

'N' FOR NATURE

GRADE: 3-5, Middle School, High School

TIME: OPEN

Frank Lloyd Wright felt a deep connection to nature often anchoring his designs directly to their natural landscape. He designed art glass windows with native plants and built large planters into the exterior walls. He even designed lay lights to mimic the effect of sunlight falling through leafy branches. Inspired by Wright's love of nature, participants will explore the concepts of sustainable design and adaptive reuse and create models with repurposed recyclable materials.

INTEGRATED SUBJECTS: Visual Art & Science

OBJECTIVES

MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Examples of Wright's designs

Examples of sustainable architecture and adaptive reuse

Recyclable materials (no larger than a box of macaroni and cheese)

Tape

Glue

Scissors

Construction paper

1. Explore how nature influenced and inspired Wright's designs.
2. Understand the concepts of sustainability and adaptive reuse.
3. Examine how design can be used to solve contemporary issues.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. How can design help address contemporary issues?
2. What is the relationship between design, architecture, and nature?

LESSON PROCEDURE

EXPLORE

- Introduce Frank Lloyd Wright as an American architect and designer and present examples of his work. Background information is available at: <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/about/frank-lloyd-wright/> Images are available at: <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>
- With each example, discuss what participants see focusing on elements that relate to nature. Ask: How does the building relate to the surrounding landscape? Did Wright design the building to stand-out or become a part of the landscape? What colors did Wright choose and why? What do the art glass designs resemble? Why might Wright include characteristics of nature and the outdoors inside? What can you see looking from the outside into the building? What can you see from the inside of the building looking out?

ENGAGE

- Begin directing discussion to address the contemporary issues of sustainable design and adaptive reuse. Ask participants to consider: What is their use or purpose? What problems are they addressing? How is each achieved? How can architecture and design address environmental issues?
- Share examples of sustainable architecture and adaptive reuse with participants.

DESIGN

- Challenge participants to design a building that addresses sustainable design using repurposed recyclable materials.
- Have participants include a written statement detailing the issue they worked to address and how their design contributes to the environment.

CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

- Display designs and statements.
- Discuss the process with participants. Ask: What was easy/difficult? What would you do differently? What strategies did you use to work with the recyclable materials? Did the materials inspire you in any way? What did inspire you? What issue did you address with your design? How did you use design to address it?