

# INSPIRED DESIGN

**GRADE:** K-2

**TIME:** One 60-minute session

What inspires design? In this lesson, students explore this topic as they learn how Frank Lloyd Wright's interest in nature and geometry shaped the world. After exploring the life and work of Wright and identifying elements in design, students will design and construct their own Wright-inspired buildings.

**INTEGRATED SUBJECTS:** Visual Arts, Social Studies, Science

## OBJECTIVES

### MATERIALS | RESOURCES

*The Shape of the World* by K.L. Going and  
Lauren Stringer

Paper

Pencil

Building blocks

Examples of Frank Lloyd Wright's  
architecture

Examples of a variety of house styles

1. Understand the influence of nature and geometry in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright.
2. Understand how Wright's use of design elements reflected what inspired him.
3. Sketch and build a Wright-inspired house design.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What role does inspiration play in shaping the world?
2. How can one idea be interpreted in different ways?

# LESSON PROCEDURE

## EXPLORE

- Introduce Frank Lloyd Wright and his work as an architect through a classroom reading of *The Shape of the World*. After reading, have students consider: What inspired Frank Lloyd Wright? Emphasize the influence of Froebel blocks and nature.

## ENGAGE

- Challenge students to use building blocks to represent things found in nature, such as a flower, a tree, or the sun. Have students consider: What geometric shapes best represent the object I am trying to build? Are there different ways to represent the same object?
- Explore the relationship between nature and geometry by observing Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings. Images can be found at <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>. Ask students: How does Wright use simple shapes in creative ways? How does Wright incorporate nature in his designs? What else do you see?
- Encourage students to sketch what they see and share observations. Emphasize how Wright used design elements such as line, color, and shape. Connect observations to any of Wright's influences that were identified by students after reading *The Shape of the World*.
- Compare and contrast Wright's house designs with other houses by unknown architects. Have students consider: What might have inspired this architect? Emphasize how Wright's influences are clearly displayed in his designs.

## DESIGN

- Challenge students to draw a building inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright. When drawing, ask students to consider: How can I use design elements like line, color, and shape in ways that are similar to Frank Lloyd Wright? How can I be inspired by Wright but still design something new?
- When done designing, instruct students to construct their designs with building blocks. Encourage students to compare and contrast building methods or strategies used when constructing a building with methods used when representing something found in nature.

## CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

- Have students present their designs, noting how design elements were used and how the design was inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright.
- As a classroom, explore how Wright's designs were interpreted differently by each student.
- Ask students to reflect on what inspires them. Have students consider: How can what inspires me help me shape the world?