouse**
Education Energized by the Sun

You've Won a Solar Decathlon House

Teaching Tips...

In this assignment there is no wrong answer. The goal is for students assess these homes and pick one that appeals to them, based on their current understanding of home design.

Required tools : internet connected computer. @ home, library, school computer lab

1st scan (all 20 homes) is fairly simple. It should be a quick scan. Looking for something that grabs your student's interest, either visually or a description of one of the main features/

2nd scan (evaluating your top finalists ~3) - requires sound

It also requires opening a Word document, and cutting/pasting images of the top 3 finalists, writing some notes on what was appealing to the judge (student).

If you can get lab time, then can do in class. Else it requires a homework assignment. then they email or send their word docs to you via email or otherwise.

This Assignment can also be done after ther event. Your class can see which house was the favorite.

Extensions:

Discuss the impacts (environmental, economic,...) if all homes were built to Solar Decathlon standards.

Using Google Sketchup and Virtual Environment Plug-in, modify a model of a Solar D home, studying the impacts of each design feature.

Research the features of the Solar D homes, looking for 5 retrofit measures /actions you would recommend for your family's home. (this can be energy, materials, water related)

Questions? Contact Tor Allen at tor@rahus.org 707-829-3154

Let us know how this exercise went for your class.