GET KIDS INTO SURVEY™

Q&A

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Q1: There aren't any vampires in the haunted mansion, yet there are wooden stakes everywhere! Can you guess what they're for?

A: Someone's been busy 'staking out' the place – and that doesn't mean they're sitting in a cop car behind binoculars, trying to solve a crime! Also known as 'setting out', or 'laying out', these wooden stakes topped with red ribbons have been carefully placed in order to show construction workers where key points from digital plans should be located on the physical site. This comes in handy when foundations are being laid that, later on, will have buildings, columns, pavements, curbs and utilities built on top of them! Let's hope that cheeky pug in B,1 puts the stake back where it belongs once he's finished playing fetch!

Q2: There are plenty of scanner-wielding, blueprint-scouring, busy-looking building surveyors in this scene, but what do they actually do?

A: Building surveyors are survey superheroes! They make sure that all the buildings that you and your family might go in – from home, to school, to shopping centres and office buildings – are all safe and well-built! They are very good at examining the quality and condition of buildings, and they can even help to find ways to make improvements. This might include suggesting ways to strengthen and secure parts of historic buildings in order to preserve them, or preparing homes for extensions, or even helping with public transport upgrades!

Building surveyors are also brilliant team players, helping workers from many other professions. On construction sites like the one you can see in the poster, they'll be advising architects and builders as they plan and put together new buildings, while making sure that all workers are keeping up strict health and safety standards. Someone should direct a building surveyor to B,3 quickly – it looks like the GeoSquad have spotted a seriously spooky health and safety hazard!

Q3: While the alien in F,6 has parked his ship somewhere it definitely shouldn't be, the Tri-Tech drone is flying masterfully around the site! What do you think it's up to?

A: Zipping across the site and snapping shots, the Tri-Tech drone can capture loads of high-quality photos that can be combined by computers to produce a 3D model of the site. This visual representation can be useful in so many ways for the construction teams. For example, they can use measurements from the model to calculate the volume of the different materials needed to complete the work they're planning to carry out. They can also use the drone during the construction process to create updated drawings and plans for the site, so that both workers and clients can see how the site changes throughout the project. Maybe the drone should circle back and take a snap through that skylight... Can you spot a mad professor making mischief!?

Q4: Sustainability is so important for buildings and developments. Can you spot any eco-friendly efforts being made across the scene?

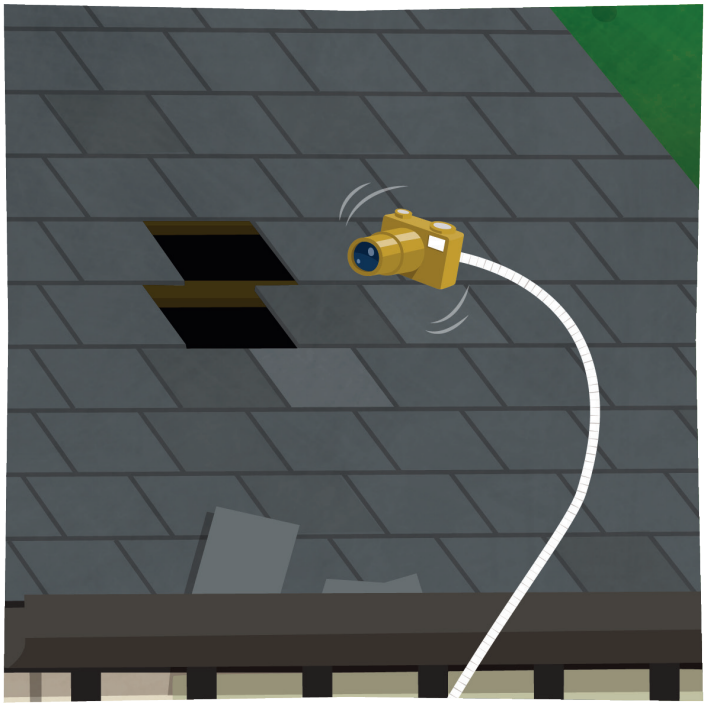
A: While we might do our best to limit energy consumption in our homes, the fact is that heating and lighting up houses has an environmental impact - and that's before we get onto powering televisions, running washing machines, charging up devices and running computer consoles! Happily, there are lots of things developers and building surveyors can plan for that can help reduce emissions for new developments. Can you spot the two buildings in the scene that are harnessing solar power? The panels on the roofs convert sunshine into lovely, clean electricity. Can you think of any other natural power sources that can be used to produce renewable energy? What about hydro, wind, or geothermal energy? See what you can find out about them!

When the construction worker in G,6 replaces the window that the clumsy alien has smashed, you can be sure he'll consider using double glazed glass. This, along with insulated walls, prevents heat from escaping, which in turn means less energy is wasted. It's like putting a big, thick jacket around the whole building! Perhaps the surveyor in B,3 could recommend some replacement windows to the new owners of the haunted mansion... after they take care of the fiend in the foundations that is!

Beyond the buildings, there are more eco-efforts being made in this scene. Planners and building surveyors are being careful to conserve green spaces, which are important for biodiversity. These places allow wildlife to flourish in their habitats, and the trees help take in carbon. Can you count the crows in the crooked tree, and spot the busy bees on the roof of the haunted house? Maybe the new, nature-loving inhabitants aren't so scary after all!

Finally, you can spot some eco-friendly transport options? This place looks great for cyclists, with its cycle paths and bike storage shelters - and cycling is great for the environment! Building surveyors can also look to add electric car charging points, while selecting areas close to public transport routes, so that the people who live in/use the new development have as many emission-friendly travel options as possible.

Q5: Some of the surveyors in the scene are busy pointing out damage and defects. How many problems can you spot, and why is it important for building surveyors to find them?



A: Did you spot the missing tiles, the gaping gutter and the cracked plaster in A,4? Did you notice cracked slats on the walls of the haunted mansion, and the fractured foundations below? These are the kinds of things a building surveyor would be looking out for as they assess the structural integrity of a property (how sturdy, strong and reliable the building is) and the condition, including the things that need to be repaired. They do all this so that the client (the person who might want to buy, live in, work in, or rent the building) knows whether the building is safe, what work might need to be done to fix any issues, and whether the property matches the description they've been given (as in, does its size, state and location match the plans and pictures?).

If the building surveyor does detect some issues, it's not the end of the world! In fact, if someone was looking to buy a property that had problems which would need to be fixed, they could use the information provided by the building surveyor to renegotiate the price they were willing to pay!

Q6: Being a super surveyor seems like a ton of fun, but what skills do you think you'll need if you want to pursue a career in survey?

A: Surveyors have several super skills, which can be summed up by the word **'PACT'**. 'Pact' means an agreement or a promise, and a good surveyor promises to try their best at all these things:

'P' is for 'Problem Solving'. Surveyors are naturally inquisitive, and they love to figure out problems and crack challenges in order to deliver spot-on, reliable results, every time.

'A' is for 'Accuracy'. The data that surveyors collect is used in projects that affect every person on the planet. Making sure that data is accurate, as well as understanding and interpreting it in order to make important decisions and advise other professionals, is key to being a good surveyor.

'C' is for 'Communication'. Surveyors work with so many people from lots of different teams doing lots of different jobs, and it's important that they convey information clearly and precisely. They are responsible for explaining what has been done, why, and any issues that have come up – even to **members of the public!**

'T' is for 'Technical Knowledge'. Surveyors use so many hi-tech gadgets and cutting-edge software programmes that it might seem like they're stars in a sci-fi movie! Survey technology moves fast, so they have to keep up with all the latest updates and upgrades, learning continuously as they go.