

Dream Houses

Grade Level: 1-3



Description/Objective

Students are introduced to some of the basic shapes found in a house such as: squares, rectangles, half circles, columns and arches. Using marker and watercolor, they will design a house they would like to live in.

Time

45 minutes

Materials

Pictures of different kinds of houses - Victorian, Colonial, etc. Try to find various selections from different cultures and climates.

Drawing paper

Pencils

Colored Pencils

Erasers

Sharpies

Optional:

Paints

Paintbrushes

Water containers

Drafting tape for border on edge of paper

Items to add collage to your dream house - foam pieces, cut out shapes from other types of paper, glitter, etc.

Chalkboard/Whiteboard

Procedure



1. Ask students to think about what kinds of shapes make up their house. Allow time for visualization. Start them off by drawing the first shape mentioned on the chalkboard. Have students come up and draw the other shapes. All of the shapes covered in the objectives should be drawn as well as any others the students suggest.

2. Display photographs of different kinds of houses, preferably from different parts of the world. Ask the students to point out examples of the above mentioned shapes. Note any unusual locations for houses (house

built on stilts over water, tree houses, etc.).

3. Ask the students to imagine what kind of house they would design for themselves. Allow time to imagine.



4. Using any combination of the previously mentioned shapes have students draw and design their house with pencil.

5. Markers are used to trace over pencil lines making them more bold and to add pattern, texture or detail.

6. Have students use the negative space (space around the house) to suggest something about its location (for

example trees in a forest, water by a lake, sand on a beach, etc.).

7. Colored pencils, paints, markers or collage elements are used to add color to the house and its surroundings. Encourage the students to be aware of color contrast. The house should be different enough in color from the background as not to blend together.



Border options:

- * Draw or color the spaces on the edge of your paper to create a unique border.
- * Teacher or older students can tape border before start of activity and carefully "untape" after work is dry to create white border.
- * Use colored tape to make a border frame
- * Use paper with a border already printed

Subject Matter Integration

LANGUAGE ARTS: Students imagine and write a description of their dream house. Ask them to think about what would be the first thing they would see as they walked through the door, what their favorite room would be, and what would make their house different from most houses.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Architecture unit provides opportunity to explore cultural differences throughout the world, along with why one type of construction is used over others in different areas of the world (weather, tradition, expense, etc.) 5th graders and above discuss different types of "homes" including homeless, homeless shelters, apartment, duplex, single family house.

GEOGRAPHY: Locate on a map areas of the world where different types of homes are located.

Variations/Extensions

Instead of drawing and painting their houses, students can cut shapes out of construction paper and glue them together, adding the details with marker. Different texture paper such as sandpaper and corrugated cardboard can be combined with the colored paper scraps.

Square Rectangle Circle

Half Circle Column Arch